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Portland General Electric wins national solar business achievement award

Solar Electric Power Association recognizes PGE's partnership model on renewable energy projects

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland General Electric (NYSE: POR) was recognized today by the Solar Electric Power Association with a 2009 Solar Business Achievement Award in the Partnering for Success.

PGE received the national solar award in partnership with U.S. Bank, the Oregon Transportation, and ProLogis, for being the first utility in the nation to develop a unique ownership model to help develop large-scale solar projects in its service area.

The unique model allows PGE and its customers to overcome project-funding constraints by capturing the value of tax benefits that neither customers nor PGE could otherwise capture.

The utility solar business model pioneered by PGE uses the 50 percent Oregon Business Credit, the 30 percent Federal Investment Tax Credit, accelerated depreciation, and other incentives to finance solar projects.

“Portland General Electric has developed an innovative utility solar partnership project that has worked through the challenges inherent in project financing and siting, while leveraging the needs of the utility and the interests of customers,” said Julia Hamm, SEPA executive director.

“We want to thank our customers and partners who have worked to make these projects possible,” said Carol Dillin, vice president of customers and economic development. “Our solar business model is part of our strategy to work together with our customers to meet the state’s renewable energy standard of 25 percent renewable energy by 2025.”

The two projects recognized in the 2009 partnership award are the [Oregon Solar Highway project](#), the nation’s first solar highway project, located at the I-5/I-205 interchange in Tualatin, Ore., and the [ProLogis rooftop project](#), the Northwest’s largest rooftop installation, located in Portland.

The Oregon Solar Highway demonstration project, a collaborative effort of PGE, U.S. Bank, and ODOT, began supplying renewable power in December 2008 to help light the way on Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 interchange in Tualatin, Ore. The 104-kilowatt photovoltaic array covers about 8,000 square feet — roughly the length of two football fields — and produces 112,000 kilowatt hours a year, or 28 percent of the 400,000 kilowatt hours used to power the interchange.

The 1.1-megawatt rooftop ProLogis solar project, a collaborative effort of PGE, U.S. Bank, and ProLogis, is the largest rooftop solar installation in the Northwest.

ProLogis that is the largest rooftop project in the Pacific Northwest, began generating in December 2008. The project, which uses “thin-film” solar panels, is installed on the ProLogis distribution warehouses in northeast Portland and covers more than 328,000 sq ft.

Earlier this year, SEPA recognized PGE as a national utility leader in the integrated generation portfolio in 2008. PGE ranked eighth in the nation – and fourth in the West – in generation installed.

Currently, PGE has 7.4 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity interconnected in PGE’s portfolio with almost 500 solar “net metering” customers (customers who generate their own power is enough to power more than 685 homes and offset more than 3 million tons of CO₂ emissions per year).

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About Portland General Electric Company: Portland General Electric, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a regulated electric utility that serves approximately 814,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Oregon. Visit www.PortlandGeneral.com.

About the Solar Electric Power Association: SEPA is comprised of more than 550 utilities and solar industry members. From national events to one-on-one counseling, SEPA is the go-to resource for unbiased and actionable solar information. SEPA turns down information overload into business reality, SEPA takes the time and risk out of implementing solar by turning new technologies into new opportunities.

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