



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

**Department of Transportation  
Office of Innovative Partnerships  
& Alternative Funding**  
355 Capitol St. NE, Room 115  
Salem, OR 97301

If your company has an interest in installing solar photovoltaic systems, you may have an interest in emerging opportunities in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is compiling contact information for solar installers interested in completing solar photovoltaic projects for ODOT and will share that contact information with other state and local agencies for subsequent Requests for Proposals. If you would like to have your contact information included, please complete and return the enclosed form by February 15, 2008 or at the earliest opportunity.

ODOT's transportation system consumes more than 45 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. ODOT will be considering solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on its buildings as required by Oregon law, but also has an interest in ground-mounted installations on the highway rights-of-way. ODOT has more than 16,000 miles of rights-of-way along its highways. Solar arrays on less than 1% of those rights-of-way could supply all of ODOT's electricity needs. Solar PV arrays have been generating electricity for more than two decades on highway rights-of-way in European countries including England, Germany and Switzerland, but nowhere in the United States. ODOT has embarked on an historic initiative to build the first Solar Highway in Oregon and the nation. Oregon's solar resources are no less promising than those shining on European arrays. (See [solardata.uoregon.edu](http://solardata.uoregon.edu).)

Governor Ted Kulongoski has directed Oregon state agencies to secure 100% of their electricity needs from renewable resources by 2010. New state laws require Oregon's largest utilities to acquire renewable resources, require state and local jurisdictions to invest in solar on public buildings and increase the state tax credit for renewable resource investments to 50%. These laws include:

- Senate Bill 838 establishes a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for electricity. The bill requires that 25% of Oregon's electric load come from new renewable energy by 2025 and applies to Oregon's three largest electric utilities, which supply over 75% of Oregon's electric load.
- House Bill 2620 provides that a state or local government must devote at least 1.5% of the cost of constructing a new building or renovating an existing building to solar energy technologies if the building receives state funds.
- House Bill 3201 increases the Oregon tax credit for renewable energy systems installed by businesses from 35% to 50% and increases the project cost limit from \$10 million to \$20 million. It also provides that the costs of constructing facilities in Oregon to manufacture renewable energy systems and components are eligible for the increased tax credit for renewable energy.

Renewable resource investments on behalf of public jurisdictions are eligible for the 50% state tax credit. For more information on these laws and the 50% tax credit for renewable resource investments, please see: [www.oregon.gov/energy](http://www.oregon.gov/energy). Oregon's major electric utilities offer additional incentives of up to \$225,000 through the Energy Trust of Oregon for solar photovoltaic installations for public jurisdictions. For more information about these incentives, please see: [energytrust.org/solar/commercial/nonp\\_gov.php](http://energytrust.org/solar/commercial/nonp_gov.php).

Please send your contact information to the address included on the enclosed form. An electronic version of the form is available at: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/QIPP](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/QIPP). You are also welcome to share information about your company, including qualifications and experience, for reference. That information would be most useful if shared on a compact disc so that it might be referenced electronically.

ODOT is committed to the development of renewable resources and many of these development opportunities are only viable as public-private partnerships. We invite you to share your contact information so we can share more information with you as ODOT's Solar Highway initiative moves forward in 2008.

Sincerely,

Allison Hamilton  
Project Director