



NEWS

Governor Breaks Ground on "Solar Highway" Installation
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August 7, 2008

Portland, OR, USA: Governor Breaks Ground on "Solar Highway" Installation

Governor Kulongoski today announced Oregon is installing the nation's first solar demonstration project in a highway right of way, moving the state a step further in its role as a leader in renewable power development. The project is the result of collaboration with Portland General Electric (PGE), US Bank and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the materials and installation will be provided by Oregon companies.



Artist's rendition of the ODOT Solar Highway installation courtesy of Advanced Energy Systems, Eugene

"Before the year is over, this ground will hold the nation's first Solar Highway project, and Oregon will make history using the power of the sun to light this interchange," Governor Ted Kulongoski said. "More importantly, this project will represent a new era for energy in Oregon. It will represent a step forward toward our vision of an energy independent Oregon – and it will represent the endless opportunities before us to chart this course of clean, reliable and renewable energy for our state."

The Governor and ODOT, in partnership with PGE and US Bank, unveiled the project that will help light the way for drivers at the Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 interchange in Tualatin. Governor Kulongoski, PGE President and CEO Peggy Fowler, and Oregon Transportation Commission Chair Gail Achterman broke ground on the project, placing the first of 594 solar panels.

The solar highway demonstration project is an "all Oregon" effort — Oregon companies will supply materials, design and install this collaborative project. SolarWorld AG of Hillsboro will supply the solar panels, and PV Powered, Inc. of Bend will supply the inverter.

"PGE is committed to developing and promoting more solar power in Oregon," said Peggy Fowler. "We appreciate the innovative approach the Governor and ODOT are taking to support our solar industry and make Oregon first in solar highways."

The 104-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system — covering about 8,000 square feet and roughly the length of two football fields — will produce about 112,000 kilowatt hours a year, or 28 percent of the 400,000 kilowatt hours used to light the interchange. The \$1.3 million project is expected to be completed and online in December 2008. Electricity for the highway interchange is provided by PGE and the added solar power will be handled through a net metering arrangement.

The solar panels will produce electricity during the day, supplying power onto the PGE grid, and PGE will return an equivalent amount of power at night to light the interchange.

The project will be designed, constructed and installed by SolarWay, a "turn-key" solar energy engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) consortium consisting of four Oregon firms: Aadland Evans Constructors, Inc., of Portland as the general contractor; Moyano Leadership Group, Inc., of Salem as the project manager and design leader; Advanced Energy Systems of Eugene as the solar power specialty designer and installer, and Good Company of Eugene as the community and sustainability specialist.

On February 21, 2008, the Oregon Transportation Commission had directed ODOT's Office of Innovative Partnerships to develop a procurement for up to 2 megawatts of solar energy on ODOT properties, including along the state highway right of way and the interstate system. Leading the way will be the Oregon Solar Highway demonstration project, a public-private partnership with Portland General Electric and US Bank, to build the first-in-the-nation solar array in a freeway interchange.

Further details about: [Advanced Energy Systems](#), [SolarWorld AG](#) and [PVPowered](#)

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