

## Nation's first 'solar highway' lights up I-5/I-205 interchange *Gov. Kulongoski calls the project 'a new era for energy in Oregon'*

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**Oregon transportation officials kicked off a bright idea Thursday morning, unveiling the nation's first solar highway project.**

Gov. Ted Kulongoski joined representatives from Oregon's Department of Transportation to initiate the project, which will use 594 solar panels to provide about a quarter of the energy needed to light the Interstate 5/Interstate 205 interchange in Tualatin.

Kulongoski called the project the representation of "a new era for energy in Oregon." The solar array is expected to be operating before the end of the year,

The solar highway is considered a proof-of-concept project meant to demonstrate that the solar arrays installed in the right of way can complement and not compromise the transportation system. While solar arrays have been installed along highways in Europe and Australia for more than 20 years, no solar arrays have been installed in operating highway rights of way in the United States. Oregon's solar highway will be the first.

According to Portland General Electric, the solar panels, rated at 104 kilowatts, will produce an estimated 112,000 kilowatt hours annually — about 28 percent of the 400,000 kilowatt hours used to light the interchange.

"We stand here today literally at a crossroads for our transportation system and our climate change," said Kulongoski, who noted that the solar highway was just another way for the state to limit its carbon footprint.

The project is a public-private partnership between ODOT, PGE and US Bank. ODOT officials first approached PGE in November 2007 with the idea for the solar highway. PGE then secured US Bank as a third party investor. PGE formed Sunway 1 LLC with UFA Energy Fund to build the project and secure the tax credits.

Sunway 1 will fund the project and ODOT will buy the electricity produced from the installation. The Energy Trust of Oregon will provide utility incentive funding to the project and in return will receive the renewable energy certificates, which will eventually be retired on behalf of PGE's customers.



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Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Portland General Electric Chief Executive Officer Peggy Fowler install the first solar panel of an array that will be used to power highway lights at the I-5/205 interchange in Tualatin.