

A CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PHC NW



By Todd Beran

PHC NW has begun constructing an 870 kW solar array, the largest photovoltaic system in Oregon. It will be located on the rooftop of our new industrial facility and will be roughly 6.7 times larger than the current largest photovoltaic array in the Pacific Northwest. The system will provide PHC NW more than 100% of our current electrical energy needs. The first solar panels are scheduled to be delivered and installed in late April – early May. We expect the array to be completed and commercially operational by the end of 2008.

The project will enhance PHC NW’s sustainability by stabilizing and reducing our energy costs allowing us to bid more competitively on long-term manufacturing contracts over the 30-plus-year life of the array. It will also draw much needed attention to our company and our mission and create a niche for PHCI in the solar manufacturing industry. This will attract new businesses and expand our customer base so we may offer more varied, challenging and rewarding job opportunities to individuals with a diversity of severe disabilities.

The project will also change the face of solar energy generation in the region. Utilizing a clean, renewable energy solution, PHC NW will demonstrate how businesses can simultaneously lower operating costs and reduce carbon emissions through sustainable practices. We will be doing our part as a growing company to care for the environment and innovatively contribute to Oregon’s aggressive renewable energy goals.

Though a solar array of this size is unique to the region, we are not doing something entirely new. The technology being used has been developed over many years and is tried and tested. Similar and even larger systems are being utilized around the world in areas with less average annual sunlight than Portland.

U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation will own and finance the system for the initial phase of the project capitalizing on state and federal tax credit incentives. Additional funding is being provided by the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Meyer Memorial Trust.



View of a portion of the industrial facility rooftop where the solar panels will be installed



Two of the inverters used to convert DC power output to AC power