Innovative solutions for healthy landscapes and vibrant communities

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Sustainable Northwest

Sustainable Northwest is a non-profit based in Portland, Oregon. They work to forge solutions for people and natural systems at the intersection of community, economy, and ecology.

They work to successfully bringing local interests together to pioneer balanced community-driven solutions in the face of change and conflict.
Our vision for community energy:

• A clean energy economy
• Stable and affordable power
• Renewable and energy efficient infrastructure
• Secure living wage jobs for rural people
OREGON rural ACTION
Sowing Seeds of Change
RARE Energy Program Priorities

- Cultivate and grow the Energy Team/ORA membership
- Publish first Eastern Oregon Energy Guide
- Support Energy Smart Schools Campaign
- Develop and launch Solarize Union County
Funding a Solarize Program

- Local businesses
- Local utility company
- Financial Institutions
- Local or county government
- Grants for staff and administration
ORA pushed for a Renewable Energy Grant Program using wind farm royalties. 25% of community fees would be allocated toward renewable energy projects. Totaled $57,000
Renewable Energy Grant Fund

Projects would be favored that:

• Had an eye on local, economic development
  AND
• Was used as a match to be used with other sources
The Plot Thickens...
Can we get the match?

Show me the money!
Structuring a loan can be tricky

$7-10,000 Total installed cost
= $3,600- $4,500 Tax Credits

$4,000 loan (Yeah, that sounds right?!)

→ 20 homeowners would be able to receive a loan
solarize union county
• $4,000 Max
• 2% Interest
• $100 administration fee
• One year loan, corresponds with federal and state tax credits
(Real) Local Economic Development
## Solar Water Heating Incentive Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solarize Pricing</strong></td>
<td>$7,900</td>
<td>$7,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>30% Federal Tax Credit</td>
<td>(2,370)</td>
<td>(2,370)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Tax Credit</td>
<td>(1,500)</td>
<td>(3,950)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Cost</td>
<td>$4,030</td>
<td>$1,580.</td>
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Notes From a Small Community

- $4,000 max loan was not enough. We restructured to eventually cover 80% of total installation cost.
- Allow time. Lots of it.
- Cultivating relationships > instant results
- Approach all potential parties, leave no one out
- Keep things local when possible
- Word of mouth is king!
What Sustainable Northwest learned in the first 20 years

- Collaboration has become mainstream because it works
- Communities need long-term investment by a dedicated and trustworthy partner – a unique role that we play
- Creating self-sustaining programs and markets in rural areas is an ongoing challenge
- Patient innovators are vital
- Our approach can apply beyond wood products and forests
- We must redouble our focus on implementation to overcome barriers and ensure progress
Who’s Next?

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