



CONNECTIONS

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NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Northwest Co-op Development Center Issues Request For Proposals

Northwest Cooperative Development Center (NWCDC) has issued its annual Request for Proposals for the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) for fiscal year 2002-2003.

The USDA distributes grants through NWCDC and other co-op development centers throughout the U.S. to help expand the cooperative business model. Funds will be available to new and existing co-ops situated in rural and economically distressed areas.

NWCDC will accept applications until March 29th, 2002 and will notify winners by the middle of April. Up to ten projects will be selected for NWDC's annual work plan. These projects will be included in the USDA RCDG in May of 2002. The funding will be available starting October 1, 2002.

Each project is required to provide at least 25% of matching funding from the total project cost.

Funds may be used for the following purposes:

- applied research, feasibility, environmental and other studies;
- collection, interpretation, and dissemination of principles, facts, technical knowledge or other information;
- training and instruction to individuals, cooperative small businesses and other similar entities in rural areas served by the NWDC for the purpose of cooperative development.

Grant funds may not be used to:

- pay more than 75% of relevant project or administrative costs;
- pay costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant (October 1, 2002);
- pay for building construction, the

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purchase of real estate, vehicles or equipment, improving or renovating office space, or the repair or maintenance of privately-owned property.

For application requirements and other information, please contact Madina Cavendish at (360) 943-4241 or e-mail to nwcdc@qwest.net

WIND NEWS

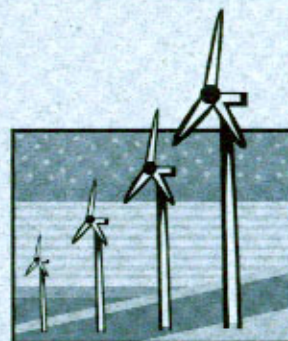
The map of Washington's wind resources is now available online!

The long awaited high-resolution wind maps of Washington, Idaho and Montana are now posted at www.windpowermaps.org. Maps of Oregon and Wyoming are coming in March. A more detailed project schedule along with sponsorship information can be found at www.nwseed.org/maps.htm. Contributions at any level (including in-kind support) would be greatly appreciated!

Background

Under contract with the NW Cooperative Development Center, TrueWind Solutions and NW Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED) are working to produce new wind maps and an interactive website which will allow

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Northwest Cooperative
Development Center

NWCDC is an association of consumer, producer and worker cooperatives in Washington, Oregon, Western Montana, Alaska, Idaho, Northern California and Hawaii. NWCDC was founded by cooperatives in 1979 with the mission to promote and strengthen cooperatives in the Northwest. NWCDC was formerly known as Puget Sound Development Foundation. In the spring of 2000, NWCDC was reorganized and renamed in order to include a broader geographical area. The mission of the NWCDC is to foster community economic development, primarily through cooperative business models.

NWCDC Board of Directors

Aaron Jones, Chairman - WA Rural Electric Co-op Association
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Art Siegal, Secretary - Group Health Cooperative
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Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney - District 46 State Representative
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Ken Duft - WA State University

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landowners to "zoom in" and view resource details down to a 40-acre grid scale. The project will allow to screen out less promising areas for commercial-scale wind prospecting and to provide better information to farmers and ranchers interested in developing wind resources on their land. The maps will be widely disseminated as glossy color posters to libraries, utilities, county commissions, community action agencies and extension offices throughout the region as well as via e-mail and the Internet. Although the new wind maps will not eliminate the need for on-site wind measurement for large-scale installations, they will help utilities and developers target the most economical areas. The maps will also help landowners make a first-cut determination on whether to install distributed wind turbines to supply power on-site.

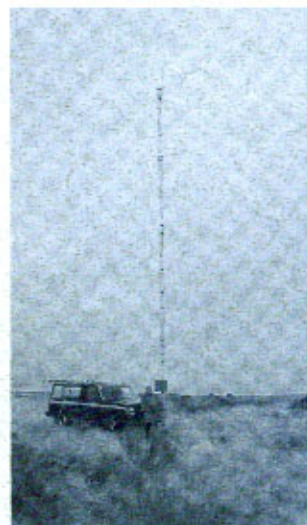
NWCDC helps to organize annual "Harvesting Clean Energy" Conference.

NWCDC has been actively involved in planning and organizing the 2nd Annual Harvesting Clean Energy Conference which will be held in Pasco, February 26-27.

The conference is designed to foster new partnerships between agriculture and the energy industry. It will bring together all the right people, starting with the rural families that can make clean, homegrown energy a reality. The conference will also be of interest to agricultural organizations, rural utilities and economic development leaders, elected officials and local, state, tribal and federal agencies.

The conference will provide attendees a solid overview of each of the major farm-based energy technologies backed by practical take-home materials. It will also feature a trade show representing each of the featured technologies. The exhibits will be open to the public and local schools on the 26th.

Last Mile Electric Co-op's First Wind Energy "Tall Tower" Up! By Dave Warren, Manager, Last Mile Electric Co-op



Betty Jean Black, landowner, at the base of the new tower.

Nespelem Co-op country was the site of the first "tall tower" set up by the Last Mile Electric Co-op (LMEC) to collect data to analyze the potential for developing a commercial wind power facility. LMEC is a new electric cooperative based in Olympia, LMEC is composed of 19 rural electric co-ops, municipal utilities and other members from Washington,

Oregon, Nevada, and California - of which Nespelem Valley Electric Co-op (NVEC) is one. LMEC was formed to research and develop renewable energy projects on behalf of its members.

On October 24, in cooperation with NVEC, LMEC erected the tower on the ridge-top property of Betty Jean Black, overlooking the Chief Joseph powerhouse and the beautiful Columbia River. In our first 10 minutes of collecting data, we recorded a peak wind speed of 11 mph - on what Betty Jean described as a very calm day!

Betty Jean, an NVEC member, has long advocated that rural electric cooperatives - working with local landowners - assess the potential for commercially generated wind power in our region. She offered part of her property to NVEC and LMEC as the first site for such an assessment.

LMEC is dedicated to providing cost-based renewable energy to benefit its members, in a way that treats rural landowners fairly. We are actively seeking landowners who are interested in having the wind energy potential on their land assessed.

North Country Co-op

By Kenna Eaton

Reprinted from Moscow Food Co-op Newsletter

If you're headed northwards through Eastern Washington, you should plan on stopping at the North Country Co-op in Colville, WA.

When I started working at the Co-op 20 years ago, there were way more natural food co-ops than there are today. Throughout the years, a combination of under-capitalization and competition has managed to put most of those little co-ops out of business. North Country, however, is a survivor.

When you enter the North Country Co-op, you first notice the homey wood floors, the delicious smells and the welcoming smiles. I was equally thrilled to discover a wood stove that had prominence in the store keeping staff and customers warm on this nasty late winter day.

Over the years, the Co-op has struggled to survive in a community that has seen better days - but the loyal members won't let this co-op die.

Despite the lack of a general manager and tough financial conditions, that co-op has an aura of hope. The current staff, a mixture of old and new

cooperators works hard on a daily basis to keep this Colville Co-op going. The bakery and deli, the heart of the business, produces food to rival your favorite MFC goodies! With 2 seating areas, weary travelers and shoppers have a choice of great places to sit, several hot dishes, salads, sandwiches and of course, desserts and breads. So, plan on stopping by as you travel north through Washington, grab a lunch and a drink and plan on lingering a while on that front porch.

North Country Co-op is located at 282 West Astor Street in Colville. Their phone number is (509) 684-6132.

North Country Co-op is one of NWCDC's projects for this year. The Center's staff will work with co-op management to achieve the following objectives:

- improve staff management systems;
- improve facility's appearance;
- advance marketing and customer service;
- increase store and bakery sales;
- plan for possible relocation.

We hope that in realizing these objectives, the co-op will not only survive, but thrive and grow into a model business enterprise that could spawn the development of additional local cooperative business in this rural area.

Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney joins NWCDC Board of Directors



Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney is a Democrat Representative from the 46th District, Northeast Seattle. Serving her second term, she is the Co-Chair of the Higher Education Committee, and also

serves on Rules and Appropriations.

Her community activities include Board of Trustees, Seattle Community College District (past chair); Board of Directors, Sisters of Providence Health System; Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (past President); Advisory Board Member, Women for Healthcare Education, Reform and Equity (WHERE); presidential delegate, White House Conference on Small Business.

Phyllis and her husband Larry have 10 children and 17 grandchildren.

Welcome Aboard, Laura!

New NWCDC employee Laura Aymond came on board in October to join Madina Cavendish as Office Assistant.

Laura is a native of Tacoma, Washington, but until recently, lived on a small farm in the Yakima Valley. She and her son Riley, 16, now live in Lacey.

Laura's employment background is varied, including the travel industry and non-profit organizations. For the past seven years, she operated a freelance writing and editing service and wrote for a variety of agencies and publications, including feature stories for Ruralite Magazine.

Welcome To The World, Emma!

NWCDC Project Manager, Madina Cavendish, gave birth to little Emma Gabriella on November 24th, 2001.

Both mom and baby are doing fine!



www.nwcddc.coop is NWCDC's new website address!



During late 2001, .Coop opened up domain name reservation to a limited group of cooperatives, which reserved more than 4,100 .coop domain names prior to the launch. Cooperatives, including NW Co-op Development Center that had reserved names could activate them when the domain went live on the Internet's root server on January 9. From now on, the NWCDC's

new Internet address is www.nwcddc.coop. We plan to transfer the content of our website to the new address by the end of March, 2002.

.COOP Background:

In September 2000, the National Cooperative Business Association proposed .coop domain to Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). .Coop and six other TLDs were approved by ICANN in November 2000. In contrast to .com, .org, and .net domains, in which registration is open to anyone, to buy names under the new .coop domain, registrants must meet strict eligibility criteria based on seven internationally recognized cooperative principles. .Coop is available only to credit unions, cooperatives and co-op support organizations.

Yes! I want to be in the cooperative loop

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please send me dues information for organizational membership

Please send me dues information for individual membership

Enclosed is a tax-deductible gift for the NW Co-op Development Center

Please send me a receipt

Please detach and send to: NWCDC, 1050 Capitol Way South, Ste. B, Olympia, WA 98501



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