

# COMMUNITY WIND:

An Oregon Guidebook



Prepared for the Energy Trust of Oregon by Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development



Oregon has abundant sources of clean, renewable energy and the Energy Trust is helping Oregon to use these sustainable, local resources. This includes developing a portfolio of solutions relying on a mosaic of renewable energy technologies and sizes, from solar on rooftops to larger geothermal projects. In the middle of this range falls community wind, which we define as wind projects up to 10 MW that are primarily owned and operated locally.

While we do not claim that community wind is always the most appropriate solution, in many situations it provides unique and direct local and system benefits. This guidebook investigates the opportunities, tools, challenges and necessary steps for the development of community wind projects in Oregon. We are not offering the definitive text on developing local wind projects. Approaches, costs, regulations and laws will change. Project proponents will need to update the general information provided in this guide.

We knew as we started this that we could not do it alone. The issues can be multiple and complex. Fortunately, the community of interest in this area is strong, deep and talented. This guidebook is the product of the generous support of these dedicated people. Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development deserves particular credit for their tireless efforts to drive this guidebook to completion, as does Alan Cowan of the Energy Trust for all his excellent contributions. We could not have asked for more.

Our hope is that this tool allows community members to be better prepared to consider community wind and potentially journey down the path of project development.

Peter West

*Energy Trust of Oregon*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development** works with rural communities, college campuses, Tribes, utilities and businesses to maximize local benefits of renewable energy generation. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, Northwest SEED supports and develops creative programs, policies and financing approaches to build rural economies and diversify the region's energy supply.

**Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc.**, is a non-profit organization dedicated to changing how Oregonians use energy by promoting energy efficiency and clean renewable energy for Oregon customers of Pacific Power, Portland General Electric, and NW Natural. Energy Trust offers Oregonians incentives and services for new renewable resources and energy-efficient improvements for homes and businesses. The Energy Trust also offers programs to assist with the generation of electricity using wind,

biopower, geothermal, solar and other renewable resources for supply to utilities.

**Authors:**

Don André, Jennifer Grove, Leslie Grossman Moynihan, Sarah Peterson, Jessica Raker

**Editors:**

Alan Cowan, Ben Raker

**Graphic Design:**

Ecofusion Multimedia

**Additional Financial Support:**

Portland General Electric

**Reviewers and contributors:**

Warren Ault, Windustry; Don Bain, Aeropower Services; Ted Bernhard, Stoel Rives LLP; Mark Bolinger, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Alan Cowan, Energy Trust of Oregon; Lisa Daniels, Windustry; Carel Dewinkel, Oregon Department of Energy; David Drescher, John Deere; Jeff Keto, Oregon Department of Energy; Charles Kubert, Environmental Law and Policy Center; Jeff Speert, University of Washington; Heather Rhoads-Weaver, American Wind Energy Association; John Vanden Bosche, Chinook Wind; Peter West, Energy Trust of Oregon.

The authors are solely responsible for errors and omissions.

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## References