

Small Turbines Keep On Turning! Our Wind Co-op Going Strong in 2004

By Jennifer Grove



Ed Kennell's 10kW Bergey atop the wintry Luna Butte. Photo Credit: Ed Kennell.

Fixed atop Luna Butte, Ed Kennell's newly installed Bergey 10 kW wind turbine towers 80 feet above a cold snow-packed field in the windy heart of Klickitat Valley. Across the continental divide along the north Montana highline region, 800 miles away from Goldendale, Washington, you can find Don Marble of Chester, Montana, admiring Liberty County's softly whirling 10 kW Bergey wind turbine, Our Wind Co-op's latest addition.

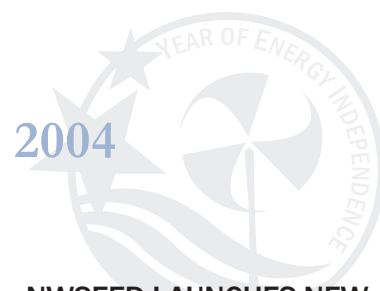
Converging for the Harvest

Despite the geographic distance between Ed Kennell's and Don Marble's sites, their shared interest in small scale wind turbines and the cooperative business model has brought

them together. Both are new members of Our Wind Co-op, a project launched by Northwest SEED and partnering organizations in 2002. At the annual Harvesting Clean Energy Conference this past January, turbine hosts officially met together for the first time to discuss the Co-op's formal incorporation. Fourth generation Montana cattle rancher Jess Alger, Co-op President Ed Kennell, Don and Beverly Grim of Peshastin, Washington, and Liberty County Montana Commissioner Don Marble traveled to Portland to plan joint "value-added" green tag marketing efforts and review lessons learned from each member's experience.

Face to face, Co-op members, funders, and project partners representing USDA Rural Development, Northwest Cooperative Development Center, Climate Solutions and Northwest SEED shared ideas on the Co-op's structure and future activities. Turbine owners compared experiences and exchanged tips on securing

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NWSEED LAUNCHES NEW LOOK ON THE WEB

WWW.NWSEED.ORG has a new look. Visit the website to stay in tune with our work and our partners' work throughout the Northwest.



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Independent Energy Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis and available in electronic format. To be added to Northwest SEED's mailing list call 206-328-2441 or visit www.nwseed.org

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Regional Wind Development Guidebook for Communities

Together with the State of Washington Office of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED), A World Institute for a Sustainability Humanity (AWISH), the Energy Trust of Oregon, the Washington Economic Development Council, and EcoNorthwest, NWSEED is working to develop a guide book to assist communities in evaluating the costs and potential benefits of wind power. The guidebook will help users consider a range of different sized wind projects, and will include tools to assist communities in estimating potential local economic impacts such as jobs, business income, property values, and tax revenues that might result from developing local wind power resources. This important new resource will provide new tools for making objective and informed decisions on the merits of various methods to develop wind power resources. The guidebook will include case studies of other counties and an analysis of different ownership models, with beta testing and release expected in summer 2004.

A letter from the founding E.D.

Northwest SEED Announces Don André as New Executive Director

Dear Northwest SEED Supporters and Partners,

Together with the Board and staff of Northwest SEED I am thrilled to announce and welcome to the organization Don André of Spokane, Washington, as our recently selected Executive Director of Northwest SEED. Mr. André, who's term will begin with Northwest SEED in June of 2004, is currently the Director of the Spokane Neighborhood Action Program's (SNAP) Housing Improvements Division. During his twenty-year tenure with SNAP, Don's efforts have reduced energy consumption and increased self-sufficiency through local weatherization, rehabilitation, and conservation education programs. Don is the Director of the Citizen's Utility Alliance, a grassroots consumer advocacy group formed in partnership with SNAP. He is a committed individual and has been intensely involved in northwest energy issues since the late eighties, including a term as Chair of the NW Energy Coalition in 1993-94.

Don André will take the helm of our Seattle-headquartered organization at an opportune time. Having managed large staffs and multi-million dollar complex budgets for other non-profits, Don's organizational leadership and experience in developing healthy and sustainable communities puts him in a position to make a great impact on the communities we serve. As the healthy growth of the organization continues to unfold, the selection of Don André as Executive Director ushers in a new era of collaboration and investment in on-the-ground projects throughout the region.

As Northwest SEED's founding Executive Director I am devoted to ensuring the continued success of the organization. In my new half time position here as Director of Community Partnerships, I will focus on development activities and building strategic alliances. With our existing talented staff in place and experienced new leadership, Northwest SEED will continue to make a long term impact on the communities of the Pacific and Inland Northwest. I look forward to our continued success and seeing all of you in the near term.



Newly selected Executive Director Don André.

Heather Rhoads-Weaver

Northwest SEED Executive Director
Sept. 2000 - May 2004

2004: The Year of Energy Independence

Northwest SEED Helps Grow Rural Prosperity

The idea of energy security has enjoyed inconsistent popularity over the last twenty years, and has only recently reemerged as a priority in the political arena. Lawmakers and community leaders are now more seriously seeking to reduce our dependence on foreign fuel supplies and to tap into our vast domestic resources of renewable energy. While the goal of energy independence is not new, this issue is taking center stage in 2004, making this year a critical turning point in our nation's history.

Rural economies in America suffered significant setbacks in employment and earnings growth between 2000 and 2003, according to the USDA Economic Research Service. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for rural areas reached 5.9% by the second quarter of 2003 – up from a low of 4.4% in 2000. In the Western region, this percentage reached 6.7% by the same time in 2003.¹ With the West suffering the highest unemployment rate in the nation for 11 years and projections for 2004 indicating another decline year for rural economies, our region will need a long term boost.

An election year brings winds of change, and this year the winds are stronger than ever. With thirty-four U.S. Senate seats and all 435 U.S. House seats up for re-election in 2004, the level of visionary leadership in the energy security debate will determine the direction of renewable energy policy in 2005 and beyond. At the local level, citizens in Washington and Montana will decide on the next occupant in their respective Governors' mansions. In addition to the hundreds of state legislative races and usual shifts in power during an election year, the potential for a significant turnover in 2004 makes this year a pivotal opportunity to set a policy agenda promoting homegrown, clean, secure energy.

This year, Northwest SEED will educate community and national leadership about the benefits of renewable energy with a heightened sense of timeliness. We will advocate for investments in a renewable energy economy as comprehensive job growth policy, a strong avenue toward increasing our national security, and a vehicle for widespread rural rejuvenation.

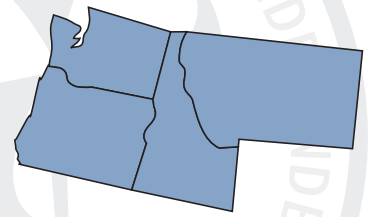
The Nation and the Northwest

At the state and federal levels, Northwest SEED is working with renewables advocates from across the country to pass energy legislation, including both incentives and standards, to stimulate significant economic and market growth in renewable energy production. Northwest SEED is also collaborating on nationwide efforts to restore funding to important renewable energy and Farm Bill programs. Read on to learn about each issue.

Washington State

With Washington convening a brief sixty-day session this year, Northwest SEED dedicated much time to working with our partners in the Renew Washington campaign to ensure that a growing portion of our state's electricity needs will be met by power from local renewable energy sources. As a key member of the Renew Washington coalition, NWSEED worked this session to support laws to create financial incentives and regulatory assurances

Renewable Energy and Election Year 2004



Three Northwest Senators will be challenged for their seats in 2004:

- Michael Crapo (R - ID)
- Ron Wyden (D - OR)
- Patty Murray (D - WA)

Out of eleven U.S. states that will elect governors in 2004, two are in the Northwest:

- Judy Martz (R - MT) will defend her post in Helena, MT.
- Gary Locke (D - WA) will be leaving a vacancy in Olympia, WA.

Renewable Energy Policy in Washington 2004

Final Yea's and Nays in Olympia, WA:

SHB 2333 – *Renewable energy and energy efficiency standards*. Bill died, stalling in the House before it reached the floor for a vote.

SSB 6131/6132 – *Solar and small wind generation and manufacturing incentives*. Bills died, failing to pass both the House and Senate before cutoff.

SB 6146 – *Encouraging renewables and efficiency businesses in Washington*. Overwhelmingly passed by the legislature; awaiting Governor Locke's signature. Bill directs the Washington Technology Center (WTC) to use its Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative Project to provide a forum for promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. Calls for the WTC to develop and implement a strategic plan for public and private sector collaboration in renewable energy and energy efficiency business development.

¹Visit USDA's Briefing Room for Rural Labor and Education: www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/LaborAndEducation/

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Randy Smith, a Cashmere based tree fruit orchardist, is Northwest SEED's Director of Rural Affairs. Randy is working with Renew Washington campaign partners to engage members of the agricultural and rural utility communities in the effort to bring more renewable energy to our state.

USDA 9006 - Federal Funding

The USDA Rural Development office will issue a notice of funds availability (NOFA) for the Section 9006 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements grant program for FY2005, on or before April 8, 2004. This solicitation will be similar to last year's and valued at approximately \$23 million. Please stay tuned to www.nwseed.org for more info on events in the region related to Section 9006 funding.

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to promote wind, biomass, solar and other home-grown renewable energy sources, as well as to increase energy efficiency throughout the state.

The Renew Washington team enjoyed several encouraging victories this session. A version of HB 2333, a bill to ensure that the state's large utilities gradually increase the percentage of their energy supply met through renewable energy resources and energy efficiency, passed out of both the House Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. The bill ultimately stalled in the House Rules Committee and failed to reach the floor for a vote, but we made important progress in highlighting with lawmakers the potential for economic growth by investing in homegrown, clean energy.

Farmers and rural residents from throughout the state supported the Renew Washington campaign by educating their legislators about how they stand to benefit from biomass, wind, solar and energy efficiency measures that help improve the bottom line on their farm operations and aid grid stability in their communities. NWSEED continues to foster connections between farmers, ranchers and urban green power supporters to create a strong base of support for renewable energy policies.

Clean Energy for America

NWSEED, in collaboration with regional and national advocacy groups from around the country, continues to work to ensure that Congress passes energy legislation that includes strong provisions to support renewable energy development in our nation. In December, Congress adjourned for their winter recess without passing comprehensive energy legislation. Now that Congress is back in session, lawmakers are engaged in various strategies to try to get a modified version or individual sections of the energy bill passed in the near future. Of particular importance to the wind industry is the extension of the Production Tax Credit currently included in the energy bill. We are working to ensure that Northwest Congressional delegates recognize their constituents' strong support for renewables and meaningful legislation supporting renewable energy development.

Federal Funding for Renewable Energy

The White House's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) includes some funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency, but not as much as originally allocated by Congress. Proposed budget cuts include: \$12 million from Farm Bill Section 9006 Renewable Energy System and Energy Efficiency Improvements; \$25 million from USDA Value-Added Producers Grants, intended to spur development of new uses for agricultural products, including renewable energy; and \$50 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation Bioenergy Program, which helps ethanol and biodiesel producers expand production. Our staff and volunteers are working with regional and national organizations from across the country to restore funding to these vital rural development programs. As members of Our Wind Co-op have received funding for their turbines through two of these programs, NWSEED understands the importance of this funding to our co-op members and others in the agriculture and rural renewable energy sectors.

Visit www.renewwashington.org for more information about building stronger Washington communities with renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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Liberty County's newly built 10 kW, the third Montana turbine installed as part of Our Wind Co-op. Photo credit: Don Marble

turbine insurance. Future site host Gwen Bassetti remarked, "I enjoyed the conference. It was a little like being baptized by total immersion. I certainly emerged a convert! We are looking forward to moving ahead with our site's development."

Site Development Update

In the weeks leading up to the HCE Conference, Liberty County completed installation of their 10 kW turbine on an 80-foot tilt-up tower behind the county shop in Chester, Montana. This turbine marks the halfway point in the Co-op's initial development of ten small-scale wind turbines in the Northwest. With three in Montana and two in Washington installed, the process of selecting the remaining five turbines is underway with prospects in Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Northwest

SEED is still accepting applications for participation in the Co-op. To download an application, visit: www.ourwind.org/windcoop/pages/feedback.html

OWC "Value-Added" Green Tags

Our Wind Co-op Green Tags, representing the clean air attributes of wind energy generation, are "value-added" as they are derived from small-scale, locally owned wind turbines, directly benefiting Northwest farmers, rural landowners and low-income communities. With four turbines up and running in 2003, Our Wind Co-op generated five Green Tags representing 5000 kWh, all of which were sold in 2003. The Co-op is currently lining up buyers for the Green Tags produced by the Co-op during 2004.

Herding the Numbers: Ourwind.org Gets Makeover

The Our Wind website (www.ourwind.org) has recently been updated to provide more in depth information on the Co-op, including a section devoted to turbine performance. As part of our funding contract with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, each turbine is outfitted with extensive equipment that records the turbine's power output as well as meteorological data such as wind speed, direction, and temperature. Collecting detailed data from several different turbines will provide new insight into how the systems function in different climatic regions and applications.

Visit the site profiles (www.ourwind.org/windcoop/pages/profiles.html) to view data from our installed turbines.

NEW IN 2004

Funding for Our Wind Co-op was bolstered by the finalization of an agreement with Seattle City Light and Bonneville Environmental Foundation for an additional \$20,000 to support five turbines in Washington State.

Northwest SEED also secured a contract with A World Institute for Sustainable Humanity (AWISH) to facilitate partnerships between local utilities and community action agencies to allocate the benefits associated with wind generation to low-income households.



visit www.ourwind.org for more information about Our Wind Co-op



Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED) supports and develops creative programs, policies, and financing approaches to build rural economies by harvesting "homegrown" renewable resources — wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and low-impact hydro — to create new revenue streams and high quality jobs throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Michelle Zeidman served for the last 3 months as Northwest SEED's Wind Energy Intern, and was responsible for coordinating site development and permitting for the Our Wind Co-op project.

Upcoming Events

For additional listings visit: www.nwseed.org/events.asp

Regional Events

Solar Energy International Workshop:
Grid-Tied Solar-Electric (PV) Design and Installation
April 8-10
Guemes Island, WA

Solar Energy International Workshop:
Homebuilt Wind Generators
April 12-17
Guemes Island, WA

Franklin PUD's 3rd Solar,
Wind and Renewable Expo
April 30-May 5
Pasco, WA

Snohomish PUD Solar Power Seminar
May 22
Everett, WA

National Events

Global Windpower 2004
March 28-31
Chicago, IL

North American Energy Summit
April 14-16
Albuquerque, NM

Structuring Tribal Energy
Development Conference
April 22-23
Las Vegas, NV

Sustainable Energy Solutions
2004 Conference
May 5-6
Denver, CO

hosted by the Council of Energy Resource Tribes

Volunteers

Our volunteers are essential for us to carry out our mission to promote renewable energy and economic opportunities in rural areas. We appreciate volunteers' dedication and the priceless gifts of their time, talents and resources.

To learn about how you can get involved, visit the volunteer section of the NWSEED website.

Lisa Van Arsdale
William Falling
Seema Rani Ghosh
Andrea Gomes
Morgan Kimbrough-Struss

Harvey Kramer-Hawks
Dinky Pfeifle
Kristin Seyboth
Vivian Shin
Kevin Snively
Sid Wray

Thanks Volunteers!

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