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Cascade Community Wind Company LLC (CCWC), based in Bellingham, announces that it has received a grant of \$47,975 from the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), for the construction of a 100 kW community wind turbine. The turbine is a Vestas V19, 100kW turbine which has a 60-foot diameter rotor, is on an 80-foot monopole tower and will produce enough power for about 45 energy efficient homes (around 200,000 kWh a year). The turbine is expected to cost \$250,000 to install.

This project, named “First Up!” because it is the first community wind turbine of its size to be erected in the state of Washington, will be located in Kittitas County near Ellensburg, and is planned to be completed in summer 2010.

“This has been a long and arduous process”, says Terry Meyer, P.E., owner of CCWC, ”but a process that will lead the way for future community projects to generate clean energy from renewable sources.”

Community wind is an innovative business model that allows people in the region to buy a subscription to the output of a local wind turbine. As the wind turbine produces energy over the coming two decades, owners of the subscriptions will offset the electricity consumption of their home or business. For a single upfront payment, a homeowner or business anywhere in the state can be powered by one of these turbines for the next 20 years, receiving green energy benefits as well as power bill savings. Renewable energy credits can also be purchased separately for ‘greening’ events, or to achieve net zero energy usage.



A subscription to one percent of the output of the First Up! Turbine costs \$2,500 and is projected to save the subscriber approximately \$4,700 on their power bill over the 20-year life of the project. Renewable energy credits (RECs) will offset 40,000 pounds of carbon, kWh electricity, or miles driven (that’s 2000 per year). REC-only subscriptions are available for \$625 and go directly towards the construction of this project.

Using the guidelines for determining community economic impact found in the Washington State Wind Energy Guidebook, an estimated \$95,000 per year will be added to the economy, 0.8 jobs, and \$8,800 in tax revenue every year for the next 20 years as a result of this turbine.

CWC has plans for future community wind turbines in other counties as well. For information, call 360 306 5331, e-mail info@cascadecommunitywind.com, or visit www.CascadeCommunityWind.com.