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**For Immediate Release: Galbraith Community Wind Energy Project Initiated**

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Cascade Community Wind Company (CCWC ) has taken the first step toward developing a community wind turbine project on Galbraith Mountain by submitting a conditional use permit application today. Galbraith Mountain is one of only a handful of sites in Whatcom County with a viable wind resource. The project will most likely consist of one large wind turbine of 2-3 MW, which will generate enough electricity to power about 1000 energy efficient homes. According to the estimates in the Washington State Wind Energy Guidebook, this project will have an annual economic impact of creating approximately \$1.25 Million in local economic activity, \$112,000 in tax revenue, 12 direct and indirect long term jobs, and 18 jobs during construction. Furthermore, the project will offset approximately 5.5 million pounds of carbon emissions per year (the equivalent of taking more than 480 cars off the road). Cascade Community Wind has initiated conversations with local union groups to provide local labor as the project goes forward.

CCWC considered several versions of this project, and ultimately chose a version that endeavors to follow not only the rules of the existing Whatcom County ordinance, but also the spirit of the discussions currently under way by the County Council (which has been considering a revised ordinance since early 2010). This project is located on private commercial forestry land and is more than half a mile from the nearest residence. The turbine(s) selected for this project will be state-of-the-art and relatively quiet. Environmental review is currently under way to minimize any wildlife impacts and ensure that they are fully mitigated. The project will also be subject to conditional use review which will address any other concerns. And of course, this project will decrease our community's reliance on dirtier and less secure sources of energy.

A specific energy system has not yet been selected, but a typical wind turbine of this size includes a 100 meter tall tower with 50 meter long blades. CCWC reports that if road conditions won't allow the transportation of the long blades required for a turbine this size, the project may be scaled back to two 1MW turbines, which are typically on 70 meter towers and have 30 meter long blades. A professional photo simulation depicting a single large turbine as viewed from the west end of Lake Padden is included in this press release.

As with other CCWC community projects, a portion of the revenue from this project will go to support a local non-profit, in this case the WHIMPS Mountain Bike Coalition, who currently have a stewardship agreement for maintaining the trails, as well as performing environmental and educational services on Galbraith mountain. "In each of our projects, CCWC partners with a local environmental organization to

make sure the project provides local environmental benefit in addition to the global benefit of pollution reduction”, says Terry Meyer, founder of Cascade Community Wind. “I can think of no-one better to support with this project than the WHIMPS who truly understand that our forest lands can have many compatible beneficial purposes: timber, recreation, wildlife, water quality, and also wind energy”.

Cascade Community Wind’s business model includes selling subscriptions to a community wind turbine, whereby people in the community get their power from a source of their choice and save money doing it. “Our aim is to allow people to participate directly in what we see as one of the solutions to the challenges of our time: dependence on foreign fossil fuels, global warming, and gaining control of our energy costs”, says Meyer. “We will begin taking commitments for subscriptions to this project now, and expect to build in 2013.” To date Cascade Community Wind has installed two wind energy systems in Kittitas County, and has two more under construction.

This project offers a good economic and socially responsible opportunity for the community. CCWC’s intention is to create a net positive environmental impact, as well as a net positive social impact, by giving the community a way to join together and start building a local clean energy economy.



*A professional photo simulation depicting the proposed Cascade Community Wind project as viewed from the west end of Lake Padden.*