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Cascade Community Wind Company LLC, of Bellingham, announces the successful completion of the first community-supported wind turbine in Washington State. The turbine started selling electricity to Puget Sound Energy in June, and subscribers will receive their first credits on their power bills in August.

The turbine project, named 'First Up!', is a 120kW remanufactured Vestas turbine with 30-foot blades atop an 80-foot tower. It is located on a 10-acre parcel of private land near Thorp. It will produce enough electricity to power about 45 energy-efficient homes.

In a Community Wind Energy project, such as this one, subscribers support the turbine by making an upfront payment, which goes to pay for turbine construction, and then receive a portion of the turbine's output credited to their power bills for the next 20 years. Over the life of the project, subscribers will receive credits greater than their original payment. About a third of the subscriptions to this turbine are still available.

"I think this is just great" says Pastor Richard Rentfro, a subscriber to the project who lives 500 feet from the turbine. "I love seeing the turbine out my back window and knowing that is where my power is coming from."

"All the neighbors to First up were offered subscriptions to the turbine free of charge." Says Terry Meyer, owner of Cascade Community Wind Company, "We feel that if you are living near a turbine you should benefit from it, whether it is on your land or not."



The project is on horse pasture owned by Del Knudson. "I believe that wind energy is really complementary to rural living. I hope this turbine will be inspiration to develop other community wind projects which can provide another steady source of income for farmers and ranchers in tough times."

Financial benefits from this small commercial turbine include the lease payment, local taxes, maintenance of the turbine using a local mechanic, profits to local owners of the turbine, financing payments to local lenders, and also multiplier effects of money circulating in the community. The Washington State Wind Energy Guidebook estimates \$95,000, 0.8 jobs and \$8,800 in tax revenue will be added to the local economy every year for the next 20 years as a result of this single turbine. It will also offset about 4 million pounds of carbon in its first 20 years.

Cascade Community Wind Company has installed a second community-supported turbine at a nearby ranch which should be spinning in early August, and has a third community project planned in the area.

For more information, please call 360-306-5331 or visit www.CascadeCommunityWind.com.