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Website Press Release

August 18, 2010

Cascade Community Wind Company (CCWC), a Washington State limited liability company, has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant and loan from the Washington State Energy Program. This award will be used to help CCWC install up to eight community wind turbines before December 2011. The ARRA dollars were awarded based on the strength of CCWC's business plan and the fact that this initial support will help create a business model that can be replicated to develop many more community wind projects. Of particular significance to the State Energy Program are CCWC's ongoing efforts to remove barriers to distributed community renewable energy projects in general. Distributed renewable energy projects, common in Europe and parts of the Midwest, are relatively new to Washington State and as such encounter many barriers that need to be overcome in order to provide an environment where these projects can succeed. Permitting codes, Utility policies, public education, a trained workforce, and even some basic needs, such as access to insurance and bonding, are aspects of the business environment in Washington that are not readily available for community renewable energy projects. CCWC is grateful to the State for its support as CCWC addresses these and other issues in the building of a community wind business that will open doors for other businesses to follow.

Cascade Community Wind Company will be installing two smaller wind turbines this summer near Thorp, Washington, and another six turbines around the state next year. CCWC will invest this money (and the approximately \$10 million of private and federal funds it leverages) in communities that see locally-owned generation of renewable energy as a boon to both the environment and the economy. Interested communities, especially those in Whatcom, Skagit, Kittitas, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap King Pierce, and Thurston counties, where Puget Sound Energy offers a good price for power from community projects, should contact Cascade Community Wind. CCWC also helps develop large 'behind the meter' projects across the State.

Currently in Kittitas County, home-scale wind turbines can be built using the County's recently passed small wind ordinance. Very large wind farms can be permitted using the state EFSEC process. But community projects, which have the good economics of a wind farm but are also locally controlled providing local benefits, have no way to be permitted in Kittitas County. "Basically what the county commissioners are saying is that I can sign my land away to a big European wind developer to sell power to California, but if I want to harvest my own wind crop to put in the local grid for my neighbors to use, I'm out of luck" says Mel Dyke, a Wheat and Hay farmer near Thorp.

In Whatcom County, Terry Meyer P.E., manager of CCWC, remarks, "We can start when the county government resolves the current moratorium on community wind projects."

Cascade Community Wind Company helps land owners build and finance community-supported wind turbines on their land by allowing local folks to subscribe to the power from that turbine. These community wind turbine subscriptions save the subscriber money over the long term by paying down the subscriber's power bill with revenue from the community wind turbine.