

## WELCOME TO THE ENERGY TRUST!

The Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., is a new nonprofit organization promoting clean energy. We invest in efficient technologies and renewable resources that save dollars, create jobs and protect the environment. We officially opened our doors on March 1, 2002, the day Oregon's electric energy restructuring law took effect. A provision of this law requires Oregon's two largest electric companies to collect a 3 percent public purpose charge from their customers. Under an agreement with the Public Utility Commission, the Energy Trust will receive most of these funds to invest in energy conservation and green power.

### What purpose does the Energy Trust of Oregon fulfill?

We are here to fulfill the State of Oregon's vision to meet future energy needs through environmentally sound, clean energy sources. The Energy Trust's goals are, by 2012, to save 300 average megawatts through energy efficiency investments and to help meet 10 percent of Oregon's energy requirements through renewable energy sources. Our mission statement is:

*"The Energy Trust changes how Oregonians produce and use energy by investing in efficient technologies and renewable resources that save dollars and protect the environment."*

### How was the Energy Trust created?

During the 1999 Oregon legislative session, utility companies, Oregon businesses and industries, and over one hundred community service organizations united in their interest to provide stable, consistent and reliable funding for energy efficiency and renewable power. Together they supported the passage of Senate Bill 1149, the electric industry restructuring bill of 1999. The law sets aside 3 percent of electric utility bills from Portland General Electric (PGE) and Pacific Power for "public purposes," including investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The Oregon Public Utility Commission authorized the Energy Trust to administer these programs.

### What is the 3 percent public purpose charge?

As required by SB 1149, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power began collecting a 3 percent public purpose charge from their customers starting March 1, 2002. Nearly three-quarters of the public purpose funds go to the Energy Trust to be invested in energy conservation and renewable

energy. The remaining public purpose funds are managed outside the Energy Trust and directed to energy efficiency in schools (10%), low-income weatherization (11.7%), and low-income housing (4.5%).

### How does the Energy Trust operate?

The nonprofit Energy Trust is run efficiently with a small staff and streamlined operations. We conduct business largely through contracts with service providers. We are open and accessible to the public.

### How is the Energy Trust different?

The Energy Trust brings predictability and stability to energy conservation and renewable energy programs. In the past, funding levels for conservation, mainly offered through utilities, have varied. The added certainty about the availability of programs will help consumers and energy-related businesses plan wisely.

### What are the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy?

Investments in energy conservation and renewable power give businesses a competitive edge and boost local economies, and help customers save on their electric bills and choose clean energy sources. By using energy efficient equipment and processes, Oregon commercial, industrial and agricultural enterprises can save energy and increase productivity – creating more jobs and keeping dollars circulating in local economies.

### **When will programs begin operating?**

The Efficient Buildings Program for existing commercial and industrial facilities began on February 1, 2003. The Efficient Homes Program launches March 1, 2003. Programs for new commercial buildings and industrial processes will begin on May 1, 2003. The New Homes Efficiency Program will begin September 1, 2003. Renewable energy production, such as solar water heaters for homes, will be offered to customers through our efficiency programs. Large-scale renewable generation projects are already underway.

### **What will happen to PGE and Pacific Power conservation programs?**

During a period of transition through the middle of 2003, the utilities will continue conservation programs with Energy Trust support. During the spring and summer of 2003, the Energy Trust will launch its own programs. The utility programs will phase out as Energy Trust programs are launched.

### **How do I participate in Energy Trust programs?**

Customers interested in receiving services should call our toll-free number at 866-ENTRUST, or visit our website at [www.energytrust.org](http://www.energytrust.org) for more information. Trade allies interested in providing services and businesses interested in large-scale renewable energy projects should contact the Energy Office directly at 503-493-8888.

### **What programs are available for large electricity users?**

Current law permits industrial customers using at least one average megawatt of electricity to invest their public purpose charge in energy efficiency and renewables resources for their facilities. Large businesses can also choose to contribute to the public purpose fund and receive Energy Trust services. Businesses interested in self-direction need to be certified by the Oregon Office of Energy ([www.energy.state.or.us/sb1149/Business/self-direct.htm](http://www.energy.state.or.us/sb1149/Business/self-direct.htm)).

### **Will the Trust encourage innovation?**

The Energy Trust seeks to encourage new and innovative approaches that assure high levels of cost-effective energy savings for utility customers. Above-market costs of renewable energy projects are eligible for support and will stimulate long-term market growth for renewable energy. The Energy Trust does not invest directly in bringing new technologies to market or in research and demonstration projects.

### **Where do I find more information?**

The Energy Trust web site [www.energytrust.org](http://www.energytrust.org) is updated several times each week. Program information is posted there, along with public meeting schedules and other information about our activities. Our strategic plan, action plan, and other documents are also available. As the Energy Trust moves forward, we will create more links from our web site to energy-saving programs throughout the state. Because of our small staff, we encourage you to communicate with us by e-mail at [info@energytrust.org](mailto:info@energytrust.org) or call our toll-free number at 1-866-ENTRUST.

### **The Energy Trust of Oregon is helping to build our energy future.**

The Energy Trust is a promise to Oregonians that we will meet our energy needs in innovative, safe, clean and efficient ways. Our success will be measured in kilowatt-hours saved and in renewable energy produced by programs that match our values and commitment to sustain our natural resources. As an independent nonprofit overseen by a citizen board the Energy Trust will help create the energy-independent and environmentally sound future Oregonians desire.

February 7, 2003