

Project Concept Summary

In December 2007, a devastating flood hit the City of Vernonia, Oregon and decimated the community. While tragic, the disaster presents the opportunity for Vernonia to not rebuild, so much as *remake* itself into a green, self-contained ecosystem that would provide for energy independence, green jobs, a transportation system that reduces the City's carbon footprint and a green school system.

Elements of this ambitious project include:

- Creation of a safer and greener school system located outside the floodplain, designed to LEED specifications. The new school complex will integrate solar electric and solar thermal systems, and combine net-zero design principles.
- Development of a fully self-sustaining electricity system by designing a system to use biomass from nearby forest thinning and fire management efforts to power the town, eliminating the need to import expensive and unreliable power.
- Construction of a more efficient, safer wastewater treatment facility outside the floodplain, begin downtown renewal and Main Street Program, complete street improvements, and build a Community Service Center.
- Providing flood recovery and prevention assistance; including rehabilitating flood-damaged structures, elevating flood-damaged structures, and create a stormwater drainage master plan to incorporate floodplain restoration as well as stormwater capture for beneficial uses.
- Positioning community for increased economic development through workforce development in green building practices, provide broadband internet services, and develop a Light Industrial Site.

