

Federal grant electrifies Clackamas

By Patty Salazar
News Editor

Ah, to be on the open road. To feel the wind in your hair, the sun on your face and the low hum of your electric powered engine. That's right, electric powered cars. Be prepared drivers. There's a new era of automobiles on their way and with that brings a new definition of eco-friendly.

Last July, in an attempt to become more eco-friendly Clackamas Community College constructed a contract with ECOTality, a company who contacted Clackamas Community College in Nov. 2010, about installing electric charging stations in preparation of a new rollout of electric powered cars. Oregon is a "pilot" for the Nissan Leaf in Nov. 2011. This new breed of electric powered cars is very intriguing. These cars, along with electric energy fuel, have the capability to run off of traditional gasoline.

"We were talking to PGE last December and we started looking at sights and in spring it took off really fast," said Kirk Pearson, director of plant operations at CCC.

But just how much does an operation like this cost? Clackamas itself put up \$2,448 for two charging stations, while the total project cost came out to be \$10,909 in Oregon City alone. Another electric charging station was placed on the CCC Wilsonville campus.

"Our total cost was \$5,150, split between CCC, Portland General Electric and Pacific Core," said Pearson.

This brings the cost to the college to \$4,164 for these charging stations on the two college campuses.

"These stations were paid for by a federal grant given to the college," said Mike Noel, the head of the sustainable energy department at CCC.

ECOTality is preparing these stations down the West Coast from British

Columbia to Mexico in preparation for the new line of electric cars.

"When you look at what it would cost, if you waived a few [years] and said, 'Oh yeah I want to do this now,' you would be putting out [the full amount] of that money. It made sense to get involved now," said Pearson.

"It wasn't necessarily [that] the college reaching out being like, 'Hey we really want two electric vehicle charging stations,' and spend all of this money on it. It was more a federal initiative to launch all these electric vehicle charging stations from British Columbia all the way to Mexico," said Noel.

There are going to be 18,000 electric vehicle charging stations nationwide, 1,100 of these stations will be placed in Oregon.

Bob Cochran, dean of campus services, explained that for now the charging stations are free to use for the public. The electricity output of the actual charging station is paid by CCC. Clackamas is currently not tracking how much electricity is being used by

the charging stations, if any is being used at all.

ECOTality is keeping track of how much electricity the stations are putting out. After the trial period is over in Dec. 2012, there will be a user fee for the charging stations.

"After [ECOTality does] their analysis on how the stations are being used then we take ownership," said Pearson.

CCC will decide on a fee for the use of the charging station once they have taken ownership.

"I think that it's where personal transportation is headed. I don't know about my lifetime but certainly in your lifetime. I think that it is going to become pretty prevalent," said Pearson.

It's certainly a possibility that electric vehicles will take off in the future. For now, though, CCC might worry about how effective their choice to implement these charging stations was, as the CCC employees that were so excited about the charging stations have yet to see them put to use.

FINES: Slap on the wrist for college administrators

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Carla Corbin, the compliance specialist from the Secretary of State office assigned CCC's case was unavailable for contact. The Secretary of State's office did put us in contact with Alana Cox, another compliance specialist. She explained that Parini had "directed somebody to violate [the law]."

"We are alleging that she both told someone to violate Oregon Revised Statute 260.432 and then violated it herself," said Cox.

ORS 260.432 reads that "No person shall attempt to or actually coerce, command or require a public employee to influence or give money, service or other thing of value to promote or oppose the nomination or election of ... the adoption of a measure or the recall of public office holder."

During the investigation Corbin found evidence that Parini constituted advocacy in support of the bond measure. She also approved bond information that produced biased information for the bond measure.

Barry was also fined for proof-reading and editing the bond levy postcard.

Paulson worked on informational articles for the spring schedule of classes, the postcard, the flyer and the bookmark that were biased and in support of the bond. She declined to comment and directed further inquiries to Courtney Wilton, vice president of college services and the spokesperson for CCC regarding the fine.

Wilton said that they were looking into dropping Barry from the complaint since she was just doing clerical and had no determination the words of the information that was reviewed during the investigation. Wilton also said that CCC did send some of the information to be

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FACTS ABOUT THE CCC BOND MEASURE

Why is Clackamas seeking voter approval for a bond?

- Classrooms are overcrowded:** Science labs, specialty and career technical classrooms are limited in size for many programs meaning students are turned away due to lack of space. *(Cite a source for this statement)*
- Outdated equipment and technology:** Equipment and technology used for instruction is decades old and not current with that in universities or job sites. *(Cite a source or rewrite)*
- Building renovation is needed:** *would update to* address *deterioration and safety issues,* including electricity, plumbing, earthquake safety and more.

What would the bond do? fund

- Update and add instructional training equipment and facilities** to provide current training equipment and space for to serve more students.
- Replace worn-out building and campus systems** to extend the life and use of college buildings, including increased energy efficiency and reduced maintenance costs. *(Cite source or rewrite)*
- Update and expand classrooms,** student learning and support service areas to serve more students in both transfer and career technical programs.
- Increase campus safety:** renovate outdoor security, roadways, grounds and walkways *to reduce injury.* *(Cite source or replace)*

Above: The postcard meant for voters with corrections made by the secretary of state office that were never changed by CCC.

reviewed by the Secretary of State's office but not all concerning the bond measure was sent in for review.

"I would like [the public] to know that we were really trying to be objective with the material we tried to put out. It is challenging because you also need to be able to describe the need that you are requesting and we have plenty of needs [at CCC]. It's challenging to both describe the need and do it in a matter that is completely neutral and their almost at odds with each other," said Wilton. "Even though the fine isn't significant it's still embarrassing for those people involved."

Tara Darris in an email, speaking on behalf of herself and her

husband.

"The reason for the low dollar amount of the fines is to prevent the tax payer from paying twice for the sins of those whose salaries and budget comes from the tax payer. The main purpose of the statute is to shine public light on what amounts to political fraud of \$130 million dollars," stated

Smith had previously confronted the CCC Board of Education about violating election laws in the month before the bond was to be voted on.

"I think that it is satisfying to see unethical behavior punished and I hope the CCC administration takes a hard look at the way they are doing business and realize that they have

to follow the same rules as everyone else. However, having said that I also think that the amounts are merely a slap on the wrist, \$75 [and] \$175

[fines]? I am satisfied that some action has been taken but unsatisfied with the message it is going to send," stated Smith in an email.

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