



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Chuck Waddell with Precision Heating and Indoor Air Quality in Warrenton installs solar panels on the roof of Alderbrook Station in Astoria in late August.

GLIMMER OF LIGHT FOR SOLAR POWER

Alderbrook Station shows solar can work in rainy Astoria

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Based on weather alone, few would have questioned the decision to begin installing solar panels on the roof of the historic Alderbrook Station at the end of August.

Workers sweated in the glare of the summer sun. The National Weather Service recorded a light rain the day before, but there hadn't been a true rainy day in weeks.

Across Clatsop County, 43 Pacific Power customers have solar power, for a total capacity of 325 kilowatts — far more than when Daren Doss, the architect



Workers with Precision Heating and Indoor Air Quality of Warrenton recently installed an array of 34 solar panels on the roof of Alderbrook Station in Astoria. More photos at DailyAstorian.com

and owner of Alderbrook Station, first approached the power company about solar in Astoria 10 years ago. City Planner Nancy Ferber said the city sees few

applications for solar panel installation — Buoy Beer Co.'s plan to install panels is one recent, large-scale project. This may have to do with the fact that some people are installing smaller arrays and may not think to contact the city, but others say it is a matter of perception.

"Solar doesn't work around here: too cloudy, too rainy," said Stan Tussing, the owner of Precision Heating & Indoor Air Quality in Warrenton, paraphrasing an opinion he often hears.

"I used to think that myself, and I was wrong," he added. "It works very well here."

'Out of reach'

Tussing and his crew spent the last days of August installing 34 panels on Alderbrook Station's white roof. The installation and wiring went smoothly and Doss is just waiting on a few final items to make the setup compatible with older features of the building's power supply. He hopes the 11.2 kilowatt system will handle much of the power for the building.

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State economists tackle pot, but gaps persist in young industry

Project \$142 million in revenue over two years

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon state economists are crunching numbers on a product that in many other states remains illegal — marijuana.

Under a new law passed this year, state economists have been asked to project future tax revenues from pot. Meanwhile, the state's employment department is trying to get a better sense of how many people are employed in the burgeon-

ing legal cannabis industry.

In Oregon, sales of recreational marijuana are taxed at 17 percent of the retail sale price. Cities and counties can tack on a local option tax of up to 3 percent.

Late last month, state economists projected that the state will bring in net marijuana revenues of about \$142 million in the next two years, but the very short history of legal marijuana and other factors complicate forecasting.

"Currently the outlook for recreational marijuana sales and tax collections remains highly uncertain," state economists wrote in a quarterly

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EO Media Group

Marijuana plants grow in a high tunnel at a farm near McMinnville. State economists project the state will bring in net marijuana revenues of about \$142 million in the next two years.

Feds call flood plain lawsuit premature

Warrenton among the plaintiffs

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The federal government is asking that a lawsuit brought by an Oregon coalition over proposed flood plain rules be thrown out as premature and lacking jurisdiction.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency were sued in U.S. District Court over the summer by Oregonians for Floodplain Protection. The coalition includes trade

groups representing home-builders, Realtors, farmers and the construction industry, along with individual landowners and several county and city governments, including Warrenton.

Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer said the city felt the need to have its voice heard. The city paid \$500 to be a part of the coalition but is not helping fund the lawsuit.

The coalition's lawsuit stems from a biological opinion issued last year by the fisheries service, which administers the Endangered Species Act.

FEMA, which administers the National Flood Insurance Program to more

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Seaside seeks housing answers

Housing study, development fees reviewed

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The city took two steps Monday night to address a countywide housing shortage.

City councilors unanimously approved participation in a housing study to assist in understanding the type, size, location and price of housing needed to meet current and future needs within Clatsop County.



Seaside pledged \$10,000 toward the study, joining Gearhart, Cannon Beach, Astoria and Warrenton in contributing \$50,000 toward the \$100,000 study. The county will provide the remaining \$50,000.

In addition, councilors voted to approve \$32,000 for a study of system development charges — fees paid by devel-

opers to the city to connect essential services like roads and utilities.

County study

In June, County Manager Cameron Moore suggested Seaside partner with other cities to learn more about housing issues. A similar six-month study by Tillamook County identified specific data about the area's housing market and possible solutions.

The Clatsop County agreement recognizes the "lack of housing options is creating barriers to continued economic growth."

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The federal government is arguing that a lawsuit by Warrenton and others over a biological opinion and proposed flood plain rules is premature.

