

The Portland Observer

Sustainability SPECIAL



Gresham will be Home to Solar Plant

Manufacturer expects to hire 170 workers

A company that specializes in ultra thin film solar cells will locate the largest nanotechnology manufacturing facility in the world in Gresham.

The plant will be Oregon's first thin film solar manufacturing plant. The announcement was made Tuesday by Gresham Mayor Shane T. Bemis alongside Solexant's President and Chief Executive Officer Damoder Reddy and Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

"Solexant's decision to come to Gresham proves that our city is well

positioned and competitive, even in this challenging economy," Bemis said. "By building a close relationship with the company throughout the process, we have been able to show them the advantages of bringing major investment and jobs to Gresham."

Solexant's first phase will produce solar panels which can generate 100 megawatts of energy per year. The plant, valued at over \$37 million, and will employ approximately 170 people. The company plans future expansions that may ultimately see an estimated 1,000 employees at the Gresham plant.

"Solexant greatly appreciates its partnerships with the State of Oregon, the Oregon Department of



Gresham Mayor Shane T. Bemis leads a delegation to announce the coming construction of Oregon's first thin film solar manufacturing plant in Gresham, a facility expected to employ about 170 people.

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Energy and the City of Gresham to facilitate the construction of the world's largest nanotechnology manufacturing facility in this beautiful state," said Damoder Reddy, CEO of Solexant.

Workshops

The City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the pre-apprenticeship program Constructing Hope invite the community to a free workshop series called ReTHINK.

The sessions will explore concepts of sustainability as well as provide tangible tools that people can use to make positive changes at home immediately. Participants can expect to learn about a range of practical topics, from growing food in an urban environment to reducing energy bills.

Practical education about sustainability gives everyone more power to make simple daily choices that may save money, encourage healthy families, build community, and protect the environment for future generations.

Constructing Hope's free apprenticeship program provides training and education in sustainable green, applied construction math, apprenticeship and trade information with hands-on experiences.

The ReTHINK sessions will take place at the Constructing Hope facilities, located at 405 N.E. Church St. Dates are Saturdays, July 31, Aug. 7, and Aug. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. RSVP to 503-281-1234 or e-mail nancyf@iccdc.org. More information can be found at constructinghope.org.