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The Portland Observer
Sustainability



Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle champions sustainability and green technology during a demonstration of a solar project at the Beaverton Farmers Market that powers three electric vehicle charging stations.

Solar Beaverton Creates Jobs

A solar energy program in Beaverton was showcased last week at the National League of Cities conference in Phoenix, Ariz.

"Through our public outreach efforts, we've heard that promoting and incentivizing green technology is a community priority," said Mayor Doyle. "This program is a shining example of how sustainability can create local jobs, generate revenue, and help move

our community towards a better future."

Solar Beaverton began in March 2010 as a pilot program with a goal of 50 installations, to gauge citizen interest in solar power.

The pilot ended successfully with 62 homes installing solar panels and more than 400 inquiries. The overwhelming interest from residents motivated city leaders to continue to promote the

installation of solar technology, promote the use of renewable energy, while supporting local jobs and manufacturing in the community.

The Solar Beaverton program has been credited with creating 12 local living-wage jobs and increasing solar activity dramatically. The goal is to install 220 solar systems on homes by the end of 2011.

Airport Tests System to Collect Pollutants

Following two years of construction, testing is now underway on the newly expanded Portland International Airport de-icing stormwater collection system.

Aircraft and airfield deicing is conducted to ensure flight safety when the weather is cold, and the deicing system captures deicing chemicals that mixes with stormwater.

The expanded system increases the existing storage capacity for

runoff, and allows treatment of a portion of the runoff prior to discharge to the Columbia River or the sanitary sewer system.

The \$74-million project includes a new 3-million gallon concentrated runoff storage tank, two 6.5-million gallon dilute runoff storage tanks, and three pump stations. Also included is a new treatment facility, more than six miles of underground piping, and an outfall to the Columbia River.

"We thank our project partners for helping us design and construct what may be the most sophisticated airport deicing stormwater collection system in America," said Susan Aha, Port of Portland de-icing program manager. "We're proud that this system will allow us to continue operating PDX flights safely in cold weather, and at the same time protect the health of the waterways near the airport."