

# Supercharging your home with a Tesla roof

**SEEN FROM SEASIDE**

R.J. MARX



Visitors to South Edgewood Street in September might have been under the impression that Elon Musk had moved in. Stacks of boxes marked Tesla lay neatly stacked in the driveway and a fleet of vans marked “Tesla” parked in front.

When they first got the dumpster and the pallets, homeowner Ronald Bynoe said, “it was really much more obvious because every pallet had boxes with the Tesla logo on it.”

The driver delivering the port-a-potties warned Bynoe that this was a residential neighborhood, and Bynoe replied, I am a resident. “Then why do you have pallets of car parts?” the driver asked.

Bynoe answered that the car parts were his new roof. “He had never heard that Tesla does roofs,” Bynoe said. “And I’ve had numerous neighbors come by and watch the whole process. Initially, they were also all very surprised that Tesla does roofing and that it can look like this. “It’s very unique, and it’s the first of its kind in Seaside.”

Bynoe, an engineer with Intel, has always been a bit of a tech nerd, he said. With his wife, Judith, a teacher, and their son, James, the family moved to Seaside from St. Helens a little more than a year ago.

Noting that local electric power on the coast has “intermittent issues during the winter,” he wanted to secure his supply and also become a little bit greener.

“We didn’t want to have that concern of ‘Well, the power went out, the refrigerator’s out, we can’t turn on our computers and our work is an hour-and-a-half away,’” he said. “So it has made us want to be a little bit more proactive about keeping the power stable at the house.”

They priced the roof and determined that while it was significantly more expensive than a conventional roof, the Tesla roof stores more power than the house uses and could provide electricity savings for the life of the roof, which is guaranteed for 25 years.

A regular roof for the 3,500-square-foot property would have been about \$50,000, Bynoe said. The Tesla roof, including solar panels, batteries and installation, came to about \$75,000.

“It took about three weeks to install,” he said. “Tesla solar roofs do take longer than a regular roof, also because of COVID. They’ve had a hard time with staffing.”

Other supply and labor delays also delayed the project substantially.

The glass roof is a mix of inert glass panels and photovoltaic active solar tiles, Bynoe said, with metal flashing.

They researched the Tesla roof and found that there is one in Astoria in a much



**ABOVE: Ronald Bynoe in front of his South Edgewood home. LEFT: Wall panels in the basement store electricity the homeowners can sell back to the power company for credits.**



smaller house, and they’ve done about 30 in the Portland metropolitan area. They are more popular in California and Hawaii, he said. “We got on a waiting list about a year ago and six months later approved for the process.”

A local roofing company tore off the old roof like any other job.

The next day, 36 pallets stacked three high were delivered and a contractor from Hillsboro came to begin the installation process.

Plastic hooks and tabs are screwed down through that into the roof. Each panel latches into that and then plugs in. Fabric underlayment makes everything watertight.

“If one panel breaks, they just unlatch it, unplug it and plug in its replacement,” he said. “The whole thing’s kind of like a floating roof, in a sense sitting on these plastic tabs and wires underneath.”

Any one of those can be removed individually, he said. Fabric underlayment makes everything watertight.

“It’s eerie and it’s kind of unnerving,

because it creaks a little bit when you walk on it,” he said, but sturdy enough to withstand 138-mile-an-hour winds, and the stress of a 200-something pound person walking across it.

The roof delivers 18.5-kilowatts, about twice the power of a traditional solar roof. Between two and three days power is stored in power walls, batteries in the garage.

“Right now we’re paying a regular electric bill at night,” Bynoe said. “During the daytime, we generate electricity and it either goes into the battery or we’ll get credit.”

Two batteries automatically kick in when the power goes out, no more generator needed.

The Bynoes are still in the permitting process and haven’t signed any contracts with the utilities yet.

When those are in place, they will sign a contract for wholesale power, selling power back to the power company. When those are in place, they will sign a contract allowing export of excess power generated back to the utility, effectively banking excess power for when there’s no sunshine, retrieving the credit at night.

The family can track their power consumption on a 24-7 basis, showing how

their power is stored during daylight hours. Graphs show spikes when the home appliances like washer, dryer and dishwasher are in use.

If other homeowners make similar changes, there could become a “community power grid,” he said. “If we have a blackout, maybe the power doesn’t go out because there’s enough houses with batteries sharing it. Tesla has a virtual power plant with this setup in California.”

Clatsop County sent someone out the next day, but the inspector wouldn’t do anything because he didn’t recognize the solar roofing material. “It was just something very new he hadn’t seen before,” Bynoe said. “So he wanted to be cautious about signing off on it because it’s structural as well as electricity generating. The Tesla rep said it can take up to three months for counties to approve it.”

Bynoe is patiently waiting for an OK from the county so he can put his investment to work. A county inspector is scheduled this week to review the project. This time Tesla is scheduling their electricians to be present during the inspection so that they can answer any questions he has while he’s here to ensure it has the best chance of success.

## First Interstate gives Spay & Neuter donation

Seaside Signal

First Interstate Bank of Seaside delivered a \$2,500 donation Thursday to the Spay and Neuter Thrift Shop.

“They’re really good clients of ours, and they’re always very friendly,” branch manager Ashlee Gilbertson said. “We know they do a lot for the community. And so we wanted to give back and First Interstate is really about giving back.”

The shop, on the bank of the Necanicum, provides clothes, costumes, toys, puzzles and more, all to help offset costs of spaying and neutering of puppies and kittens.

Even with reduced hours, the store has been “manic,” volunteer and board member Marilyn

Dito said. “We have a line when we open up.”

The shop is always looking for donations, both thrift items and cash. Volunteers are also sought.

“A lot of us are retired service industry people, a lot of teachers, nurses, airline stewardesses,” Dito said.

After she retired from the phone company, she needed something to structure her day. “I came down here donate. And one thing led to another, Three hours became six, and then I became a board member. It’s all for a good cause.”

The Spay and Neuter Thrift Shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon until 2 p.m. each of those days. There is usually someone at the shop on Wednesdays as well for donations at the back door.



R.J. Marx

**From left, Spay and Neuter Thrift Shop volunteers Cheryl Barker, Marilyn Dito, Gean Vandehey, Kari Douma, Cindy, Debbie, with Ashlee Gilbertson and Tracie Dice of First Interstate Bank of Seaside.**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Seven-day construction week critical in Gearhart

*This letter was sent to Gearhart Mayor Paulina Cockrum and city councilors. It is reprinted at the writer’s request.*

Considering burdening the residents of weather challenged Gearhart with more restrictive work hours than Carmel, California, makes one wonder who you view as your constituents.

Entitled retirees (some who have recently relocated to the community) or working families in the construction and landscaping trades that provide jobs and services for the community and Gearhart property owners who want to build on their lots or remodel their properties?

We started exterior carpentry work and lead based paint abatement at the former Gearhart school in early August 2021. Being able to work seven

days a week under the existing rules has been critical to us completing the job in 10 weeks and before the onset of winter. My opinion is that the vast majority of Gearhart property owners want to retain that same flexibility when building or remodeling.

Sunday we were able to get a carpentry crew to finish our final exterior work that will allow us to complete painting Monday, which is expected to be a par-

tially cloudy day. After that the forecast is for six consecutive rainy days. As you all know, this variable weather situation is not atypical in Gearhart.

While I would prefer having Gearhart’s construction work hours match Warrenton’s (7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Sunday), keep it simple and do not change our 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Sunday work hours.

**Bob Morey  
Gearhart**

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.**

#### TUESDAY, OCT. 19

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., work session, 989 Broadway.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m., seaside.k12.or.us/meetings.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

**Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### THURSDAY, OCT. 21

**Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### MONDAY, OCT. 25

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

#### TUESDAY, OCT. 26

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center.

#### TUESDAY, NOV. 2

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

**Seaside Library Board of Directors**, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway St.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

**Seaside Improvement Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.

#### THURSDAY, NOV. 4

**Seaside Parks Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

#### MONDAY, NOV. 8

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.



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