



Columbia Gorge is a Natural Renewable Energy Hub

Klickitat PUD (KPUD) is working with others in the Columbia Gorge to create a Renewable Energy Hub. The effort of branding our area as a renewable hub can pay huge dividends. Benefits to the area include an increased familiarity from developers, utilities, regulators and the public regarding the preeminence of the Gorge as a center for renewable energy.

Ultimately, this effort will reduce the cost for renewable energy generators doing business in the Gorge and give our area another competitive advantage for current and additional development.

About a dozen years ago, a similar branding effort was initiated by utilities in the Upper Columbia region. They dubbed their area the Mid C Trading Hub.

These utilities were successful in getting the lion's share of electricity trading in the Pacific Northwest to occur at their front door. It was an immense advantage to those utilities, saving them the need to transport their product. Others came to them and not only wanted to buy their product at the point of production, but actually brought more energy into the area just to transport it back out to the consumer.

The Columbia Gorge is a natural fit for establishing a renewable hub. We sit at the heart of the Bonneville Power Administration transmission system, near the head end of the AC intertie to the southern markets at the John Day Dam and at the northern end of the DC intertie to the southern markets at the Celilo converter station at The Dalles. Trading of electricity at these locations makes sense given the access to other markets and consumers with renewable requirements.

The Gorge is or soon will be the largest producer of wind energy in the region. Other renewable resources, such as KPUD's Landfill Gas-to-Energy plant and SDS Lumber's biomass cogeneration—together with KPUD's industry leadership in net metering and our area residents' increasing reliance on small wind and solar—make the Gorge the primary source for renewable energy for our region.

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