



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Mount Vernon Completes Solar Array Installation on Roof of City Hall.

MOUNT VERNON – Northwest Wind & Solar has installed a 7.98 kilowatt roof top solar power system on the roof of the Mount Vernon City Hall. The system consists of 42 solar panels of 190 watts each and Silicon Energy inverters and should generate an estimated 8000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy per year.

The solar panels were manufactured by Silicon Energy of Marysville, WA. The solar panels are expected to last for more than 40 years based on accelerated age testing conducted by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL). Through the Washington Renewable Energy Production Incentives program the City will accumulate energy credits at a rate of \$0.54 per kWh. In addition to the Washington Renewable Energy Production Incentive revenue, the City will be saving money for the power that the solar panels generate. There is energy tracking information on the City of Mount Vernon's website home page at: www.ci.mount-vernon.wa.us look for the solar array link. The City is also in the process of installing solar energy educational kiosks in City Hall and the Library.

To fund the project, the City of Mount Vernon received a competitive Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant from the Federal Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding which was administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce in the amount of \$91,667 to install the roof top solar array. The Northwest Clean Air Agency also contributed \$2,500 towards the roof top solar array. The City's contribution of staff time equaled \$6000 towards the project.

Mayor Jill Boudreau said, "It's exciting that the City is working with cutting edge technology to not only generate electricity, but to also make it available to local users when we are not using it. We look forward to determining how much energy we generate and how much money we save in electricity costs."

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