

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Funds available to support training for renewable energy industry; June 23 Renew Northwest Business Information Session featuring Vestas & RECS aims to attract interested companies**

**VANCOUVER, Wash., May 25, 2010** — Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC), and the Cowlitz Economic Development Council (CEDC) are seeking manufacturers to participate in a recently awarded Department of Labor grant. Called the “Renew Northwest Project,” the \$959,000 grant will support local manufacturers in becoming more competitive through implementation of “lean and green” practices or diversification into the renewable energy supply chain. The project will train 69 unemployed/ dislocated workers for renewable energy occupations, as well as 192 incumbent workers employed at participating companies.

Interested manufacturers can attend the Renew Northwest Business Information Session at the Portland World Trade Center on June 23, 2010. Vestas Americas, a leading global provider of high-tech wind power systems, will be featured as a keynote speaker. Vancouver-based RECS (Renewable Energy Composite Solutions), along with its sister company Christensen Shipyards Ltd.; will also be speaking to showcase their successful diversification from traditional yacht-building into the wind energy market.

The information session will include networking opportunities, as well as break-out sessions by regions for companies who want to partake in this grant and will provide them with technical assistance and incumbent worker training funds. The information session is hosted by Business Oregon and Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), in conjunction with other partners, including SWWDC and Impact Washington. To register for the event, go to: <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=msdqd>. Companies will be invited, at no cost, to participate in a business model assessment survey and an information session.

“Project Renew Northwest enables our companies to better position themselves to compete in the growing renewable energy market,” said Lisa Nisenfeld, Executive Director of the SWWDC. “By further preparing our workforce to participate in this industry, we will be able to attract and retain companies to bolster our local economy.”

For more information, Clark County companies should contact Bonnie Moore at (360) 567-1055 or [bmoore@swwdc.org](mailto:bmoore@swwdc.org) and Cowlitz County companies should contact Mary Brown at (360) 423-9921 or [brown@cowlitzedc.com](mailto:brown@cowlitzedc.com).

### **About Our Partners**

**Project Renew Northwest** (a.k.a. Energy Training Partnership Grant) is a bi-state \$5 million U.S. Department of Labor green jobs grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), that was awarded to the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership and four SW Washington and Oregon workforce investment boards. SWWDC will administer the grant in Southwest Washington in partnership with Clark College, Columbia River Economic Development Council, Cowlitz Economic Development Council, Impact Washington, Lower Columbia College, and WorkSource.

**Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC)** provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. Led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies, the SWWDC responds to the unique needs of SW Washington. For more information, visit [www.SWWDC.org](http://www.SWWDC.org).

**Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)** has served Clark County since 1982. The proactive, results-oriented public/private partnership works with over 130 investors to assist business relocation to, or expansion in, Clark County. It is charged with promoting job creation and investment while maintaining the county's exceptional environment and high quality of life. The CREDC serves as a "one-stop shop" specializing in site location and acquisition, business data and demographics, and process facilitation. The CREDC achieves its goals through visionary thinking and strategic relationships. It continually delivers quick and efficient business relocations and expansions. For more information, visit [www.credc.org](http://www.credc.org).

**The Cowlitz Economic Development Council (CEDC)**, established in 1979, supports business expansion and retention through strategic alliances and strong community support. The CEDC offers businesses one point of contact for serving their needs in site location and acquisition, business data and demographics, and process facilitation. Through visionary thinking and strategic relationships with over 260 public/private partners, CEDC delivers quick and efficient business relocations and expansions. For more information, visit: [www.cowlitzedc.com](http://www.cowlitzedc.com).

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