

NEWS

October 8, 2012

For Immediate Release
Susan Jowaiszas
503-546-3624
susan.jowaiszas@energytrust.org

Catch the wind: New wind tool available from Energy Trust of Oregon *Customers can check local wind resource conditions with just a few clicks*

PORTLAND, ORE. – October 8, 2012 – If you feel like you're living in a wind tunnel and wondering if you're a good candidate for a small wind turbine to generate electricity, Energy Trust of Oregon can help. The nonprofit has added a new wind resource calculator to its website at www.energytrust.org/smallwind. The new tool allows Oregon customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to check the strength of the wind at their farm, business or residence with just a few clicks.

The online calculator, powered by Wind Analytics, Brooklyn, NY, is called WindSight™. WindSight allows visitors to receive an estimate of their wind resource by simply typing in their address to see if their site has "excellent," "good," "fair" or "poor" wind conditions for a wind turbine.

"WindSight allows our customers to discover whether their farm, ranch, rural home or business location has the potential to produce clean, renewable energy with a small wind turbine," said Chris Dearth, renewable energy senior project manager, Energy Trust. "Rural residents with several acres in areas of strong wind can often supply a large percentage of their annual electricity needs."

Energy Trust recently increased its incentives for small wind turbines that are 50 kilowatts and smaller. The incentives are based on the estimated annual energy production of a particular turbine at a given site and can equal up to 60 percent of the installed cost of a small wind turbine system. Customers may also be eligible for state and federal tax incentives.

Location, location, location

To get the most generation from a small wind system, location is critical. "A site at the bottom of a hill can be a poor resource for wind while the neighbor up the road may have an excellent site," said Dearth. Energy Trust receives hundreds of inquiries a year from rural home and business owners about installing small wind systems. "We have designed our incentives to encourage the installation of small wind systems in those areas with the best potential to generate the greatest amount of energy. The online WindSight tool will help those customers assess their wind resource."

Energy Trust requires that the turbine be installed on a site of at least one acre — larger sites generally are more productive. "Small wind turbines work best on large rural properties with wide open spaces where the wind blows freely with few obstructions," added Dearth.

Energy Trust works with a network of trade ally contractors experienced in the siting and installation of small wind turbines, and provides cash incentives to Portland General Electric and Pacific Power customers installing proven turbines, which are tested and certified. A list of wind trade allies and eligible turbines can be found on Energy Trust's website at www.energytrust.org/smallwind along with information about Energy Trust services and incentives for small wind and other renewable energy resources.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and tapping renewable resources. Our services, cash incentives and energy solutions have helped participating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas save more than \$1 billion on energy bills. Our work helps keep energy costs as low as possible, creates jobs and builds a sustainable energy future. Learn more at www.energytrust.org or call 1-866-368-7878.

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