

# COLUMBIA GORGE PROJECT CONCEPTUAL ELEMENTS - APRIL 2009

## Coordinated regional proposal: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

### Economy

- Clean technology manufacturing recruitment
- Research & development recruitment
- Workforce training support to regional renewable energy companies
- Small Business Development Center and USDA Rural Development technical support to rural entrepreneurship

### Energy

- Certified trading hub for renewable energy
- Policy support for transmission system improvements
- Workforce training
- Renewable energy storage technologies
- Transmission system upgrades
- Renewable energy R&D
- Community renewables (MCCOG)

### • CG-BREZ

- Steering committee of all stakeholders provides coordination point
- Administrative support provided by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District

### Education & Workforce

- Columbia Gorge Community College two-year transfer degree; healthcare occupations and renewable energy regional training network; articulation with other institutions.
- WIA partner agencies for workforce training: Mid-Col. Council of Govns., Oregon ESD, Worksource Wash.
- Regional high schools CTE skill center(s) network.

### Environment

- National Center of Excellence on Climate Change
- Columbia Gorge Discovery Center public interpretive role
- New Buildings Institute green building design
- Columbia Hills State Park environmental field station
- Transportation alternatives including electric car fueling stations

### Broadband

- Regional public fiberoptic networks
- Wireless clouds over major communities
- High-speed delivery of distance learning, telemedicine; high-speed Internet service for rural entrepreneurship and global market access.

#### A Regional Strategy on Climate Change

This model represents a bi-state strategy to establish a regional economy based upon sustainable environmental practices, in alignment with national climate change initiatives. The Columbia River Gorge of Oregon and Washington states, America's first and largest national scenic area, is presented as a model to implement a regional response to climate change through economic development, clean technology recruitment, research and development, small

business diversification, efficient public transportation, workforce training, high school / college partnerships, public information outreach, renewable energy expansion, green energy marketing, and broadband telecommunications in support of all components. This regional strategy is coordinated by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District through a steering committee representing all stakeholders.

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