

# FACT SHEET

## Baldock Solar Highway *The largest solar highway in the U.S.!*

August 2012

### *What?*

The Baldock Solar Highway project, now known as the Baldock Solar Station, is an array of solar panels sitting on state-owned right of way, generating renewable solar power that feeds into the Portland General Electric grid. It involves:

- Seven acres of property owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation
- 6,994 SolarWorld 250-watt panels that make up a 1.75 Megawattdc solar array
- Generating about 1.97 million kilowatt-hours of clean, renewable energy — the equivalent of 11 percent of ODOT's need in the Portland General Electric service area...
- Enough energy to supply electricity to 165 homes a year!

### *Where?*

The Baldock Solar Station is south of Wilsonville along northbound Interstate 5 in Clackamas County, at the eastern edge of the rest area.

### *Why?*

In addition to generating clean, renewable energy to power the transportation system, the project:

- Created or sustained approximately 60 – 70 direct and indirect jobs during construction
- Helps the state (and ODOT) move closer to meeting renewable energy goals
- Uses “all Oregon” businesses, including solar panel and inverter manufacturing, project design, operation and maintenance, lighting, construction, consulting, and other related products and services
- Reflects state and national energy policy direction to develop sustainable energy resources

### *When?*

Construction began in August 2011 and was completed in January 2012. The project is expected to produce clean, renewable energy for Oregonians for more than 25 years, and likely much longer.

### *How?*

The Baldock Solar Station, which cost approximately \$10 million to build, was paid for through a public private partnership similar to the one that paid for the nation's first solar highway project at the I-5/I-205 interchange near Portland. For Baldock, PGE formed a partnership with Bank of America. Like the demonstration project, Baldock is made possible through a combination of public investment, private financing, utility incentives, and tax credits, including the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC)\* and the federal Investment Tax Credit, and PGE's Clean Wind fund. Grant funding through the U.S. Department of Energy supports the Oregon Solar Highway Program.

Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) provided utility incentive funding to the project and in return, the ETO receives a majority of the renewable energy certificates generated during the first 25 years of project operation. These RECs are retired on behalf of PGE's customers. PGE's Clean Wind Fund and ODOT receive the remaining RECs for the first 25 years. PGE and ODOT will share equally in all RECs generated after the 25th year. ODOT's portion of the RECs counts towards reducing the agency's carbon footprint. ODOT also receives a small annual site license payment.

*\*The Baldock Solar Highway qualified for a tax credit for which projects must be certified and completed by Dec. 31, 2012.*