



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Plant 1800 Plants at Salem Renewable Energy Park
Next Volunteer Planting Event on Sat., June 20

Mon., Jun. 15, 2009 - Salem, Ore. -- On Sat., Jun. 20, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., the public is invited to join Salem-area volunteers as they join forces to plant an additional 800 donated trees and plants at the Salem Renewable Energy and Technology Park (5475 Gaffin Road, SE, Salem, Ore.). This will be the second planting event at the site. During the first event on May 30, volunteers planted over 1000 native plants and trees to enhance a riparian zone at the site.

“Working together, we help to ensure that habitat preservation and community involvement remain key components of successful development”, said Janet Taylor, Mayor of the City of Salem.

The enhancement site is just north of the 130,000 square foot facility that SANYO Solar of Oregon, LLC is constructing to manufacture silicon ingots and wafers for solar panels. The enhancement project was designed to improve the water quality and wildlife habitat along the creek, and serve as a future natural amenity for SANYO employees and other companies located in the Salem Renewable Energy Park. The riparian zone will be placed in a conservation easement and owned/ managed by the City of Salem.

“This project is a wonderful demonstration of the power of public-private partnerships”, said Mark Shipman, a partner in business law firm Saalfeld Griggs, where the idea for the project germinated.

The May 30 kick off project was the collaboration of several local companies including the City of Salem, Saalfeld Griggs, Heritage Seedlings, Wildwood/Mahonia, SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism), SANYO Solar of Oregon, and other local private industry members. Partners donated plants, equipment and staff to complete planting the first 1000 trees and plants and relocating two native oak trees that were originally scheduled to be removed. The May 30 event was part of SOLV’s “Take Care of Oregon” program. Utilizing one of SOLV’s ongoing programs, volunteers will return to the site over the next few years to pull weeds and care for the trees.

“The restored and improved waterway will invite Salem Renewable Energy Park employees to connect with nature in the middle of a major employment center”, said John Miller, President of Wildwood/Mahonia, who helped plan the initial project.

For more information about this project or to volunteer, contact Annie Gorski at 503-588-6178.

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