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Green Briefs • Green and affordable homes?

The Portland Tribune, Oct 8, 2009, Updated Oct 30, 2009

The Clackamas Community Land Trust broke ground in late September on 12 homes in Oregon City designed to be affordable and earn the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum rating, a set of green building standards.



RENDERING BY BONN DESIGN
 Artists rendering of Juneberry Lane.

Homeowners in the Juneberry Lane community will enjoy common garden space, a rain harvesting and irrigation system, central mailboxes and community bulletin board area, plus construction methods that optimize energy efficiency.

Working through the land trust, buyers with modest incomes can acquire one-story, three bedroom homes for an estimated \$124,000.

Juneberry is the first certified Earth Advantage Community — a

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designation based on a new set of green standards set by Portland-based Earth Advantage Institute with support from the Energy Trust of Oregon.

The institute, an independent nonprofit, has certified more than 11,000 new homes.

Kudos for Intel, Nike

Intel ranked fourth-highest and Nike seventh-highest on Newsweek magazine's Green Rankings of the nation's 500 largest companies. Precision Castparts scored a lowly 466th.

After a one-year research project, the newsweekly ranked companies based on their environmental policies and reputation.

Intel was cited as the nation's largest corporate purchaser of renewable energy, buying the equivalent of 46 percent of its domestic energy use from renewable sources. The Silicon Valley-based chipmaker, which has its largest base of operations in the Hillsboro area, also scored high for promoting energy efficiency, efforts to reduce toxic waste and tying employee bonuses to sustainability goals.

Nike, based in unincorporated Washington County, was cited for its environmental code of conduct at 650 contract factories in 52 nations. The magazine also noted Nike efforts to promote use of organic cotton and reduce packaging waste.

Precision Castparts, based in Milwaukie, scored the lowest of 21 corporations in the transportation and aerospace sectors.

Solar illuminates flag

The stars and stripes flying at the National Guard's Camp Withycombe in Clackamas are now being lit at night by six solar panels.

"The Oregon Military Department is actively evaluating alternative energy sources to provide power in its facilities," says Darrell Neet, facilities manager for 13 Northwest armories and training facilities. "Solar power to keep the flag illuminated at night is a perfect first test."

Using solar panels saved at least \$1,500 on new circuitry and conduit.

Luring "smart grid" business

The Software Association of Oregon and Oregon Technology Business Center are trying to foster new business formation in the burgeoning "smart grid" field.

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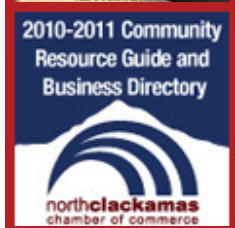
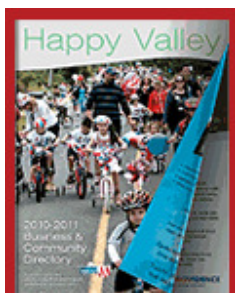
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