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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oregon Convention Center books more Blue Sky power

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Convention Center has increased the amount of renewable power it is purchasing through Pacific Power's Blue Sky program.

The 1 million square foot facility uses 4.5 megawatts of power each year, approximately the same as 35 average homes. The additional Blue Sky commitment means that approximately 16 percent of the facility's electricity will come from renewable sources.

Blue Sky enables customers to purchase and support renewable energy and help bring more renewable energy into the region. Energy generated from wind, biomass, solar and geothermal helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"We are fully committed to renewable energy and making the most of the energy we use," said Mike Brown, director of operations. "We're very proud that the Oregon Convention Center has been recognized as a leader in sustainable operations."

The Oregon Convention Center is the first building of its kind in Oregon to achieve a rating under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Green Rating System for Existing Buildings. The center, which is owned and operated by MERC, a subsidiary of regional government Metro, also is applying for LEED gold certification. LEED certifications are granted by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The facility is buying 1,364 blocks a month of Blue Sky Block wind power. During the course of a year, the Oregon Convention Center's Blue Sky purchase reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 1,637 tons, which has the same environmental benefit as planting more than 321,495 trees or not driving more than 3.5 million miles.

Besides its Blue Sky commitment, the Oregon Convention Center also is an active recycler, reusing 42 percent of its waste. New fixtures save water in the facility's restrooms and a rain garden takes water collected from the center's five-acre roof to a bioswale that filters out pollutants.

"Being aware of sustainable practices is the right thing to do, but it also is good for the convention center's business," Brown said. Increasingly, large groups looking to book major conventions want to know about the facility's environmental footprint. "With Blue Sky and our other sustainable practices, we usually come out very high on any group's green ranking system."

Oregon Pacific Power residential and small nonresidential customers also can choose Blue Sky Usage, which allows customers to buy their equivalent energy usage from renewable resources, or Blue Sky Habitat, which allows customers to buy renewable energy and make a donation to The Nature Conservancy of Oregon to preserve native fish habitat.

Pacific Power's Blue Sky Quantity Savings program, which the Oregon Convention Center uses, allows large business customers to buy renewable energy for less, provided they purchase at least 101 blocks of Blue Sky per month over a period of one year. The price under this option can range from \$0.71 to \$1.94 per block depending on how many blocks are purchased.

Enrollment in Blue Sky is optional, and customers can change their participation or withdraw at any time. For more information or to sign up for Blue Sky, go to www.pacificpower.net/bluesky or call 800-769-3717.

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About Pacific Power:

Pacific Power strives to promote innovation by working with customers and communities to increase the visibility of clean, renewable, distributed energy generation technologies through education and community outreach. Pacific Power is headquartered in Portland and provides electric service to more than 713,000 customers in Oregon, Washington and California. It is part of PacifiCorp, one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, providing approximately 1.7 million customers with reliable, efficient energy. The company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment.

About Blue Sky

Pacific Power's Blue Sky program recently was ranked among the top programs in the nation by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in its annual ranking of leading utility green power programs. Pacific Power ranked second in the nation for the third consecutive year in the number of customers buying renewable power and fourth for renewable energy sales volume for 2006. The company has ranked in the top five in these categories for the past several years.