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## 2018 EWEB Greenpower Grant project summaries

EWEB is pleased to announce the eligible finalists for 2018 Greenpower Grants, with funding of up to \$50,000 for the winning projects. Funds for the grants come from voluntary Greenpower Program customer donations designated for reinvestment in local projects that increase the use of renewable energy sources, the adoption of emerging technologies, and/or reduce or offset our community's carbon footprint.

The winning projects will be chosen by majority vote of current Greenpower customers. In order to participate in the 2018 selections, EWEB customers must register for the Greenpower Program no later than Friday, April 27.

Online voting will commence on April 30, and will remain open through May 11. The 2018 Greenpower Grant recipients will be announced on May 14.

Best of luck to this exceptional group of community members striving to advance the goals of the Greenpower Program and its membership. The five project summaries below are provided by each applicant.

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### **Eugene Science Center:**

The Eugene Science Center (formerly the Science Factory) is excited to further its aspirations of becoming a community leader in sustainable energy use and education. Our sustainable energy initiative is multipronged: 1) reduce our carbon footprint by adopting innovative sustainable energy practices and technologies; 2) serve as sustainable energy evangelists through empowering educational programming on-site with engaging exhibits and programs, and off-site through outreach programs; and 3) reduce our on-site utility costs to allow us to allocate more funding toward our educational programs and exhibits.

This grant would contribute to our initiative by funding the purchase and installation of a 32.55 kW photovoltaic array coupled with 9.8 kWh lithium ion batteries. The batteries will ensure essential operations and maintain support systems during power outages. We'll also build an interactive solar energy exhibit showcasing the amount of solar energy produced on-site and educating visitors about solar cell technology. To reach a broader audience, we will create educational outreach programs to bring to local schools and surrounding rural communities to teach children and families about the science and technology behind renewable energy and why it's important for communities to adopt sustainable energy practices.

### **Eugene Waldorf School:**

Eugene Waldorf School's mission is to educate children for life. School days are imbued with sustainable practices. In step with the Oregon Resilience Plan, one of our ongoing projects is emergency preparedness. Our Tier I seismic structural evaluation identified our gymnasium as a building that could

be retrofitted to serve our school community and the Southwest Hills Neighborhood as an immediate occupancy building after a natural disaster.

In our next phase of emergency preparedness, with the assistance of the EWEB Greenpower Grant, we will create a micro-grid, powered by a 2.65 kW solar array with a battery backup to power essential utilities for a minimum of two days. By creating a location for independent power in our neighborhood, EWEB and the community would be taking another key step toward meeting our local resilience goals, creating redundancy and increasing stability in the power generation system.

Part of the grant will allow us to create an interactive, solar-powered water feature demonstrating, on the ground, the workings of the roof-top solar arrays. Many members of the Eugene community visit our school during our festivals and many neighborhood residents frequent the school grounds.

### **Friends of Trees:**

The West Eugene Living Roadways Project, supported by the Greenpower Grant, will engage over 250 volunteers in community forestry events to plant and establish 600 trees with native shrubs along major roadways in underserved areas of west Eugene.

This project will address our community's carbon footprint in several ways. It involves local citizens in work that will contribute to cooling and carbon sequestration. By using native plants from our region, the trees will be able to live long and survive on their own with limited inputs, providing ecological services, benefits to pollinators, as well as beauty. Establishment care will ensure planting success, and the benefits will increase every year the trees grow.

All the trees will be planted in our community by community members, creating an important connection between people and place. The benefits these trees provide will help all members of our community by cooling and cleaning Eugene's air and water and removing carbon from the air.

Friends of Trees brings people together in Pacific Northwest communities by planting, caring for, and learning about urban trees and natural areas. Since 1989, Friends of Trees has planted over 750,000 trees and native shrubs in Oregon and Washington.

### **Pearl Buck Center:**

Pearl Buck Center (PBC) has empowered people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1953. We are a solid, nonprofit resource for education, employment, supported living, community inclusion, child and family support, and personal development.

PBC carries Charity Navigator's highest rating for financial health, transparency, and accountability. We own our facility, are debt-free, and have worked to build a three-month prudent reserve of operating funds. Our project is to install solar panels. If awarded a \$50,000 Greenpower Grant, we will contribute the remaining \$25,000 of the \$75,000 cost.

Advanced Energy Systems determined that solar modules can be mounted on an existing metal roof over our preschool, requiring no structural modifications. The location has an unobstructed view of the sun 93% of the time, year-round. During its lifetime, the solar panel system will offset 12.6 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> – equivalent to conserving 9,290 trees, or 40,770 gallons of gasoline.

Installing a 24 kW solar array will reduce PBC's non-renewable energy consumption and monthly operating expenses; make savings available for services; and provide educational content for our preschoolers, adult program participants, staff, and the general public through a wall-mounted video screen and a live solar web page.

**St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County:**

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County respectfully requests \$50,000 for the purchase and installation of a photovoltaic (PV) power system for the new “CBT Nuggets” Youth House for Boys. This project will yield nearly \$100,000 in energy savings over 35 years.

The Youth House for boys will serve unaccompanied homeless teens and provide them with the most basic physical requirements for human survival – housing, food, clothing, clean water, health care, safety, security, and community support. The 8,900-square-foot complex will house at least 14 boys in small efficiency apartments, and will include a community kitchen, laundry facilities, a computer lab, a workout room, and study area.

The Youth House program directly aligns with EWEB’s Community Safety-Net and Education priorities. Our holistic approach to addressing teen homelessness includes housing, counseling and support services, and educational resources that foster a sense of social belonging and community. We will help residents achieve high school graduation, find work (and be creative and reliable employees), secure permanent housing, and seek higher education when desired. We will treat all residents with respect and dignity –this ultimately raises esteem and prepares youth for future success and independence.