



CHELAN COUNTY  
**POWER**  
www.chelanpud.org

# SNAP Annual Report • 2009



*A 2.4-kilowatt solar array was installed at Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth in 2008.*

## Welcome Barn Beach

Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth joined the Sustainable Natural Alternative Power program in 2008, becoming our 45th producer. The Barn Beach solar panels are roof mounted with a capacity of 2.4 kilowatts. Randy Brooks, a SNAP producer and owner of Brooks Solar in Chelan, installed the system last summer.

Barn Beach Reserve is the home of a nature center, Icicle Arts and the Upper Valley Museum. The reserve and an adjacent city park combine to create a protected greenbelt of more than 50 acres of mature, streamside forest that includes Blackbird Island, a popular stop on Audubon's Great Washington Birding Trail.

The reserve, located at 347 Division St., provides exhibits and programs on science and nature, the arts, and cultural history. More information is available at [www.barnbeachreserve.org](http://www.barnbeachreserve.org).

Photos and information on all SNAP installations are available on the Chelan County PUD Web site at [www.chelanpud.org/SNAP-projects.cfm](http://www.chelanpud.org/SNAP-projects.cfm).

## Every little bit helps

Contributions to the SNAP program from Chelan County PUD customers continue to make a difference in our community. Your donations support schools, non-profit agencies and individuals who are supplying solar and wind power to the electrical grid.

Production was up for the 2008-09 year, with 117,120 kilowatt hours generated, compared to 113,498 kilowatt hours in 2007-08. The SNAP year runs from April 1 through March 31.

While most SNAP supporters give a specific amount each month, we're spreading the word that every little bit helps. Tell your friends and neighbors to round up to the next dollar when paying their utility bill, then designate the extra cents to SNAP. If every customer did this, the program would grow significantly. It's an easy way to contribute to a local green program as well as the local economy.

## Go Lightly

Find answers to energy questions, news about local people and programs, and links to innovative Web sites in our Lightly e-newsletter. Stories this month include "So You Want to Go Solar," about the costs of installing photo-voltaic panels for home use. Check it out at [lightly.chelanpud.org](http://lightly.chelanpud.org).

### Solar at \$1 a watt

Tempe, Ariz.-based First Solar has announced that its cost to manufacture solar modules is now under \$1 a watt. That's the price at which solar energy is deemed cheaper than coal. While the total installed cost will be greater, First Solar's accomplishment demonstrates potential reductions in costs that can be expected as the technology evolves.

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## Start your engines

PUD Senior Engineer Jim White drove his solar-powered go-kart to the podium to accept the Future Technology Leaders award at the Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance luncheon on April 7, 2009. White and Michael Smith, PUD senior system operator, and WHS teacher Doug Merrill were recognized for their volunteer work with Wenatchee High School students who built a solar dragster for last year's World's Only Solar Drag Race. The 2009 race is set for Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Way, Wenatchee. This is the fifth annual event in which students and individuals compete to build and race lean solar machines. Come cheer on these racers as they harness the power of the sun for an afternoon of friendly competition and fun.



*Marcelo da Luz (right) took a side trip to Wenatchee in December 2008, visiting local schools and the Performing Arts Center downtown. Due to poor weather, the car had to be transported here on a trailer.*

## Record-breaking solar car visits

Marcelo da Luz, a former flight attendant and native of Brazil, brought his record-setting solar car to Wenatchee on Dec. 4. Da Luz set a record by traveling more than 10,000 miles across Canada and the U.S. Sponsors helped him build the \$1 million car and finance the trip, which started in June and ended last October.

Da Luz says his obsession with building and driving a solar car began in 1987 while watching a race of futuristic cars through the Australian outback on TV. According to his Web site, [www.xof1.com](http://www.xof1.com), dozens of people have helped

him engineer, build and travel with the car.

Da Luz was hosted here by local solar enthusiasts Jim White and Laurie Flarity-White. Jim serves as volunteer adviser to a group of Wenatchee High School students who are building a solar car to compete in the fifth annual World's Only Solar Drag Race at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee on Saturday, June 20.

Flarity-White drove a support car for da Luz and served as his public relations liaison during a recent trip to California, where he

was greeted by actor Larry Hagman and other celebrities at a party hosted by the Canadian Embassy.

Da Luz told the Mercury News in San Jose, "We are all hypocrites, waiting for our governments to save the planet, but we need to start doing it ourselves. This would be my way of doing my share for the environment and hopefully inspiring others to do the same."

The full newspaper story is available here: [www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11810968](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11810968).

## Earth Day celebrates 20th year in Chelan

Solar power will be on display as the Chelan Earth Day Fair celebrates its 20th anniversary Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Riverwalk Park, along the Chelan river just south of downtown Chelan. Participants can sample a cookie baked in a solar oven, get a sneak peek at the dragster being built by Wenatchee High School students for the World's Only Solar Drag Race in June, and learn about the latest in solar hot water heating, pool heating and electrical systems. Other displays will feature electric and hybrid cars, green building materials, information on buying locally and in bulk, a sampling of green cleaning agents and information about forest ecology, fire prevention and land preservation.

## Thank you

Enclosed with this newsletter is a coupon for a free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Stop by the PUD office in Wenatchee to redeem your coupon for an energy-efficient bulb. It's our way of saying thank-you for your continued support of Sustainable Natural Alternative Power.