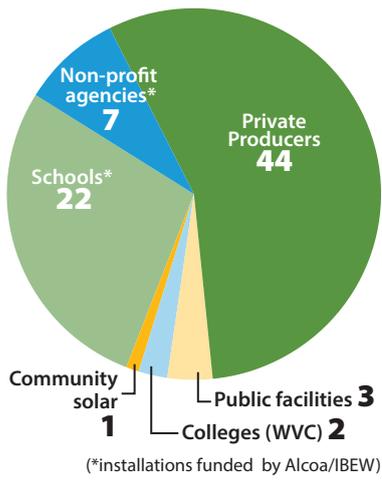
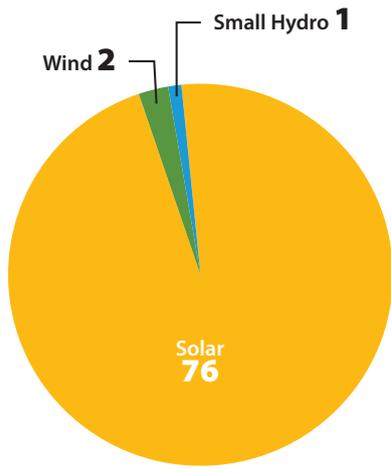


# A SNAPshot of 2016

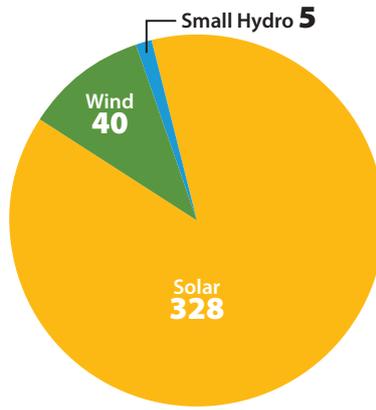
**Number of SNAP Sites: 79**



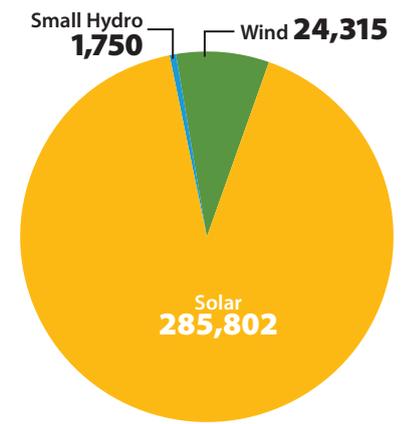
**SNAP Producers by type**



**Capacity: 373** (in kilowatts)



**Generation: 311,867** (kilowatt hours in year ending 3/31/16)



**Note:** An average home in Chelan County uses approximately 22,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

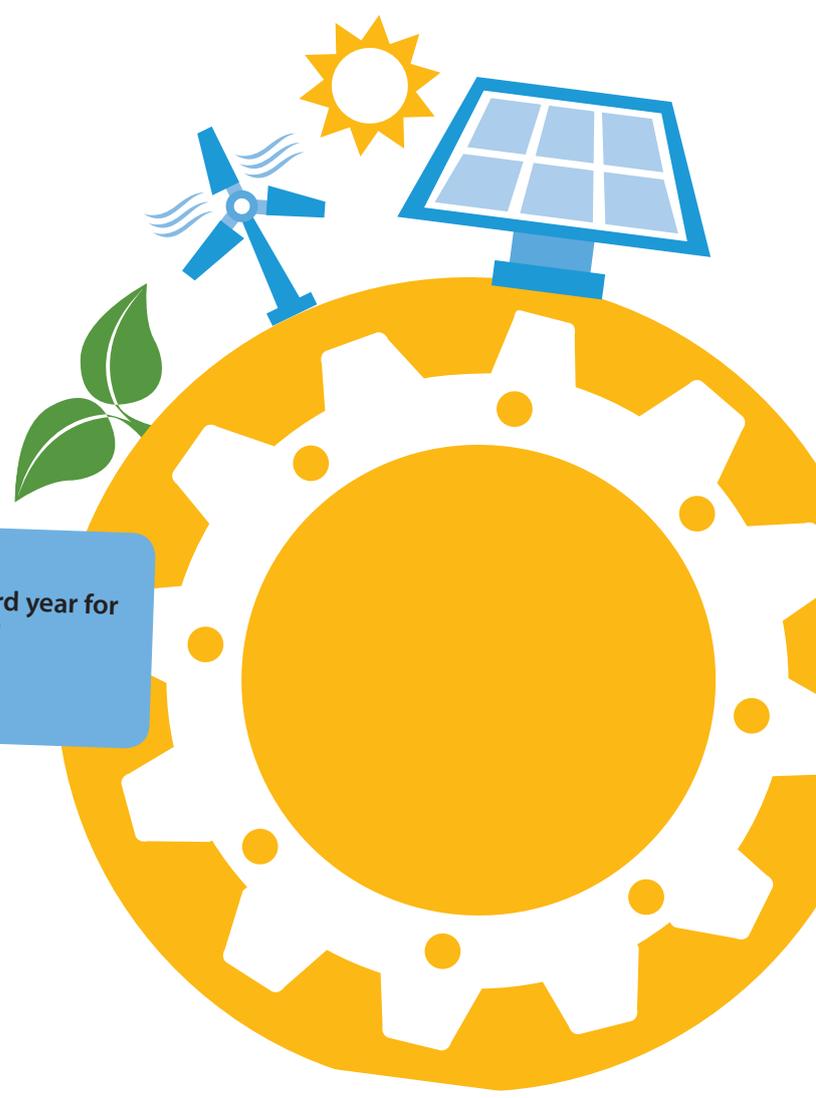
## 2016 SNAP Purchaser Annual Statement

Thank you for your support of the Sustainable Natural Alternative Power program. Your contributions help sustain the production of renewable power in our communities.

We hope you will continue to support this worthwhile program.

**Inside:**

- Solar in Sunitsch Canyon
- Record year for SNAP
- Out among the pear trees



# WELCOME to your 2016 SNAP Annual Report

### A bulb or a flower – you choose

Decisions, decisions. This year we're giving our SNAP supporters a choice. To thank you for your support, we're offering a free, energy-efficient LED bulb OR a solar-powered windowsill happy flower. Send your name and address in an email to [conservation@chelanpud.org](mailto:conservation@chelanpud.org) and we'll send you a bulb or a flower. Remember to state your preference in the email.

And remember to tell your friends about SNAP. If they sign up as supporters they'll get a bulb or a flower, too. Offer available through May 31, 2016, or while supplies last.

Questions? Call (509) 661-4249. **Find SNAP on our website, [chelanpud.org](http://chelanpud.org).**



### Go Lightly

Sign up for our Lightly e-newsletter and receive monthly updates on money-saving rebates and energy efficiency opportunities through Chelan PUD. To sign up, send an email to [conservation@chelanpud.org](mailto:conservation@chelanpud.org).

Continued inside →

## Solar meshes well with Tierra Learning Center mission

The first thing you learn at Tierra Learning Center is that there's a lot going on. There's a bulldozer grinding away at a dirt pile, and the occasional squeal of a saw zipping through a 2x6 for the new organic garden building. A little farther down the center's dirt road it's quiet – all you hear is the wind in the tall fir trees – but that's because the students at the retreat center are busy in their classrooms.



Andrew Holm

Tierra, located in Sunitsch Canyon outside Leavenworth, is home to four independent enterprises: the retreat center which is open for public rental, Tierra Village for adults with developmental differences, Tierra Garden Organics, and Mountain Sprouts Preschool. And, since last September, it's home to an 8.4-kilowatt solar installation.

Adding solar meshed nicely with Tierra's mission and vision, said

Andrew Holm, chief operating officer. "There's a stewardship piece of our mission that emphasizes using resources wisely," he said. "Our energy conservation efforts took us down that road a bit, but solar gets us that much farther.

"We're not driven by financial gain," he added. "But there is a recognition that there might come a time when kilowatt hours cost more than 2.9 cents here in Chelan County."

Under the SNAP program, customers producing renewable energy earned 6 cents a kilowatt hour this year. A second program sponsored by Washington state pays up to 54 cents per kilowatt hour for

**Learn how to handle a chainsaw in the Safety And Woods Worker program at Tierra Learning Center.**

solar generation. Holm estimated about 75 percent of the cost of putting up Tierra's solar array will be paid back through the two programs by 2020.

Tierra's 30 modules sit in an open field near the organic garden. Generating solar energy there preserves the agricultural feel of the valley, which was first homesteaded in 1880, Holm said.

A recent agricultural effort at Tierra focused on forestry. Tierra contractors have removed "ladder fuels" that could contribute to a wildfire on 75 acres, sharing costs with the state Department of Natural Resources and other agencies. Then there's the Women-Only SAWW class: Learn how to handle a chainsaw in the Safety And Woods Worker program (this year on May 9 and 10).

The four organizations that make up Tierra Learning Center are all independent organizations, Holm said, but also interdependent, and each contributes in some way to a larger vision.

**Learn more at [tierralearningcenter.org](http://tierralearningcenter.org).**

*Tierra Learning Center's solar array, located next to its organic garden, doubles as a shed for farm equipment.*



## Another record year for SNAP

Fourteen solar producers joined Chelan PUD's Sustainable Natural Alternative Power (SNAP) program in the past year – a record number that helped reach production peaks in the program's 15-year history. The new producers included three sizable installations owned by the cities of Chelan and Leavenworth and a privately owned, 90-panel array on North Road between Peshastin and Leavenworth.

**Together the new producers added 134 kilowatts of capacity to SNAP. Generation for 2015-16 totaled 311,867 kilowatt hours, besting the record set in 2015 by 26 percent.**

## Solar grows among pear trees in Peshastin orchard

It's sunny side up for Bud and Pat Dietrich, who installed 90 solar modules on their Leavenworth property in December, creating Chelan County's largest privately owned solar installation.

The Dietrichs are pleased with what they've "planted" in their backyard. The modules, mounted on wood and steel framing, are screened from view by pear trees. You can't see them from their home or from the road. But the installation is beautiful all the same — 90 gleaming blue and silver panels silently creating lots and lots and lots of watts.

The system is rated at 23.4 kilowatts. It's net-metered (they use the solar energy they produce), because the Dietrichs live in a very big house and admit that they consume a lot of electricity. That's one reason they decided to go with solar.

"We can enjoy this house because of the PUD's low electric rates, but we wanted to take advantage of all the sunshine" to offset energy costs, Pat said.

Their North Road home is their retirement home. They still own the Nisus Corp., a chemical manufacturer in Tennessee, but it's operated by employees. They grow pears on 16 acres here just half a mile from their home, plus a few wine grapes for a private label pressed by friends at Icicle Ridge Winery.

Their solar system cost \$54,000 to install. Generous state and federal tax incentives took a bite out of much of

that cost, Bud said. And they're counting on power generation to pay off their investment in about seven years.

The Dietrichs will earn more than 6 cents a kilowatt hour this year through SNAP and 15 cents per kilowatt hour under the state Renewable Energy Cost Recovery program.

"We're not huge environmentalists," Pat said, "but it just seems logical. We have all this sunshine here. It just makes sense."



*Bud and Pat Dietrich are growing solar energy, along with pears, near their Leavenworth home.*

## Two checks are better than one

SNAP contributions are helping local agencies and schools pay their bills and provide vital services. Most schools and seven nonprofits in Chelan County generate solar for SNAP.

The Cascade School District in Leavenworth is receiving two checks this year. One, for \$740, is for power production at five small solar sites which have been in place for about 10 years. The second, for \$2,020, comes to the district through the nonprofit organization that formed to build a community solar project at Icicle River Middle School in 2014.

SNAP payments come from PUD customers interested in renewable energy. Customers contributed \$20,804 this past year, for payments of 6.7 cents per kilowatt hour to the schools, nonprofit agencies and individuals generating solar, wind and small-hydro power.

**Thank you, SNAP supporters, for your contributions!**

### New producers and their kilowatt capacity are:

- Tom and Jackie Andrewjeski, Wenatchee, 7.28 kW
- Heather Boyce, Peshastin, 3.36 kW
- Meleah Butruille, Leavenworth, 8.96 kW
- City of Chelan (at the golf course), 24.6 kW
- Matt Dahlgreen, Wenatchee, 6.7 kW
- Bud and Patricia Dietrich, Leavenworth, 23.4 kW
- Enrique Esnard, Wenatchee, 7.5 kW
- City of Leavenworth (wastewater treatment plant), 20.5 kW
- Brett Mathews, Wenatchee, 4.32 kW
- Mark and Rosemary Shipman, Wenatchee, 2.16 kW
- Wally Stine, Leavenworth, 6.1 kW
- Tierra Learning Center, Leavenworth, 8.4 kW
- Claude Wetzel and Lori Marshall, Manson, 7.4 kW
- David Wood, Wenatchee, 3.3 kW

