Storm hits SNAP producers

Schools, public agencies and individuals producing energy for the Sustainable Natural Alternative Power program gradually are recovering from the January 7 windstorm that knocked out power, felled hundreds of trees and caused thousands of dollars in damage in Chelan County. Hardest hit was June Nichols, who lost one of two wind turbines at her ranch in the Colockum area south of Wenatchee. The good news is that Bergey Windpower, manufacturer of the turbine, has agreed to replace it under warranty. Installer Randy Brooks, owner of Brooks Solar in Chelan, said the 10-kilowatt system should be up and running again later this spring.

A wind turbine at the home of another SNAP producer, Martin Fleming of Manson, was damaged but not destroyed – but the wind peeled the entire metal roof off Fleming’s hilltop home!

The Federal Building in downtown Wenatchee lost one of six arrays, consisting of 22 panels, in the storm. Solar installations at Lincoln and St. Joseph’s elementary schools in Wenatchee were destroyed, and the glass was blown from two panels at Foothills Middle School and from one panel at Cascade Christian Academy.

Visit us on the Web

Have you seen our updated Web site? Go to www.chelanpud.org, then click on “Solar and Wind (SNAP)” under the Quick Start menu. Photos of all SNAP installations are available, as well as detailed information about renewable energy in the county and around the region. Comments? Call us at 661-8008, or send an e-mail to Jim White, senior engineer, at james.white@chelanpud.org or Susan Gillin, Customer Service administrator, at susan.gillin@chelanpud.org.
Thanks to your purchases...
The 45 solar, wind and small-hydro producers in the SNAP program are receiving checks this spring totaling $31,531. Chelan County PUD customers continue to fund the program by paying extra on their electric bills for SNAP purchases. Customer purchases are key to the success of this program, and we appreciate your continued support.

Drum roll, please
Special thanks to these business supporters:

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SNAP producers take advantage of state incentives
A new state program that encourages solar and wind production provided an additional $13,073 in payments to SNAP producers late in 2006. The annual amount available increases if producers use equipment manufactured in Washington state. The program was designed that way to help attract manufacturing jobs to the state – and apparently it’s working. Outback Power Systems plans to build a solar module assembly plant at company headquarters in Arlington.

The electronic billboard at the Performing Arts Center in downtown Wenatchee reminds passers-by that energy is being generated by the solar panels on the roof, with recognition to the Alcoa Foundation for providing materials for the 10-kilowatt solar installation.

Thank you for your support!