



# SNAP Annual Report • 2008



Above: J.C. Ellis of McCandlish Electric secures the new sign on the solar array at Pioneer Middle School.

## Making a difference in our community

Your contributions are making a difference in our community. Your monthly donations continue to support schools, non-profit organizations and individuals who are supplying solar and wind power to Chelan County PUD's electrical grid and are acting as pioneers in this exciting and rapidly growing industry.

Last year was a recovery year for many SNAP producers, who suffered damage to solar and wind equipment in the January 2007 windstorm. As a result, production for the 2007-08 year was down from 2006-07, from 136,065 kilowatt hours to 114,456 kilowatt hours. The SNAP year runs from April 1 through March 31.

Enclosed with this annual newsletter is your own "Solar Power Made Here" refrigerator magnet. In a sense, you are making solar power because your contributions to SNAP allow solar generation to continue at local schools and non-profit agencies. Thank you for your support!

## Solar Power Made Here

A reflective sign reminding passers-by that "Solar Power (is) Made Here" was installed at Pioneer Middle School this spring. The sign, at the high-traffic intersection of Russell and Miller streets, is designed to raise awareness of the Sustainable Natural Alternative Power (SNAP) program. And for those who don't understand what the eight solar panels mounted on a tracking pole in the school yard are all about, the signs offer a brief explanation.

Solar panels are producing power at 30 schools in Chelan County, but some of the solar stations are tucked away behind the schools and are not as visible to the public. In

some cases – such as at Orchard Middle School in Wenatchee and Cashmere High School – the panels are mounted on the roof and go unnoticed.

Students at Cashmere Middle School have asked Chelan County PUD to help them re-install solar panels that were taken down during the school's remodeling last year. These panels were purchased by a private group for the school and were the first school array to be assembled in Chelan County.

Customer contributions to SNAP are benefiting all schools with working solar stations, providing a lasting source of revenue for educational programs.

## See you at the finish line

A team of techno-savvy students at Wenatchee High School is building a sleek drag racer to compete in the fourth annual Solar Drag Race in June.

It will be the first time a local school has entered the competition. Last year, South Whidbey High School set a new world record. Republic Middle School students won the school division and Central Washington University's team won the college division.

Ultra-light, blue crystal solar cells hand-carried from Norway and donated by REC Silicon will be used in the Wenatchee team's race car. The team is working on two possible entries — a teardrop-shaped fiberglass car that requires the driver to lay face down — like the Wright brothers piloting an early glider — and a tricycle where the pilot would sit in a style similar to a recumbent bike.

The students have been meeting after school once a week to perfect their designs. Teacher Doug Merrill and



Above: WHS students Andy Parks (left), Aaron Martz (seated) and Eric Fode are building a solar drag racer.

### Drag race details

**Date:** Sat., June 21

**Time:** 11 am to 2 pm

**Location:** Confluence Technology Center, 112 Olds Station Road, Wenatchee

PUD engineer Jim White are supplying expertise, while businesses and service clubs have provided much-needed supplies and cash.

The students have set up a Web page for their project, dubbed SARA for Solar Accelerated Racing Apparatus: [http://whs.wsd.wednet.edu/solar/Solar\\_Drag\\_Racer/Welcome.html](http://whs.wsd.wednet.edu/solar/Solar_Drag_Racer/Welcome.html).

The official Solar Drag Race Web site is <http://users.applecapital.net/~jim/solardragrace.htm>.

## Ready to go "Lightly"?

Have you joined the "Lightly" brigade? Chelan County PUD's new, online energy newsletter, called "Lightly," features answers to energy questions, news about innovative people, products and programs, and tips on how to save energy and money.

Do you have an energy question? Have you done something to save energy that you can share with others? Found an easier way to recycle, compost, or cut down on drive time? Send an e-mail to [conservation@chelanpud.org](mailto:conservation@chelanpud.org).

Chelan County PUD customers who provide us with their e-mail addresses will be notified when new issues of "Lightly" are published. Send your name, e-mail address and mailing address (for customer verification) to us at [conservation@chelanpud.org](mailto:conservation@chelanpud.org).



### SNAP in Alaska

Homer Electric Association is in the process of developing a SNAP program for its customers. Golden Valley Electric Association in Fairbanks has more than 500 supporters enrolled in its SNAP program.

### SNAP in Chelan County

Number of producers
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Schools: 30
Non-profit agencies: 7
Private producers: 8

### SNAP renewables by type

Solar: 42
Wind: 3
Small Hydro: 1

### Capacity (in kilowatts)

Solar: 79
Wind: 50
Small Hydro: 5