

PR 33 12

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Bonneville Power Administration**  
Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012  
CONTACT:  
Kevin Wingert, BPA, 503-230-4145 or  
503-230-5131

**Careers in Energy Week, Oct. 15-21, showcases commitment to building future workforce, leaders**

*Media invited to attend one of the many events in the week to cover this vital opportunity for young people in the Pacific Northwest*

**Portland, Ore.** – In the next decade, the demand for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics is expected to grow at four times the rate of all other occupations. In Oregon alone, there are an additional 109,000 jobs anticipated in those fields by 2018.

With an eye toward the education and workforce needed to fulfill such growth, the Oregon/SW Washington Energy Consortium is looking to energize young people to work in STEM-related fields during Careers in Energy Week, Oct. 15-21.

“The energy industry offers good paying, stable jobs with opportunities for lifelong learning and advancement,” said Andrew McGough, executive director of Worksystems, Inc., which is part of the Energy Consortium. “We need to raise the excitement level of students, parents, teachers and job seekers for this rewarding sector. Careers in Energy Week will help do this.”

Nationwide, the average annual wage for a STEM career was \$77,880 as of May 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with many fields higher paying than that. An electrical engineer, for example, earned roughly \$85,500 annually as of May 2011. The Pacific Northwest enjoys one of the more diverse portfolios of energy opportunities in the United States. For their part, the respective governors of Washington, Oregon and Idaho all have issued proclamations recognizing Careers in Energy Week.

The Oregon/SW Washington Energy Consortium is focusing on outreach to educators with free 30-minute webinars on classroom resources that can help equip students for jobs in the energy sector. To complement the effort, Bonneville Power Administration is also providing speakers from the energy industry to area high schools during the week.

“Consistently, the energy sector proves to be one of the best career fields as it continues to

expand and pay well. The jobs are attainable with the right education and persistence,” said Kim Leathley, acting chief operating officer for the Bonneville Power Administration. BPA was one of the founding members and organizers of the Oregon/SW Washington Energy Consortium. “The energy sector has played a critical role in the history and development of the Pacific Northwest and the nation as a whole. There are opportunities for those who want to develop a career through on-the-job learning, a formal apprenticeship or attaining a college degree.”

The Energy Consortium is also hosting a student essay contest on “how energy workers make a world of difference” for grades 9-12. Students can win gift cards and tours of energy companies with their teacher as well as see their winning essays published on the web. Full contest rules will be posted by Oct. 12 on the Oregon Department of Energy’s website, [www.oregon.gov/energy/](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/).

Additional resources for both educators and students alike can be found at [www.getintoenergy.com](http://www.getintoenergy.com). Teachers can register for the free Educators on Energy Careers & Resources webinars at the links below.

#### Free Educators on Energy Careers & Resources

- Oct. 15, 3:30 p.m. – <http://sivecki.entertHEMEETING.com/m/1R894ZIV> (live)
- Oct. 18, 3:30 p.m. – <http://sivecki.entertHEMEETING.com/m/ND63ES1N> (live)
- After Oct. 26 – [www.oregongreenpathways.org](http://www.oregongreenpathways.org) (recorded, no need to register)

The Oregon/SW Washington Energy Consortium consists of industry representatives, labor, workforce boards, pipeline organizations and educators/government agencies. Local sponsors of Careers in Energy Week include Portland General Electric, Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest Natural, Pacific Power, Clark PUD, IBEW (Local 125), Oregon Dept. of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Oregon Dept. of Energy, Worksystems Inc., Portland Workforce Alliance, Focus the Nation and Clean Energy Works Oregon. Formed in 2010, the consortium works to ensure a sustainable, qualified and diverse workforce that supports the energy industry in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Careers in Energy Week began as a national public awareness campaign by the Center for Energy Workforce Development. CEWD has conducted surveys that show utility companies report between 30-50 percent of applicants who met minimum position requirements failed pre-employment aptitude tests. At the same time, those same utility companies within the Pacific Northwest are anticipating, on average, a 32 percent turnover due to retirement of their professional workforce by 2020. More information on the group and its efforts can be found at [www.cewd.org](http://www.cewd.org).

Beyond Careers in Energy Week, BPA maintains a high level of engagement in STEM education through school events as well as curriculum and projects for teachers and students, a popular and award-winning Science Bowl that’s celebrating its 23rd year, a speakers’ bureau and regional grant program.

Registration for the 2013 Science Bowl is ongoing until Nov. 19. To find out more about the program or any of BPA’s educational efforts, visit <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/education/>.

#### School Speakers Schedule

The following events during Careers in Energy Week may represent a good opportunity for a news peg or angle as well as visuals in capturing the story. Please be sure to contact the individual schools to make arrangements for coverage. The schools have been notified of the potential for media interest.

- Oct. 16, 8:50-9:30 a.m. Mountain View High School, Vancouver. 15-30 students in grades, 9, 11-12. Presentation by a BPA energy efficiency engineer and an apprenticeship supervisor.

- Oct. 16, 10:55-11:23 a.m. Vancouver, iTech High School, Vancouver. 90 9th graders. Presentation by a BPA transmission engineer and an electrician.
- Oct. 16, 12:26-2:15 p.m. Mountain View High School, Vancouver. 15-30 students in grades, 9, 11-12. Presentation by BPA transmission engineer and a risk analyst.
- Oct. 17, 9-11 a.m. Franklin High School, Portland. 300 seniors. Presentation by BPA engineers as well as representatives from Home Performance Guild of Oregon and Good Energy Retrofit.
- Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Grant High School, Portland. Three 20 minute sessions with 20 students each. Presentation by BPA engineers and a representative from Balance Energy Solutions.
- Oct. 17, 9:50-11:30 a.m. Wilson High School, Portland. 30-40 juniors and seniors. Presentation by BPA engineers as well as a representative from Home Energy Life Performance Group.
- Oct. 17, 10:05-10:40 a.m. Castle Rock High School, Castle Rock, Wash. Presentation by BPA representative.

###

If you would rather not receive future communications from Bonneville Power Administration, let us know by clicking [here](#).  
Bonneville Power Administration, PO Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208 United States