



COLUMBIA COUNTY
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
Phone: (503) 397-1035 Fax: (503) 366-7243

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MEDIA RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janet Wright, Columbia County PIO – 503-397-1035

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

St. Helens, Oregon –Energy-efficient retrofitting is set to start on two projects awarded a total of \$758,073 in federal funds by the Oregon Department of Energy. The Columbia County Courthouse and the Columbia County Rider Transit Facility received funding for installation of new energy efficient heating and ventilation systems and weatherization. The projects are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) awarded through the State Energy Program (SEP) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. These funds are designated for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in public buildings. The US Department of Energy administers the funds, approves the projects and reviews the state’s progress.

Expected annual energy savings for each facility from the energy efficiency improvements are:

- Columbia County Courthouse: \$57,000
- Columbia County Rider Transit Facility: \$1,000

Tony Hyde, Chair of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners commented, “As a county, we are facing significant revenue shortfalls. The energy savings from these efficiency improvements will not only help us mitigate some of the shortfall, but provide long term savings.”

“We are pleased to have made these awards to the Columbia County Courthouse and Rider Transit Center,” said Paul Egbert, manager of the Oregon Department of Energy ARRA team. “These facilities have high public use, and these improvements will save energy each month and provide a more comfortable environment for occupants.”

The Oregon Department of Energy received more than 1,100 letters of interest, representing requests of over \$2 billion in Recovery Act funding.