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For Immediate Release

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Richland workshops help congregations, households save energy and money

Individuals and congregations can learn how to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprints at two free workshops—one for people that manage or make decisions about religious facilities (10 to 11:30 a.m.) and one for households (11:30 to 1 p.m.)—on Monday, Feb. 9. The workshops will be held at the Richland Community Center, 500 Amon Park Dr., and are presented by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) and Bonneville Power Administration, and co-sponsored by City of Richland Energy Services.

The workshops will provide consumers with tools—including a five-year plan to substantially reduce their carbon footprint—and know-how to increase energy efficiency and use renewable energy. “The supply and use of energy are increasingly on people’s minds,” says Jenny Holmes, OIPL director. There are many steps that congregations and individuals can take to save money and be part of the solution to building a sustainable energy system for the Northwest. “No step is too small.”

The first workshop, “Save Your Congregation Energy and Money,” will be held **from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Geared to the needs of congregations, the workshop will cover key principles of energy stewardship for congregations, low-cost and no-cost measures to save energy costs, and funding energy efficiency projects for religious facilities. The second workshop, “Energy Stewardship,” will be offered for individuals **from 11:30 to 1 p.m.** Topics will include top ideas to save energy costs for homes, affordable renewable energy options and the ethics of energy stewardship. A light meal will be served.

Keynote speaker for both workshops is Doug Boleyn, who has over 30 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency and is energy consultant for OIPL, a former staff of Bonneville Power Administration and Portland General Electric, president of Cascade Solar Consulting, LLC, and a member of the Energy Trust of Oregon Renewable Advisory Committee. Graham Parker from the Department of Energy will present congregation and household case studies at the workshops. Dawn Senger and Martin Sheeran from City of Richland Energy Services will discuss rebates and incentives available. Other speakers include Lloyd Meyer from Bonneville Power Administration’s Conservation Division.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

A project of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, OIPL engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. OIPL offers opportunities for putting faith into action through wise electricity choices and energy conservation.

The registration deadline is Feb. 6, but registration will also be accepted at the door. The cost is free. To register, e-mail ksharinghousen@emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054. To download a complete brochure, go to www.emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Oregon Interfaith Power & Light project engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.