

Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
42° Forecast | Radar

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION LIFESTYLE TEMPO PHOTOS/VIDEOS COMMUNITY SPECIAL REPORTS INTERACT CLASSIFIEDS MAGAZINES

# Sun shines on local app for federal grant

Grant covers 35 percent of big solar panel project

Photo 1 of 2 | Zoom Photo +



1 of 3 clicks used this month  
[LOGIN](#) | [REGISTER](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#)

January 18, 2013

By **Greg Stiles**  
Mail Tribune

It took three cracks, but the third one paid off as Les Connell finally received an Oregon Energy Department grant to put solar panels on the Northridge Assisted Living Center roof.

After coming up short against stiff competition from the northern end of the state, Connell and Northridge landed a Renewable Energy Development grant in July, paving the way for a \$195,000 solar project.

NW Photon Energy of Lake Oswego is installing 204 photovoltaic panels produced by Hillsboro's Solar World at the senior housing center just north of Phoenix on South Pacific Highway. The project is expected to be wrapped up next week. "We first applied for a grant three years ago," Connell said. "Our competition came particularly from the north. They were different types of energy grants than this one and went to public projects, schools and those kind of things."

When the so-called RED grants came out this year, Connell put his company's best foot forward. Word that Northridge got the grant came the first week of July. "We had a favorable edge because we get a lot more sun than in Salem and Portland," he said. "We're also an affordable housing center built by state tax-exempt bonds issued by Oregon Housing and Community Service."

1 of 3 Premium Clicks used this month  
The RED grant covers 35 percent of the project cost, while federal tax credits spread over the next five years will cover another third. "The other third is out of our pocket with an estimated five-year recovery period," Connell said.

Although the project could have been double in size, Connell wanted to keep the cost in the \$200,000 range. "It can still be expanded at any time," he said.

The solar panels will generate up to 50 kilowatts of electricity that will be fed directly into the Pacific Power grid. Connell anticipates Northridge will see an 8 percent to 10 percent reduction in its monthly energy bill that runs between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Reach reporter Greg Stiles at 541-776-4463 or e-mail [business@mailtribune.com](mailto:business@mailtribune.com).

[HOME](#)

### POPULAR TODAY

UPDATED: Medford police respond to reported shooting on Bear Creek Greenway - 2/19/2013

Could this happen to your family member? - 2/19/2013

Grants Pass man drowns on fishing trip - 2/19/2013

Some dogs have a 1,000-word vocabulary - 2/19/2013

Text Size: [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)

[Print this Article](#) [Email this Article](#)

[ShareThis](#)

**Lime light DEALS**

**Current Price:**  
**\$10**  
50% off

**Clever Container with Gina**

\$10 for \$20 to Spend at Clever Containers with Gina

**BUY NOW!**

Deal Expires: 3d:06h:60m  
[View More Deals](#)

38 COUPONS ONLINE TODAY [MORE >>](#)

FREE Stearns & Foster Pillow Mattress Land

\$5 Off at El Arriero Mexican Restaurant El Arriero

Holiday Thank You TC Chevy

Lighting Sale Habitat For Humanity ReStore

BACK PAIN SPECIAL Rose Acupuncture

\$50 1 Hour Ashiatsu Massage That Massage Place

ReStore Book Sale- Buy 3 paperbacks and get 1 FREE

SUBSCRIBE TO THE **Mail Tribune**

CLICK HERE TO GET 2 WEEKS FREE

Mail Tribune Lawmakers OK rating...

**SCAM WATCH**

Learn to avoid becoming a victim

Ads by Google

[Print this Article](#) [Email this Article](#)

[ShareThis](#)

**SolarCity® Official Site**

www.solarcity.com/California

Get a Home Solar Quote in Minutes.  
Call Before 2/28 and Save \$750!



**Solar Panels (Pay No \$)**

VerengoSolar.com/Free-Quote

Solar for \$0 Down + Save Thousands!  
Free No Obligation Quote, Call Now.



**Free Solar Panels**

www.HomeAdvisor.com

Enter Your Zip Code & Connect. Pre-Screened Contractors Near You!



AdChoices

TOP JOBS

**Care Giver~Group Home All shifts**  
MEDFORD, or Classifieds

**City of Medford ADA/EOE. For list**  
MEDFORD, or Classifieds

**Swanson Group Manufacturing, a**  
GLENDALE, or Classifieds

**LUCKY 7 CASINO Restaurant Manager**  
SMITH RIVER, CA Classifieds

[More jobs](#)

TOP HOMES

\$319,900



Medford,  
Oregon  
Whittle  
Home  
Sales

[More Details...](#)

\$225,000



Talent,  
Oregon  
Whittle  
Home  
Sales

[More Details...](#)

[More Top Homes](#)

