Extensive Study Shows BPA Central to Meeting Current and Future Climate Goals

BPA’s clean and renewable hydropower fleet serves millions of people in the West and is vital to Northwest’s energy future.

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) published this month a paper evaluating emissions from U.S. electricity providers. Among the country’s 20 largest electric regions, the Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) hydropower-based system resulted in the Pacific Northwest region producing and using the cleanest energy in the nation.

“Hydropower is a 24/7 clean renewable that keeps our homes and businesses humming around the clock, and now we have verifiable data confirming that BPA’s renewable fleet is the backbone of the nation’s least carbon intense electricity area among large electricity suppliers,” said Scott Simms, executive director of the Public Power Council, which represents the interests of the non-profit, consumer-owned utilities that purchase most of the electricity sold by BPA. Together, these utilities serve millions of residents in large and small communities across five Western states.

“This flexible, carbon-free resource not only meets today’s demand for clean energy but also provides the platform for meeting the region’s future goals by integrating intermittent renewable resources like wind and solar onto our grid,” said Simms. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that in addition to clean hydro, Oregon and Washington are home to over 6,500 MW of solar and wind generation, and roughly 45% of those resources are located in the BPA area. In addition, 1080 MWs of proposed solar and wind generation plan to locate in the BPA area.¹

Simms said this PNAS study could not come out at a more important time, as the federal government will soon release its draft analysis on how the Columbia River Basin should be operated in the future. “We can’t look at the river myopically. PPC members are committed to a successful fish mitigation plan and shouldering our fair share of the associated financial responsibility. However, fish runs will not thrive if we don’t address climate change, and the federal hydro system is an integral element of any climate plan. The low carbon aspect of BPA’s portfolio should be properly considered in the context of the government’s review, and this PNAS report helps, especially as global carbon concerns continue to mount.”

¹ EIA Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory data, September 2019.
To see the PNAS report in full, click [here](#).

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**About the Public Power Council**

The Public Power Council, established in 1966, is an association that represents over 100 consumer-owned electric utilities in the Pacific Northwest. PPC’s mission is to preserve and protect the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System for consumer-owned utilities. PPC is a key forum to identify, discuss and build consensus around energy and utility issues.

A listing of PPC members categorized by state is attached. For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.ppcpdx.org](http://www.ppcpdx.org).
Public Power Council Members

Idaho:
City of Bonners Ferry
Clearwater Power Company
Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative
Idaho County Light & Power
Idaho Falls Power
Kootenai Electric Cooperative
Lost River Electric Cooperative
Northern Lights, Inc.
Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative
Rupert Electric Department
United Electric Co-op

Montana:
Flathead Electric Cooperative
Lincoln Electric Cooperative
Missoula Electric Cooperative
Ravalli County Electric Cooperative
Vigilante Electric Cooperative

Nevada:
Wells Rural Electric Company

Oregon:
City of Ashland
City of Bandon
Blachly-Lane County Electric Coop.
Canby Utility
City of Cascade Locks
Central Electric Cooperative
Central Lincoln PUD
Clatskanie PUD
Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative
Columbia River PUD
Consumers Power, Inc
Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative
Douglas Electric
Emerald PUD
Eugene Water & Electric Board
City of Forest Grove
Harney Electric Cooperative
Hermiston Energy Services
Hood River Electric Cooperative
Lane Electric
McMinnville Water & Light
Midstate Electric Cooperative
Milton-Freewater City Light & Power
Monmouth Power & Light
Northern Wasco County PUD
Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative
PNGC Power
Salem Electric
Springfield Utility Board
Tillamook PUD
Umatilla Electric Cooperative
Wasco Electric Cooperative
West Oregon Electric Cooperative

Washington:
Asotin County PUD
Benton PUD
Benton Rural Electric Association
Big Bend Electric Cooperative
Centralia City Light
Chelan County PUD
City of Cheney
Clallam County PUD
Clark Public Utilities
Columbia Rural Electric Association
Ferry County PUD
Franklin PUD
Grant PUD
Grays Harbor PUD
Inland Power & Light
Jefferson PUD
Kittitas PUD
Klickitat PUD
Lewis County PUD
Mason County PUD #1
Mason County PUD #3
Modern Electric Water Company
Okanogan County Electric Cooperative
Okanogan County PUD
Orcas Power and Light
Pacific County PUD #2
Pend Oreille County PUD
Peninsula Light Company
Port of Seattle
Richland Energy Services
Seattle City Light
Skamania PUD
Snohomish County PUD
City of Sumas
Tacoma Power
Vera Water & Power
Wahkiakum PUD
Whatcom County PUD #1
Yakama Power

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