

City of Ellensburg Light Division

Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project



About Ellensburg

The City of Ellensburg Light Division was created in 1891, and is the oldest municipally owned light department in the state, and second oldest in the Pacific Northwest. Ellensburg is credited with the first community solar project in the country and is the only municipal utility in the state of Washington with both electric and gas service. The city's electric utility serves approximately 9,300 customers with more than 50 miles of overhead conductor, and 38 miles of underground, cable within 8.5 square miles. The division employs 14 people.

Project Overview

Ellensburg will expand its existing renewable energy park to include 30 kilowatt (KW) of concentrating solar panels, 42 kW of thin-film nanotechnology solar panels, and up to 80-kW of wind generation capabilities. Sizes of the individual components of the solar and wind systems being installed for this project are comparable to what a customer might install on their home or business. Dedicated communication facilities have been installed to the site enabling real-time data acquisition of energy production and weather conditions (wind speed and temperature) and will provide the comparative data of the various, small renewable resources for university research and K-12 school curricula development.



The Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project, or PNW-SGDP, is a collaborative, five-year test of new technologies and capabilities that will make our regional power grid smarter. Unique in size and scope, the PNW-SGDP involves the Bonneville Power Administration, five technology partners, 11 utilities across five states, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, and the University of Washington. The PNW-SGDP will demonstrate the potential for a safe, scalable and interoperable smart grid for regulated and non-regulated utility environments. The project is managed by Battelle's Pacific Northwest Division located in Richland, Wash. Battelle is a \$5 billion non-profit organization that benefits mankind by helping solve some of the world's toughest science- and technology-based challenges.

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