

October 31, 2012

## Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Goes Live!

### Event Overview



Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) discusses the region's role in shaping the grid of the future, in particular the pioneering role played by PNNL enabled by Department of Energy funding and support.

Washington State Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell were among several VIPs in attendance at an Oct. 24 media and congressional event in Seattle to launch the “light up” of the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project. The demo is beginning a two-year period of collecting energy use data, during which the participants will evaluate benefits of smart grid technologies and concepts. The project's transactive control technology also began moving between installed assets in the region and the EIOC in Richland, supporting our objectives of creating a two-way flow of information between load and generation that will reduce peak demand, boost reliability and integrate renewable energy.

The event was co-hosted by demo participant the University of Washington, and featured UW students (among other vendors and partners) who are actively participating in the demonstration by tracking and controlling their energy use via in-room energy management devices. In addition to the senators and two UW students, event speakers included Ana Mari Cauce, UW Provost; Charles Kennedy, UW VP for Facilities Services; Bill Drummond, Deputy Administrator for Bonneville Power Administration; and Mike Kluse.



Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) engages in an overview on the demonstration with Battelle/PNNL's Ron Melton (demo project director), PNNL Director Mike Kluse and PNNL Electricity Infrastructure Sector Manager Carl Imhoff.

### What's next

Over the next two years, our Project will be collecting and analyzing energy use data. The 11 participating utilities will evaluate the benefits of smart grid technologies locally- in their respective cities- and at the regional level. The project team will look at how a smarter grid can help deliver electricity more efficiently to avoid congestion in the transmission system, and how more wind power can be used. The project's data collection and analysis efforts are expected to provide an unprecedented view into how smart grid concepts can provide regional benefits while improving consumer choice and reliability locally. Stay tuned for updates and [sign up](#) for our newsletter!