



## News Release

For Immediate Release

### **Reenergizing Our Community: PHCNW 2009 Solar & Sustainability Science Fair**

**PORTLAND, OR** – On Friday, May 15, PHC Northwest (PHCNW) presented its first Solar & Sustainability Science Fair. More than 300 people attended the event that featured science projects by local high school students, a tradeshow of 38 community-minded organizations and a traveling NASA exhibit.

According to President John Murphy, the event was PHCNW’s attempt to “reenergize in our own community the curiosity and ingenuity to help shape our future and not resign from facing up to the big problems.”

The future was well represented by the high school science fair participants. The science fair judges, including PHCNW Board member Carolyn Duran, chose to honor three projects that included: capturing friction brake energy waste, wetlands carbon storage research and testing organic compounds for suitability in solar cells. Students with the top eight projects were awarded laptops donated by Coastwide Laboratories, a subsidiary of Staples, Inc.

Tradeshow exhibitors represented a wide range of organizations from for-profit solar and energy-efficiency companies to local nonprofits and government agencies – each working toward a sustainable world where all people can contribute.

These organizations have already taken up the challenge issued at the event by PHCNW Industries manager Massoud Mollaghaffari. “Think outside the box,” he stated. “Make the impossible possible and think beyond your limitations.” Their actions and entrepreneurial spirit speak to the heart of PHCNW.

The event was made possible in part by more than 20 sponsors who generously gave financial and promotional support and made in-kind donations. To view a list of sponsors and exhibitors and to learn more about the event, go to [www.phcnw.com/solar/2009/](http://www.phcnw.com/solar/2009/).

The event was also made possible by PHCNW’s hard-working staff. Event team members and everyone involved volunteered their time and energy to make the event a success. In addition, PHCNW’s Business Development Team provided great support reaching out to the public to showcase the company’s accomplishments.

The wide range of participation demonstrates the community's support of PHCNW and its mission to train and employ people with disabilities. Encouraged by this support PHCNW is looking to make this an annual event. "Think of this event as an invitation to keep the conversation going," says Murphy.

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