



WESTERN COMMUNITY ENERGY EXPANDS

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BY NAW STAFF ON MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2009

Western Community Energy (WCE), a community-based wind energy developer, is expanding its headquarters in Bend, Ore. The company relocated to the state six months ago.

According to WCE, the company chose Oregon for its headquarters because of the state's commitment to renewable energy through a variety of financial and tax incentives and programs such as the Oregon business energy tax credit, which covers up to half of a qualifying project's applicable costs; the Energy Trust of Oregon, which provides resources and cash incentives to help homeowners, farms, ranches, businesses and government entities install wind power projects of up to 20 MW; and the small energy loan program, which promotes energy conservation and renewable energy resource development by offering low-interest loans for qualifying projects.

WCE booked \$1.4 million in wind energy projects in 2008 and \$8.2 million worth of projects in January. The company currently employs seven full-time employees and expects to hire an additional 11 employees within the next month.