



■ Oregon's industrial site certification program features an inventory of sites now declared "project ready." This expedites construction because groundbreaking can occur within six months or less for most projects. Also, regulatory work is done in advance, giving businesses more certainty in locating and developing projects quickly. What's more, the third-party verification adds credibility.

■ Oregon does not collect general sales and use tax; receipts/revenue tax; inventory tax; worldwide unitary tax; motor vehicle excise tax; state capital tax on asset value; and direct levies on intangible properties, such as stocks, bonds or securities.

■ In 2007, Oregon had total exports of \$16.5 billion. More than 49 percent of Oregon's 2007 total exports went to Canada, Japan, China, South Korea and Malaysia each of which purchased more than \$1 billion in Oregon goods and services in 2007.

A LEADER FOR RENEWABLES AND SUSTAINABILITY

➤➤ When the 2009 Oregon legislative session is held it will be important for economic development initiatives to be at the top of the list. Although it is too early to discuss the full slate of initiatives in regard to economic development, one thing is clear: the state's revenue forecasts are down because the state is dependant on personal income tax revenue because sales taxes are not collected. "The forecasts are down so it makes economic development more important because our job is to attract high-wage jobs because the state's revenues depend on it," says Tim McCabe, director, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

Incentives and initiatives that have been or will be put in place will guide Oregon's officials toward this path. In the most recently held session, the Legislature passed solar energy related initiatives. And in September, a work group formed as a result of an executive order by the governor, will make public its findings in regard to the reorganization of McCabe's department. The reorganization will allow the department to make existing programs better by strengthening infrastructure initiatives; small business programs; and business recruitment and retention efforts.

"What will happen is the governor will make his recommendations, we will make the necessary statutory changes, and they will go through the Legislature in 2009 for approval," McCabe notes.

In regard to the solar energy industry, the state's business energy

tax credit is run through the Department of Energy in partnership with McCabe's office. The credit can be taken by a qualifying company, which includes renewable energy companies, and which makes available up to \$20 million in business energy tax credits. The credits span five years and are transferable, where a partner could buy the credit from a qualifying company. "A typical cash transaction on \$20 million would mean \$12.5 million for that qualifying facility," McCabe says.

"Governor Kulongoski is making renewable energy part of his legacy, which is creating opportunities for Oregonians," says Nathan Buehler, manager of marketing and communications, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

McCabe points out the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard of 25 percent renewables by 2025 is very aggressive. "A lot of solar companies like to be associated with that type of commitment," he says. "To a person they [companies] have said that our governor's commitment to renewables" has been an important factor in these site selection decisions.

The solar tax credit has been successful in supporting photovoltaic business projects in the state. Solaicx, SolarWorld and Peak Sun Silicon are investing more than \$500 million in their facilities. SolarWorld, based in Fryeburg, Germany, is building the second-largest solar manufacturing facility in the world in Hillsboro. "All of this growth puts Oregon on track to become the largest photovoltaic producing