

An old timber mill takes on a new role generating clean energy

The rural community of Bly in Klamath County, Oregon, has a rich history of logging and old west legends. Today, it is home to a 40-acre solar system that is allowing a utility company to provide its customers with affordable energy for years to come.



For many years, a Weyerhaeuser sawmill was a dominant presence in Bly, home to fewer than 500 residents. After Weyerhaeuser dismantled the operation in 1984, the abandoned site sat unused for more than three decades. Then, Pacific Power saw an opportunity to bring new life to the long-forgotten Old Mill site, transforming part of the land into a 6.8-megawatt (MW) solar generating facility.

Sun shines on a former industrial site

The Old Mill system covers 40 acres and features more than 20,000 solar panels that produce enough solar energy to power approximately 1,200 residences. Pacific Power partnered with a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to have the entire solar system built at no upfront cost to Pacific Power or its customers. The project provided local construction and ancillary jobs, and ensures years of sustainable energy at today's utility prices for citizens of Oregon. Pacific Power will purchase the energy generated by the solar system from NextEra Energy Resources under a 15-year power purchase agreement, which may be extended for up to two five-year increments.

Through its Old Mill solar system, Pacific Power:

- » turned an abandoned industrial site into a 6.8-MW solar system with no upfront cost to Pacific Power or its customers;
- » is providing Oregon with clean, renewable energy for years to come;
- » is protecting its customers from future energy pricing volatility by locking in today's rate;
- » provided jobs to more than 100 construction, security and electrical workers from Oregon over the course of the project; and
- » asserted its position as a solar energy leader in the state of Oregon.

"The project is great for Bly and Klamath County, which have an important future as a home to renewable energy development. This is currently the largest solar project in Oregon, and we are proud to have it delivering energy to our customers."

– Todd Andres

Regional Business Manager
Pacific Power

Solar Initiatives

The project received:

- » New Markets Tax Credits
- » Renewable Energy Development (RED) Grant from the Oregon Department of Energy

Project Highlights

- » 6.8-MW direct current (DC) system
- » Single-axis tracker system with 21,964 solar photovoltaic modules
- » Enough to power an estimated 1,200 average homes annually
- » Approximately 8,600 metric tons of carbon dioxide offset annually
- » The equivalent of taking 1,830 cars off the road every year