

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Kelsey Larson  
(206) 443-7723  
Kelsey@Pnwer.org

July 2014

## **Energy and Environment Group Launches New Net Zero Initiative**

(WHISTLER, B.C.) - The Pacific Northwest Economic Region's Energy and Environment Working Group will launch a **"Roadmap to Net Zero Construction and Deep Energy Retrofits by 2030,"** beginning with a workshop that will highlight the bi-national region's leadership in energy efficiency, policy, and programs.

The roadmap will be developed in consultation with all levels of government and the private sector with an aim to transform the market to conserve energy in the built environment, in the most cost-effective manner.

"This PNWER 2030 Roadmap will support the renewal of existing buildings to optimize their energy efficiency, informed by best practices in government policy, program design and building retrofits that have already been demonstrated in our Region," said Andrew Pape-Salmon, P.Eng., MRM of RDH Group.

Paul Manson, CEO of Sea Breeze Power Corp. said, "Some utilities and corporations in our PNWER region are becoming North American leaders in the implementation of proven 'Zero Emission' technologies - such as 'district energy systems' and 'renewable natural gas' derived from resources that would otherwise be wasted - and other great practical and economic technologies such as 'geo-exchange' and 'ground sourced heat pumps'. The challenge is to accelerate this process."

Matt Morrison, Executive Director of PNWER, noted that, "The Region has the expertise to construct net-zero-energy and carbon-neutral buildings; the PNWER 2030 Roadmap will provide a pathway for policymakers to make that the norm for all new construction by 2030."

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## **ABOUT THE PNWER SUMMIT**

Over 500 state and provincial legislators, business and civic leaders, and local government organizations are meeting this week in Whistler, BC for the 24th Annual PNWER Summit. Working Sessions will focus on topics including: LNG Exports, Energy and Environment, Invasive Species, Agriculture, Innovation, Trade and Economic Development, Mining, Tourism, Water Policy, and Workforce Development. A special session will feature the US Ambassador to Canada and the Canadian Ambassador to the US on the Canada-US Border. Another special session will bring together state, provincial, local, and federal jurisdictions from both nations to examine the Columbia River Treaty. For the detailed agenda, go to: <http://www.pnwer.org/2014summit.html>

## **ABOUT PNWER**

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the

Northwest Territories and Yukon. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region; identify and promote "models of success;" and serve as a conduit to exchange information.