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**PNWER Plan to Improve Buildings' Energy Efficiency in the Pacific Northwest Moves Forward**

(BIG SKY, MONTANA) – The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's (PNWER) Energy and Environment policy group made progress on an initiative to improve energy efficiency in new and existing buildings, build employment and increase resiliency and competitiveness in the region on Tuesday, July 14 during PNWER's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit.

The "Roadmap to Resilient, Net-Zero Construction and Deep Energy Retrofits" will provide an actionable plan for each PNWER jurisdiction to achieve Net-Zero emissions construction in new buildings by 2030 and encourages deep energy retrofits to reduce emissions by 30 percent to 70 percent on existing stock.

The Roadmap will showcase market-driven best practices used around the region, such as the Montana Energy Code, implemented in 2014, which raises insulation standards and requires 75 percent of permanent light fixtures to use high-efficiency lights.

The Roadmap will also analyze risks and policy options and provide cost and benefit estimates for achieving emissions targets.

"Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective option for states to respond to the EPA Clean Power Plan, while delivering co-benefits such as improved energy affordability," said Andrew Pape-Salmon, senior energy specialist, RDH Building Engineering Ltd.

On Tuesday, the PNWER Energy and Environment policy group presented case studies of 16 existing buildings in the Pacific Northwest that utilize innovative energy efficiency practices.

Case studies reviewed building energy use, construction costs, key design elements such as heating, ventilation and envelope as well as desired elements such as seismic upgrades and financing and construction details.

Energy-efficient construction like that recommended in the Roadmap targets by 2030 is estimated to create over 100,000 jobs in the region, including local trades and professional services and regional product and materials manufacturing.

The Roadmap process will appoint a legislator and private sector leader to engage key stakeholders in all 10 PNWER jurisdictions. The policy group and PNWER are uniquely positioned to leverage private sector investment through supportive market driven policies and legislation.

#### **ABOUT THE PNWER SUMMIT**

Held in alternating member jurisdictions each year, the annual PNWER summit draws hundreds of key business leaders, legislators and community leaders from PNWER's 10 states, provinces and territories in the Pacific Northwest. At the summit, participants meet in "working groups" to develop action items on policy issues in the following categories: agriculture, Arctic caucus, cross-border livestock health, border issues, disaster resilience, energy, environment, health care, innovation, invasive species, sustainable development, trade and economic development, transportation, tourism, water policy and workforce development.

For more information on the summit, visit [www.pnwer.org/2015Summit](http://www.pnwer.org/2015Summit).

[Case studies of current energy-efficient buildings in the region.](#)

#### **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.

Learn more about the Energy and Environment Group 's efforts and the Roadmap to Resilient, Net-Zero Construction and Deep Energy Retrofits" at [www.pnwer.org/energy-ii.html](http://www.pnwer.org/energy-ii.html).

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