

Local officials take Oregon Sustainability Center message to D.C.

Delegation seeks federal funds to help build the \$120 million project

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An Oregon delegation that includes Portland Mayor Sam Adams, Portland State University President Wim Wiewel, Nancy Hamilton of Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office, Janet Gagnon of Solar World and several local entrepreneurs, is in Washington, D.C., this week to lobby for money to build the proposed \$120 million Oregon Sustainability Center.

The center is expected to serve as both a technological model and a hub for sustainable practices, policy, education, research and entrepreneurship. The building to house the center also will be considered sustainable and meet the rigorous certification protocol of the Cascadia Green Building Council's Living Building Challenge.

"The Oregon Sustainability Center is an on-the-ground example of green jobs and sustainability leadership," Adams said. "Our time in Washington, D.C., will help us identify the champions and funding opportunities to help make the Center a reality."

The delegation plans to meet Monday and Tuesday with representatives of the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Green Building Council.

A reception is planned Monday evening at the U.S. Green Building Council's headquarters, sponsored by the Portland Sustainability Institute, U.S. Green Building Council, Oregon BEST, Ball Janik LLP and Lane Powell. It will highlight the sustainability center building and Oregon's leadership in sustainability.

"We're eager to help Oregon and the Portland metro region extend its leadership in creating livable communities and a green economy, by sharing the Oregon Sustainability Center's clean energy jobs and innovation message," said Janet Gagnon, government relations manager for Solar World, which last year opened a new plant in Hillsboro.