



# E-News

“The Environment is our Business”

A publication of news and events affecting the Northwest environmental industry

## - FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -

NEBC is actively engaged on the legislative front. In Oregon, we are currently lining up supporters for an Environmental Enhancement Tax Credit for projects that go “beyond compliance.” In Washington, we are planning to reintroduce a bill providing tax incentives for clean-up projects. As background, I thought I would share an article I wrote for the June issue of Northwest Construction Magazine, which was sent out to 6,200 subscribers in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

### Environmental Incentives – Economic Stimulus or Free Lunch?

“Giving tax incentives to companies for environmental protection or clean-up projects amounts to paying them for what they should be doing anyway” – or so claim the opponents. “Incentives promote voluntary efforts that should be rewarded as a matter of public policy,” counter those supporting incentives. Variations of this debate are being heard in both the Oregon and Washington legislative arenas.

During this year’s short session, the Washington legislature came down in favor of the economic value of incentives by passing a bill reinstating tax incentives for environmental clean-up projects (exempting the related labor and services from sales tax and lowering the B&O tax). Despite near-unanimous passage, the bill was vetoed by Governor Gregoire, who questioned whether the previous incentive program actually led to increased cleanup activity.

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While Washington tax incentives were in place (1998 to 2003), they were used to support the cleanup of 382 sites. Most importantly, 287 of these were independent and voluntary actions (not under enforcement orders). The work done to clean up these contaminated sites not only eliminated environmental and public health threats, but also paved the way for hundreds of millions of dollars in private sector investment in redeveloping the sites – creating jobs along the way and increasing the tax base. For these reasons, supporters plan to reintroduce the bill in the 2007 session.

Oregon, given its income tax structure, has taken a different approach to incentives. Since 1967, the Pollution Control Tax Credit (PCTC) has provided \$630 million in income tax credits to over 5,200 projects that control pollution or waste. Originally intended to help companies deal with new federal and state

environmental laws, the scope of the tax credit has been broadened over the years and its life extended five times. It is now scheduled to sunset at the end of 2007. The PCTC has become increasingly controversial because of the broad list of measures that qualify, the size of the credit (now the State’s largest corporate tax break), and the amount of the credit going to the largest corporations.

Some critics advocate eliminating the PCTC altogether, calling it "corporate welfare," while industry trade groups contend that it compensates companies for the burden of operating in an environmentally strict State, and that it helps retain and attract jobs. Those in the middle want to preserve the PCTC in some form but agree that it needs to be refined so that it just rewards practices that go beyond regulatory requirements. The sides are already lining up for the Oregon legislature's 2007 session.

Stepping aside from the specific design of tax incentive programs, most observers feel that they do have an impact in encouraging positive environmental action. The challenge in measuring this impact is that, as with any other investment, spending money on an environmental cleanup project involves a complex, multi-factored decision process, and incentives only pay for a portion of the project.

Attorney David Eckberg, with the Seattle law firm of Skellenger Bender, P.S., has worked in, and as a lawyer for, environmental consulting firms. He acknowledges that tax incentives are usually not the sole driver behind an environmental project, but observes that anything that reduces the cost of projects will spur an increase in activity – particularly for voluntary or independent clean-ups.

Penny Machinski, an Environmental Engineer for Portland-area West Linn Paper Company, explains that environmental improvements often lack compelling economic incentives, such as those offered by energy conservation projects. Incentives like the PCTC encourage businesses to invest their often-limited resources in projects that go beyond basic regulatory requirements. She points out that this is particularly the case for smaller companies with limited access to capital (which include most of the companies in the Northwest).

And it is not only whether a project gets done, but to what level. When pushed by regulatory requirements, the normal response of a company is to do the minimum level of work necessary for compliance. With incentives, a company has additional motivation to choose a better, more comprehensive approach – choosing, for example, to clean up contamination more thoroughly and to follow it up with more monitoring than the minimum required.

Clearly, the greatest impact of incentives is on voluntary projects. Companies that want to do the right thing are supported in taking action sooner, and are less likely to just wait for regulatory enforcement. Incentives also help to push projects along faster once they are begun.

The fact that the biggest corporations with the largest projects get the most in incentive dollars obscures the widespread environmental contribution played by incentives. Data show that the incentives go to every area of the States and to all sizes of companies. In addition to large industries, help also goes to properties such dry cleaners, fuel stations, and auto repair shops. Finally, the fact that the incentives only pay partial costs means that they have a multiplier effect by promoting private expenditures. While incentives need to be properly designed to have the intended impacts, they remain a valuable public policy tool for promoting environmental protection and cleanup.



Robert Grott

### **RENEWING MEMBERS**

Advanced Environmental Solutions  
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### **NEW MEMBERS**

Columbia Inspection, Inc.  
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## SPECIAL NOTICE

NEBC events are now processed on-line. We are currently in the process of changing event registration procedures. You have probably noticed a different "look" to the event announcement you are receiving. In June, NEBC hired an online registration service to handle our event registrations. Visa and MasterCard transactions are processed through a secure internet site and you receive instant confirmation and registration receipt. No more faxing flyers to the NEBC office! If you would rather pay by check that option is available too by selecting "check" as a payment option.

But we are not abandoning the personal touch. You can still talk to a person if you have questions, suggestions, or problems. Linda and Sue are in the office weekdays to help, 503-227-6361 or 800-985-6322.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Full list of NEBC events on page 6

**July 19.** [Management Forum](#) – Structuring Strategic Partnerships. Seattle. McCormick & Schmick's Harborside.

**July 20.** Cascade Golf Tournament. Portland. Langdon Farms Golf Course.

**August 16.** [Management Forum](#) – Finance and Capital Strategies. Seattle. McCormick & Schmick's Harborside.

**September 19.** [Mercury: Global Problem – Local Solutions](#). Portland. Oregon Museum of Science & Industry

**September 28.** [Stormwater Solutions Showcase](#). Portland. Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI).

**October 18-19,** [Northwest Environmental Summit](#) (NWES), Tacoma.

**December 7 & 8,** [Northwest Environmental Conference](#) (NVEC), Portland.

## – INDUSTRY NEWS –

**Selling to the Government.** Do you sell to Federal government agencies? Do you want to? **NEBC** can help. In Oregon we are a contractor with the Government Contract Assistance Program (GCAP). This program guides vendors through the complexity of the government's procurement process, including how to get registered as a vendor, find opportunities, and market to government agencies. There is also a matching service that continually checks your profile against opportunities from Federal, State, and Local agencies. For more information call Robert or email [robert@nebc.org](mailto:robert@nebc.org). If you are in a state other than Oregon, you can find a local Procurement Technical Assistance Center by going to [www.aptac-us.org](http://www.aptac-us.org) and following the "Find a PTAC" link.

## OTHER INDUSTRY EVENTS & MEETINGS

August 23, 2006. **Fundamental Contaminant Chemistry - A Review of Chemistry Principles Essential for Understanding Contaminant Behavior in the Environment. 8:30 – 5:00 pm.** Course I.D. CHEM-403A (Course 1 of 2 in a Series) August 23, 2006, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. (1 Day). Ecotrust Conference Center 721 NW 9th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Cost - \$195. For more information <http://www.nwetc.org/training.htm>.

August 24 & 25, 2006. **Contaminant Chemistry and Transport in Soil and Groundwater.** Course I.D. CHEM-403B (Course 2 of 2 in a Series) August 24 - 25, 2006, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. (2 Days) Ecotrust Conference Center 721 NW 9th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. For more information <http://www.nwetc.org/training.htm>.

August 30, 2006. **Endangered Species Act Implementation and Compliance - An overview / refresher on Sections 4, 7, 10, and emerging issue.** Course I.D. POL-301 August 30, 2006, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Ecotrust Conference Center 721 NW 9th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. For more information <http://www.nwetc.org/training.htm>.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**SLR International Corp.** has an opening for a Senior Project Manager position in our Bothell, Washington office. Excellent communication skills, an established business development network in the Pacific Northwest, and the ability to deliver outstanding client service are required. A B.S. degree in geology, engineering, or environmental science, and at least 10 years of environmental consulting experience are also required. SLR is fully owned by SLR Holdings Ltd. in the United Kingdom. We offer an attractive compensation and benefits package that includes the opportunity for employee ownership, 401-K matching, and possibilities to work in diverse geographic areas in the U.S. and overseas. We seek employees that are motivated to contribute towards the growth of the company and for professional advancement. Please fax your resume to (425)402-8488 or email to [jobs@slrcorp.com](mailto:jobs@slrcorp.com).

**Wolf Environmental Group, Inc.** is seeking an Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist. Our SW Portland industrial client seeks a junior to mid level EH&S Specialist with a minimum of 3 years experience in the regulatory arena to implement, monitor and evaluate assigned environmental programs, ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations and will conduct safety audits and training programs.

Programs to manage include their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, Hazardous Materials Management Plan, Emergency Contingency Plan, and MSDS Control as well as supporting Quality Assurance with TSCA. The ability to review, update and revise these programs is required. This is an excellent opportunity if you have initiative, communicate with ease, professionalism and effectiveness with internal staff, as well as have ability to interface with regulators on an ongoing and positive results driven basis.

If you can envision the big picture as well as pay close attention to necessary detail, have the ability to work autonomously as well as report to management on an ongoing effective basis, call me ASAP. This opportunity may be right for you. Integrity and work ethic are critical. Please contact Judy Stockton, President, WOLF Environmental Group, Inc., [Judy@wolfenv.com](mailto:Judy@wolfenv.com), 1-800-668-9653 <http://www.wolfenv.com/>.

## INTERNSHIP

**The Business Education Compact (BEC)** is an Oregon program placing qualified educators and students in internship positions. They are looking to build links with all types of firms in the environmental industry. The educator program is for the summer months, while the student program is year-round. BEC functions as an employment agency, handling recruiting, qualifying, scheduling interviews, progress monitoring, etc. Hourly rates are based on the skill level involved and include all payroll management. For information, visit [www.bedpdx.org](http://www.bedpdx.org) or call Andrew Witt 503-646-0242 ext 22.

**The Department of Environmental Engineering at Oregon State University** Is seeking summer internships for undergraduate students in their program. Companies who might benefit from an intern this summer should contact Bob Morgan at (360)837-1108(home phone) or email him at [morganrj@enr.orst.edu](mailto:morganrj@enr.orst.edu).



## - NEBC 2006 EVENTS CALENDAR -

<b>July</b>			
13	Board of Directors Meeting	12:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Hart Crowser – Seattle, WA
13	Olympic Chapter Rooftop Mixer	5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Hart Crowser – Seattle, WA
19	Olympic Chapter Management Forum Breakfast – Structuring Strategic Partnerships	7:00 AM – 9:30 AM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
20	Cascade Chapter Golf Tournament	7:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Langdon Farms Golf Course – Aurora, OR
<b>August</b>			
16	Olympic Chapter Management Forum Breakfast – Finance and Capital Strategies	7:00 AM – 9:30 AM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
<b>September</b>			
6	Olympic Chapter Committee Meeting	10:00 AM – 11:30 PM	AGC – Seattle, WA
6	Olympic Chapter Luncheon – Topic: Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
14	Board of Directors Meeting	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Lane Powell – Portland, OR
14	Cascade Chapter Summer Mixer	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Lane Powell – Portland, OR
19	Mercury Conference: Global Problem – Local Solutions	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	OMSI – Portland, OR
20	Olympic Chapter Management Forum Breakfast – Business Risk Management	7:00 AM – 9:30 AM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
28	Stormwater Solutions Showcase	3:30 PM – 6:30 PM	OMSI – Portland, OR
<b>October</b>			
4	Olympic Chapter Luncheon – Cultural Resource Assessments	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
12	Cascade Chapter Committee Meeting	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Governor Hotel – Portland, OR
12	Cascade Chapter Luncheon – Topic: Effective use of Prospective Purchaser Agreements in Redeveloping Brownfields	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Governor Hotel – Portland, OR
18 & 19	Northwest Environmental Summit & Trade Show	All Day	Tacoma Convention Center – Tacoma, WA
25	Olympic Chapter Management Forum Breakfast – Mergers and Acquisitions	7:00 AM – 9:30 AM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
<b>November</b>			
1	Olympic Chapter Committee Meeting	10:00 AM – 11:30 PM	AGC – Seattle, WA
1	Olympic Chapter Luncheon – Topic: Sustainability & the Environmental Industry	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
9	Cascade Chapter Luncheon – Topic: Brainstorming the Pollution Control Tax Credit	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Governor Hotel – Portland, OR
15	Olympic Chapter Management Forum Breakfast – Benefit Strategies for Owners	7:00 AM – 9:30 AM	McCormick & Schmick's Harborside – Seattle, WA
<b>December</b>			
6	Hazwoper Training	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Red Lion Hotel on the River – Portland, OR
7 & 8	Northwest Environmental Conference & Trade Show	All Day	Red Lion Hotel on the River – Portland, OR
7	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD	Red Lion Hotel on the River – Portland, OR

Event dates and topics subject to change.

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

**Associated Technologies Council.** NEBC has partnered with the Associated Technologies Council (ATC) in order to allow you to participate in their employee benefits program. ATC provides employee benefits to companies in Computer Technology, Bioscience, Telecommunications and now Environmental Sciences. Because ATC is able to pool firms together across a wide spectrum of desirable industries, they are able to provide medical benefits up to 20% below what you are probably paying now. In addition, there are benefits available like, paperless enrollment, single invoice billing and COBRA administration all provided at no cost to you. Contact Tino Versoza, NEBC Benefits Representative (503) 626-9135 or email: [tino@get-benefits.com](mailto:tino@get-benefits.com) for a free no obligation benefits analysis.

**Financial Planning Services with Waddell & Reed.** NEBC members receive at 20% discount on financial planning services provided by Waddell & Reed, a national financial planning firm founded in 1937. Planning services include retirement planning, wealth management, tax-efficient investing, education funding, estate protection, and succession planning for closely-held businesses. Other business services include retirement plans and financial education workshops. Contact Karen Einberger, Financial Advisor, Waddell & Reed, 206.283.6661 or [keinberger@wradvisors.com](mailto:keinberger@wradvisors.com).

**Sustainable Industries Journal (SIJ).** The premier magazine for sustainable business news on the West Coast. The NEBC member discount for the Sustainable Industries Journal is better than imagined – it's still a \$10 discount, but the new annual subscription rate is only \$39, that means that NEBC members can receive this new publication for only \$29/year! For more information look to: [www.sijournal.com/prtnr](http://www.sijournal.com/prtnr)

**Oregon Insider.** NEBC members may take advantage of a \$150 introductory rate for the first year (24 issues), a savings of \$95 off their regular base rate. In addition, NEBC members will enjoy an ongoing subscription rate of \$195 per year, which represents an ongoing savings of \$50 per year. To redeem your discount please contact Oregon Insider by calling David Light at 541.343.8504 or by email at [epi@rio.com](mailto:epi@rio.com).

**Northwest Environmental Training Center.** NEBC has partnered with NWETC to offer our member companies an exceptional opportunity to provide continuing education to its employees at a 20% discount off the published rate on all of NWETC's technical training workshops, conferences, and seminars. For more information, visit their website <http://www.nwetc.org/> or contact Erick McWayne at 206-762-1976.

**Environmental Expert.** NEBC has teamed with Environmental Expert, the world's largest online marketplace and information resource serving the environmental industry. At a reduced rate of just \$1,700, NEBC members can become Bronze Sponsors and get a year's worth of cost-effective exposure to a targeted audience of over 400,000 environmental professionals. Additional levels of sponsorship and optional advertising opportunities are also available. [www.environmental-expert.com](http://www.environmental-expert.com) For more information contact Tracy Barton, [tracy@combined-resources.com](mailto:tracy@combined-resources.com).

## NEBC CONTACT INFORMATION

[www.nebc.org](http://www.nebc.org)

P.O. Box 672  
Portland, OR 97207-0672  
Voice: 503.227.6361  
Toll Free: 800.985.NEBC (6322)  
Fax: 503.222.5050

**Executive Director**  
Robert Grott  
[robert@nebc.org](mailto:robert@nebc.org)

**Office Manager**  
Linda Sheeley  
[linda@nebc.org](mailto:linda@nebc.org)

**Program Manager**  
Sue Moir  
[sue@nebc.org](mailto:sue@nebc.org)