Conserving energy, creating jobs

Council says efficiency measures will lead to 47,000 positions over 20 years

By Libby Tucker
Columbian staff writer

Getting green will put more green in the wallets of 47,000 workers in four Western states over the next 20 years, according to a plan approved by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

The council said up to 3,500 direct jobs will be created in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana in the next two decades as energy management companies and utilities hire technicians to meet demand for energy efficiency services. The council predicted that another 43,500 jobs will be created indirectly over that period as businesses take advantage of energy cost savings to boost their payrolls.

Demand for power in those four Western states is expected to increase by 7,000 megawatts by 2030, about the amount of electricity consumed by more than five cities the size of Seattle over the course of a year. Up to 85 percent of that demand can be met through conservation efforts, according to the council's plan. Revised every five years, the plan serves as a guide for helping ensure the region has enough power and reliable transmission infrastructure.

Areas of energy savings 2010-2030 (measured in megawatts)

- Utility distribution systems: 300
- Industrial operations: 50
- Industrial equipment: 50
- Industrial process: 50
- Commercial buildings: 100
- Consumer electronics: 100
- Home and appliances: 200
- Commercial buildings: 2,000

TOTAL: 6,100 megawatts

SOURCE: Northwest Power and Conservation Council South Power Plan
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Demand for power in those four Western states is expected to increase by 7,000 megawatts by 2030, about the amount of electricity consumed by more than five cities the size of Seattle over the course of a year. Up to 80 percent of that demand can be met through conservation efforts, according to the council's plan.

Areas of energy savings 2010-2030 (measured in megawatts)

- **Utility distribution systems**
  - Energy savings: 400 mw

- **Industrial operations**
  - Equipment and systems optimization: Energy savings: 800 mw

- **Consumer, electronics**
  - 4% computers, monitors in homes and businesses
  - Energy savings: 100 mw

- **Commercial buildings**
  - Lighting and control systems Energy savings: 1,200 mw

**Totals**: 6,100 megawatts

SOURCE: Northwest Power and Conservation Council/South Power Plan

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