Andersen Road in Vancouver pierces the gray sky, a towering obelisk topped with what looks like a miniature jet engine.

But this is no mere ornament. Rather, it's a state-of-the-art wind-energy generator, the first of its kind used in North America, according to Tim Hilliker, general manager of operations at Kaady Car Washes. "We decided to buy from the Netherlands, because those guys really know wind," he said.

Hilliker, soft-spoken and clean-cut, has been in the business since age 15, helping childhood friend and current owner Chuck Kaady open the car wash chain's first location in 1976 on Portland's Barbur Boulevard.

Today the owner of 16 locations, including three in Vancouver, Chuck Kaady has soap and wax in his blood, with his father, George, running Portland-area car washes and a $5 price tag that has not changed in a decade, Kaady's has managed to survive to the power used at their 39 locations, totaling $185,000 last year, according to a company spokesman.

Columbia Credit Union has adopted a similar model, utilizing wind farms located across the Pacific Northwest.

And some Southwest Washington manufacturers are taking notice, including Vancouver-based Christensen Shipyard, which dedicated a portion of their luxury yacht-building operation to the production of wind turbines last year.

The wind turbine installed at Kaady's Andersen Road location isn't the company's only green initiative.

"Washing your car here uses about a third of the water you would use at home," Hilliker said.

Not only does Kaady's conserve water, according to Hilliker, the car wash sends wastewater to sewage treatment facilities to be cleaned instead of directly into storm drains, which could send pollutants into the water supply.

Together with cost-cutting measures such as computerized

Kaady Car Wash, Vancouver
Year founded: 1976
Number of employees: 5 full-time

MOVERS & SHAKERS

FEATURE

TIM KENT
Vancouver surveyor named Oregon Surveyor of the Year

Tim Kent, PLS, an employee of MacKay & Sposito, Inc., was named Oregon Surveyor of the Year at the annual Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon conference on Jan. 14.

A Vancouver resident, Kent has over 37 years of land surveying experience. In addition, he has spent the past five years as a professor, first at the Oregon Institute of Technology and currently at Clark College as program coordinator and instructor for the school's Surveying Program. Tim holds PLS licenses in the states of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, Colorado and is also an Oregon Water Rights Examiner.

Previously, Kent was elected Land Surveyors' Association of Washington Surveyor of the Year in 1996 and 1998 — making him the only land surveyor to win the award twice.

Kent is an active member of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, National Society of Professional Surveyors, PLSO and LSAW.

BILL BRYANT

Bill Bryant, an insurance agent with Bryant and Associates in Vancouver, assumed the position of board president at Evergreen Habitat for Humanity last week.

A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Bryant has earned the insurance and investment designations of Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, and Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow.

Bryant recently celebrated 36 years in the insurance and investment industry. In addition to his Habitat for Humanity work, Bryant volunteers his time as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Since 1991, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity has worked to improve living conditions for low-income Clark County residents. Currently, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity has had more than 120 families attend information seminars on home ownership.