

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Zoo adds more solar power ***State's largest community solar project is underway on Phinney Ridge***

WHAT: The largest community solar project in Washington state is taking shape in Seattle's Phinney Ridge neighborhood. Through a partnership with Seattle City Light, Woodland Park Zoo and Phinney Neighborhood Association (PNA), Puget Sound Solar will install 60 new solar panels on the zoo's Rain Forest Food Pavilion.

The Community Solar on Phinney Ridge project is placing a 16 kilowatt system on the zoo's food pavilion with an additional 45 kilowatt array of new solar panels currently being installed on the zoo's Commissary building, located behind the scenes.

An additional 13 kilowatt system has been installed on the PNA's historic Phinney Center, located at N. 67th St. & Phinney Ave. N. Combined with the zoo's new solar system, Community Solar on Phinney Ridge will generate more than 75,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, making it the largest community solar project in the state of Washington.

WHEN: **Tuesday, September 16, 11:00 am-noon**

WHERE: Woodland Park Zoo's Rain Forest Food Pavilion located near the West Entrance. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. or proceed to the food pavilion. Park in the Otter Lot or Bear Lot off N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave. N.

INFO: City Light customers can purchase one or more pieces of the project's output for \$150 per unit, with a limit of 125 units per customer. This cost can be paid over two installments on the customer's electricity bill. In return, participants receive credit for their units' production on their City Light bills through June 30, 2020, along with all state renewable energy production incentives. Visit www.seattle.gov/communitysolar for more information on how to participate in Community Solar on Phinney Ridge.

Currently, the largest community solar project in the state is a 74.1 kilowatt system at Poulsbo Middle School that produces about 72,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Other solar-powered features at the zoo include solar arrays on the Historic Carousel, also installed by Puget Sound Solar, which currently generate more than 9 kilowatts of power into the City Light system—enough energy to offset the cost of powering the carousel—and small solar panels on parking meters. As an industry leader in sustainable operations, the zoo has formally adopted a sustainability plan focused on reducing zoo greenhouse gas emissions to 7% below 1999 levels by 2012 and 20% by 2020. Through public and private partnerships, the zoo's feature sustainability projects include Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for the zoo's West Entrance and LEED Gold for Zoomazium, an indoor nature play space. The award-winning, sustainably built Humboldt penguin exhibit uses geothermal energy and an innovative filtration system that saves 3 million gallons of water and nearly 22,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year.

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