

White Bluffs Solar Station uses 242 multi-crystalline silicon photovoltaic panels to convert sunlight into electricity. The station is located in South Central Washington state where the sun shines over 300 days per year. | *continued...*



**INFORMATION CONTACT**

Public Information

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**TYPE**

Solar (Polycrystalline photovoltaic)

**GENERATING CAPACITY**

38.7 kilowatts DC

**LOCATION**

10 miles north of Richland, WA

**SITE SIZE**

6,000 square feet

**PHASES**

Construction Started

Meter Installed/First Electricity Produced

Site Dedication

March 2002

April 2002

May 2002



White Bluffs Solar Station was a cooperative effort between Energy Northwest, Bonneville Power Administration and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The U.S. Department of Energy also contributed to funding of the project. The facility is located near Columbia Generating Station approximately 10 miles north of Richland, Washington.

The project demonstrates Energy Northwest’s commitment to developing environmentally friendly, powerful solutions.

**RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE POWER**

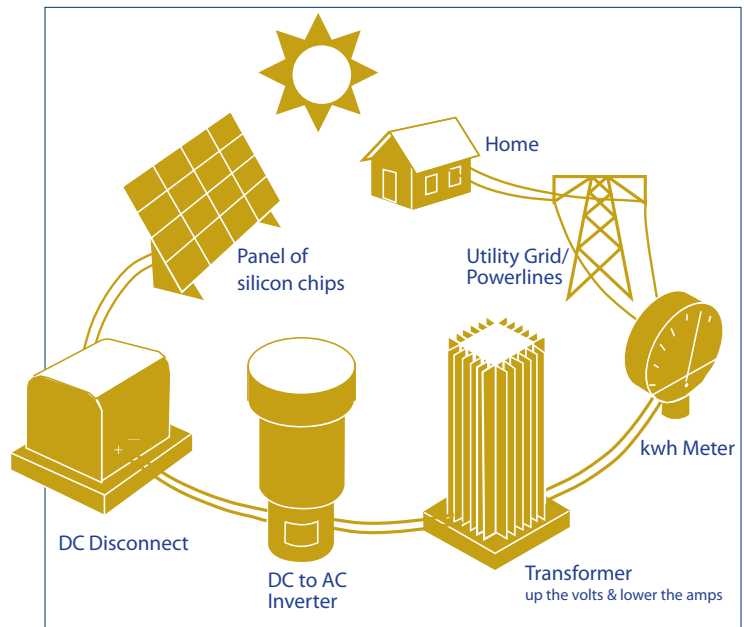
Solar power is clean, renewable energy. The White Bluffs panels require minimal maintenance and produce electricity even on overcast days. While not the lowest cost power option, solar power is immune to fuel cost fluctuations common to many fossil fuel power plants.

Solar technology advances continue to reduce the cost of panel production while increasing the amount of power produced. Nevertheless, solar power generally remains higher cost than most other options including nuclear, hydro and wind power.

Committed to a well-rounded portfolio of environmentally responsible power, Energy Northwest and Bonneville Power Administration provide all of the power produced at White Bluffs at four cents per kilowatt-hour, much lower than the cost to produce the power. The Bonneville Environmental Foundation sells “green tags” from the facility to businesses that want to support construction of new renewable resources or companies mitigating pollutants.

**HOW IT WORKS**

Sunlight strikes the panel passing through layers of silicon chips, creating energy. It is then fed into a direct current (DC) disconnect to convert the DC power to alternating current (AC) used in the U.S. The AC power then passes through a transformer to increase the voltage for transmission on the regional power grid.



**ENERGY NORTHWEST**

*Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state joint operating agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. The consortium’s nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar power projects deliver nearly 1,300 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services. Energy Northwest owns and operates Columbia Generating Station, Nine Canyon Wind Project, Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, and White Bluffs Solar Station.*