

For immediate release

Subject: Electrifying Transportation conference

Contact: Ron Johnston-Rodriguez or Aimee Pope

Port of Chelan County 509-663-5159 or aimee@ccpd.com

Fifth Annual Power UP! Summit to be Held in Wenatchee, WA

Wenatchee, WA - Power UP! Summit 2009 is fast approaching, with an impressive cadre of speakers poised to share industry insights and expertise. The summit will be held **Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 28 at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, WA**. Members of the public are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to view advanced plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) and electric vehicles (EV) on display in the Wenatchee Convention Center parking lot. Vehicles to see include the Electric Tesla Roadster, Electric Toyota Rav4, Electric Ford Ranger, Electric Bad Boy Buggie ATV, and much more.

Power UP! Summit, now in its 5th year, is the premier Northwest conference on emerging technologies for electrifying transportation. This year's event is presented by the Advanced Vehicle Innovation (AVI), and sponsored by Port of Chelan County; Gridpoint; Idaho National Laboratory; Department of Energy; Firefly; Wenatchee Valley College; Washington Public Utility District Association (WAPUDA); Ogden, Murphy, Wallace PLLC; and Cordell, Neher & Company, PLLC.

Power UP! Summit 2009 will feature an aggressive conference schedule packed with the latest industry information on plug-in hybrids and all-electric vehicles including regional pilot projects; power grid interaction; battery technologies; solar technologies; charging stations; fleet applications; regional initiatives; industry career opportunities and training needs. The goal of the summit is to further prepare the Pacific Northwest for leadership in the development, production and deployment of this game-changing technology.

"The greater Wenatchee area is positioning itself as a hub for PHEV demonstration and technical training," said Ron Johnston-Rodriguez, Port of Chelan County economic development director and summit coordinator. "The Power UP! Summit is an excellent opportunity for industry leaders from around the nation to get a first-hand look at what's happening in this region."

The Power UP! Summit is a forum to facilitate the in-depth networking that is foundational to solid industry connections. In fact, industry leaders and innovators travel from all across the U.S. and Canada each year to take advantage of this truly unique opportunity.

The Advanced Vehicle Innovations (AVI) Consortium was founded in 2005 to establish the Greater Wenatchee Area as a Northwest center for researching, developing, testing, demonstrating, manufacturing and deploying technologies for advanced vehicles powered by electricity and other alternative fuels. AVI's highest priority project, "PluginCenter", is focused on all-electric and flex-fuel plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) charged by clean and sustainably generated electricity.

Plug-in Center activities and plans include:

- Refining and maintaining www.PluginCenter.com, a virtual information center about plug-in hybrid and electric vehicle development and technology for Northwest communities, utilities, fleets, companies, citizens, and policy makers.
- Staging vehicle demonstrations and educational workshops and presentations.
- Providing test-bed services for prototype vehicles, components, charging stations and grid connections.
- Identifying and/or providing facilities for component design, research and manufacturing activities in the Greater Wenatchee Area (WA).
- Integrating solar and wind charging systems with electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles
- Exploring PHEV technology for applications in agriculture and tourism.
- Training automotive technicians to service hybrid, electric and PHEV vehicles.
- Partnering in the creation of a statewide plan for investment in flex-fuel plug-in hybrid and electric vehicle technologies.
- Generating new partnerships through hosting conferences and workshops to advance the PHEV industry in the Northwest.
- Launching and coordinating a statewide PHEV Pilot Project in conjunction with Washington State, Idaho National Lab / DOE, and a dozen fleets.

AVI Factoids

The AVI consortium includes fourteen agencies from Washington's Chelan and Douglas and many private and public partners throughout the state and nation. The Port of Chelan County convened and leads the cooperative effort.

AVI introduced Washington State to PHEVs in 2005, and enlisted public agencies to help launch Austin Energy's Plug-in Partners National Campaign, demonstrating a market for PHEVs to the auto industry and policy makers.

The first government agency in the Northwest to acquire a PHEV was AVI's founding member, the Port of Chelan County in 2006. In 2008, five public agencies in the Greater Wenatchee Area will operate PHEVs as participants in the AVI-led statewide PHEV Pilot Project.

The volunteer AVI Tech Group, a subgroup of the consortium, meets monthly for hands-on experimentation with plug-in vehicles. In October 2006 the group completed the conversion of the Port of Chelan County's Toyota Prius to a PHEV
In April 2007, the AVI Tech Group converted a 1950's era tractor into an all-electric cultivator.

AVI assisted the Lake Chelan School District to acquire a plug-in hybrid electric school bus in 2007; it burns biodiesel in its internal combustion engine.

*For complete information about AVI and how you can become a partner,
call Ron Johnston-Rodriguez at 509-663-5159 or email info@plugincenter.com.*

**Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle
Demonstration Project of North Central Washington**
Affiliated with the Proposed "Northwest PHEV Pilot Project"

Background

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) have received widespread endorsement as the most promising near-term path to significant reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels for automotive transportation. To fully develop and realize the benefits of plug-ins, real-world field-testing and demonstrations are needed to refine the technology for mass production and market acceptance, and to address a range of other issues important to utilities, communities, fleets, citizens and the State.

Alerted to the opportunities inherent in emerging PHEV technology, the State legislature directed the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to initiate research on plug-in hybrid vehicles to address questions about grid interaction, emissions, energy storage, charging cycles, fuel consumption, economics and driver behavior (ESSHB 1303, Section 408). In response, the Advanced Vehicle Innovations (AVI) consortium (with Port of Chelan County as 'lead' agency) submitted a proposal to CTED for a statewide PHEV pilot project. Following review and refinement, the plan was accepted, and will soft-launch at AVI's PowerUp! Summit in Wenatchee in May 2008.

The year-long study will be based on the collection and analysis of data from 14 Toyota Prius hybrids that will be converted to PHEVs with A123/Hymotion lithium battery kits. These fleet-owned vehicles will be operated by diverse organizations throughout the State, in a variety of road and weather conditions in urban, suburban, rural and small town environments.

Information about vehicle performance will be collected from each vehicle via "grid aware", GPS-equipped data-logging devices designed by V2Green, and by driver/fleet reports.

Vehicle data (e.g., mileage, electricity consumption, emissions) will be collected, analyzed, and reported by Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity group, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. INL is purchasing the data-loggers. Participating fleets each contribute their own Prius, and the full cost of conversion kits. Conversions will be conducted at Wenatchee Valley College's automotive training facility by certified A123/Hymotion kit installers. Participating fleets will enroll at least one technician in a Continuing Education Class that will include observation of the installation, an introduction to PHEV technology, driving techniques, and a primer on the Pilot Project. Several project vehicles are to be charged at solar, and possibly wind powered facilities.

Information and lessons from this project will be used, at a minimum, to:

- **Provide fleet managers and consumers with technical information on which to base future purchasing decisions.**
- **Optimize the development and integration of PHEVs with the ("smart") grid (e.g., assessing demand-response, vehicle-to-home and vehicle-to-grid opportunities and challenges.)**
- **Assist communities to prepare for a proliferation of increasingly electrified vehicles.**
- **Develop curriculum for community college level automotive service training.**
- **Define consumer/driver vehicle charging behaviors and consumer education needs.**
- **Assess the ability of PHEVs to lower transportation-generated GHGs in Washington.**

- Mobilize and facilitate creation of a vision and strategic plan for developing and deploying plug-in hybrid technology in Washington State.