

Elements

NEWS FOR EMPLOYEES PRESENT & PAST FALL 2024

Winning gold for being green

6/6/2024

An all-hands commitment to sustainability has earned NW Natural's Sherwood Operations & Training Center the Gold Level Green Business Certification from Washington County.

To be eligible for this recognition, companies must demonstrate comprehensive, successful efforts to recycle, use less resources like energy, water, and office supplies, reduce the use of toxic products, educate and engage employees and support the community.



“NW Natural has long been committed to extensively reducing environmental impacts from our operations and facilities,” Joe Karney, NW Natural Vice President for Engineering and Utility Operations said. “We’re honored to receive the Green Business Certification from Washington County, and especially want to congratulate our facilities employees who made this possible.”

NW Natural takes sustainability in operations seriously. For years, the company has had a Sustainability & Equity Engagement Committee (SEEC) – a group of employees who volunteer to promote continuous improvement, adopting environmentally friendly practices

and engaging on equity issues. Many of the practices that earned NW Natural this recognition from Washington County resulted from ideas and pilot projects generated by the group.

Among the specific actions the company takes as part of greener businesses practices is going paperless whenever possible, using recycled materials, re-using supplies and materials whenever possible, using third-party certified green cleaning products and Green Seal-certified paint, ensuring employees are trained on dangers associated with hazardous products, installing low-flow faucets and toilets, using high-efficiency lighting, and following best practices on weatherization like double-pane windows, weather sealing doors and using programmable thermostats to reduce heating and air conditioning after hours.

The certification also recognizes NW Natural's commitment to sustainability and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The company must exhibit best practices on sustainability and equity through purchasing practices, seeking feedback for continuous improvement, and training to advance DEI in the workplace.

ACROSS THE COMPANY

NW Natural, Modern Hydrogen unveil clean hydrogen, carbon capture project

5/16/2024

NW Natural and Modern Hydrogen welcomed more than 100 guests and employees to a May 15 unveiling of a new methane pyrolysis project to produce clean hydrogen while capturing solid carbon.

Equipment designed by Modern Hydrogen was installed at NW Natural's Central Resource Center in southeast Portland. Solid carbon being captured from this process is collected and incorporated into Modern Hydrogen's proprietary, performance-enhancing asphalt products. These are used in applications such as paving and road repair projects—including a section of asphalt surrounding the equipment installation at NW Natural's facility.



Hydrogen generated on site is blended at low volumes with natural gas and delivered via existing energy infrastructure to NW Natural customers.

“Over the years we have held to our core values of safety and service, while embracing new technologies and better ways of doing things,” said NW Natural CEO David Anderson. “Today we’re looking to renewable natural gas, clean hydrogen, carbon capture and other ways to decarbonize our system. People are eager for solutions that can be put into action today, and we’re proud to play our part.”

“We are proud to stand at the forefront of this transformative journey, pushing the boundaries of what’s possible in energy production and environmental stewardship,” said Modern Hydrogen co-founder and CEO Tony Pan. He cited several landmark firsts being achieved through this utility partnership, including the first utility distributed pyrolysis system, the first pipeline injection of pyrolytic hydrogen, and the first solid carbon capture project for both companies.

Seattle-based Modern Hydrogen is a global leader in distributed hydrogen technologies, specializing in methane pyrolysis and advanced carbon management solutions that leverage existing natural gas infrastructure to deliver practical, clean energy solutions tailored for sectors that are traditionally difficult to decarbonize. Investors and customers include Bill Gates, NextEra Energy, National Grid, and NW Natural.

NW Natural's David Anderson credited the Modern Hydrogen and NW Natural project teams as well as workers represented by local unions and contractors in getting the project up-and-running.

This three-year pilot project is the latest effort by NW Natural to explore potential hydrogen applications. This includes extensive testing at our Sherwood Operations and Training facility, demonstrating the safety and performance of hydrogen blends ranging from 5 to 20 percent in natural gas systems and equipment.

Attendees included the NW Natural and Modern Hydrogen project teams, key customers, elected officials and staff, regulatory staff, union representatives, members of the media and other invited guests. Thanks to the project team and the many people who helped make this event a success.

NW Natural Holdings acquires Puttman Infrastructure

6/5/2024

NW Natural Water announced the acquisition of Infrastructure Capital Holdings (ICH) and its assets, including Puttman Infrastructure. Tom Puttman, president of Puttman Infrastructure and ICH, joins the company as president of NW Natural Water.

The transaction adds an initial 4,200 water, wastewater and recycled water customers across Oregon, Idaho and California, and is expected to grow to 19,000 connections based on the pipeline of approved project developments. The agreement also includes water system service contracts with several large Oregon clients.

“Our acquisition of Puttman and ICH strategically expands our presence into the recycled water market, enhances our existing water and wastewater services business, and provides further opportunities for incremental investments in high-growth areas,” said Justin Palfreyman, president of NW Natural Holdings. “The Puttman platform offers us a tremendous pipeline of long-term growth and development opportunities while enhancing our utility management expertise, innovative thinking and project delivery capabilities.”

This transaction expands NW Natural Water’s utility portfolio as well as its services business. It also marks its first investments in the recycled water segment and initial entry into the California market.

A leader in the sustainable infrastructure market, Puttman Infrastructure has significant experience investing, developing and operating innovative water, wastewater and recycled water systems and has rapidly grown the ICH utility portfolio across the western United States. Both Puttman and ICH are headquartered in Portland, Oregon and serve a variety of customers in the residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.

“Joining NW Natural Water reflects an exciting next step for our two companies,” said Tom Puttman. “I’m looking forward to being part of a strong and growing water company and leading its team in the next phase of expansion. I believe NW Natural Water has the financial strength, resources, expertise and values to meet the long-term needs of the communities we serve.”

Oregon Food Bank names NW Natural as changemaker

4/03/2024

In recognition of NW Natural’s contributions to the **Oregon Food Bank**, the state’s largest hunger relief agency has named us as one of its Changemakers for 2024.

Oregon Food Bank serves communities throughout the state and southwest Washington, and its mission is to “eliminate hunger and its root causes... because no one should be hungry.” The 2024 Changemakers program honors partners whose mobilization helps end hunger at its roots.

NW Natural is a longtime supporter of the Oregon Food Bank.



“NW Natural believes in the work Oregon Food Bank is doing to eliminate hunger and address its root causes across Oregon and SW Washington,” said Sama Shagaga, Government Affairs and Partnerships Manager at NW Natural. “We recognize and value the impact Oregon Food Bank has had on outcomes for youth and families across our communities who are facing barriers based on racial, social, economic and geographic inequalities.”

Pre-apprenticeship program helps women in custody gain critical skills for self-sufficiency after release

5/13/2024

[Union Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training \(U-PACT\)](#) is a powerful example of targeted training in action: a 12-week program launched by Ironworkers Local 29, Cement Masons Local 555, and Bricklayers Local 1. This program provides training for women in custody nearing release from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility with direct or preferred entry into an apprenticeship upon release.

“This pre-apprenticeship offers graduates a real family wage career with full family healthcare, and retirement benefits. The skills learned in the program are valuable to employers and help prepare adults in custody for success in the construction trades,” said Lorne Bulling, Political Coordinator, Ironworkers Local 29.

“The wraparound resources—transportation assistance, tools, and first month of union dues and fees—that we are able to offer because of grants like the one NW Natural gave us are vital to success,” Bulling added. “They remove a major barrier to those coming out of the prison system often with significant fees and fines.”

U-PACT is currently hosting its third cohort, and NW Natural is proud to help support our workforce partners with funding for this initiative. Visit [this highlight from NW Labor Press](#) to hear from some of the instructors and participants in the program.

