

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Local Sustainable Home Builders Lead the Way in the Bend Energy Challenge

The Saginaw Sunset Community is building momentum for clean, efficient and renewable energy in Bend by helping to dramatically reduce the community's energy use and carbon footprint.

Bend, Oregon – May 13, 2015 – Teton Gravity Research (TGR), the Jackson Hole, Wyoming-based media company that produces premiere ski, snowboard and surf films, and also supports a range of environmental issues, set out to find America's mountain towns with the largest carbon footprint. Using data from researchers at the University of California at Berkeley that weighed over 37 variables including household energy use, consumer expenditures, and transportation, TGR was able to rank the top 10 most polluting mountain towns.

They are:

- 10: Jackson, Wyoming**
- 9: Truckee, California**
- 8: Aspen, Colorado**
- 7: Bend, Oregon**
- 6: Park City, Utah**
- 5: Stowe, Vermont**
- 4: Mount Hood, Oregon**
- 3: Steamboat Springs, Colorado**
- 2: Missoula, Montana**
- 1: Salt Lake City, Utah**

Bend, Oregon found itself in the number 7 spot with 46.2 metric tons of CO2 pollution per household. This is not particularly surprising when you consider Bend is one of the fastest growing communities in Oregon. In fact, aiming to be a “more livable, economically vital, transportation-efficient, sustainable, pedestrian-friendly community” has caused a great influx of residents in just the last 15 years. The TGR team found that the two biggest polluters in Bend were housing and transportation.

The Bend Energy Challenge

The Georgetown University Energy Prize is a national competition with the goal of reducing energy use. 50 cities and counties across the U.S. are competing for a \$5 million prize which will be awarded in 2017 to the community that leads the way in reducing their carbon footprint.

The **Bend Energy Challenge** (BEC) is Bend, Oregon's team in the competition and local members are counting on Bend's creative, competitive and entrepreneurial spirit to organize and build momentum for clean, efficient and renewable energy in the community. The BEC was created to help everyone in Bend save energy and make their homes healthier and more comfortable.

Heading up the energy challenge is the Bend Environmental Center, a group of locals committed to sustainability and whose initiatives seek to build a society that meets human needs equitably, lives within the planet's ecological limits, and build a prosperous economy for all.

“Achieving sustainability is no small task. So much needs to be done to tackle the big problems of our day—like climate change and the loss of biodiversity—problems rooted in individual daily choices and the systems and policies that influence them. It can seem overwhelming. But that does not stop us. We cannot do it, but we can be part of the solution.”

Saginaw Sunset – A Big Part of That Solution

The Saginaw Sunset Community is an example of a project that helps lead the local effort toward energy conservation and sustainability. This new community will boast high performance custom homes that use a balance of modern technology and careful planning to maximize both the comfort and energy use of every square foot of space.

Each home will:

- Be Earth Advantage and Energy Trust Certified
- Be solar ready
- Feature home monitoring
- Be oriented to maximize passive solar energy
- Include high-efficiency windows for excellent temperature balance
- Feature energy saving window framing
- Include high efficiency insulation
- Use thermal buffer construction
- Include premium draft barriers
- Use advanced lighting technology
- Feature optimized comfort delivery and air flow
- Include a high-tech furnace

Jim and Nunzie Guild, a local couple behind the “green” community, have been building and remodeling homes in the Bend, Oregon area for more than 30 years. The two have a passion for building green, sustainable, eco-conscious homes that boast superior craftsmanship.

"The Saginaw Sunset community is about the home building envelope, energy efficiency, renewable energy and air quality. It's about water conservation, resource conservation – meaning preserving old-growth trees within the community. And it's about being an urban infill development – staying in the heart of Bend instead of expanding the City's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)."

Jim and Nunzie are both active members of The Environmental Center of Central Oregon where Jim serves on the board of directors. They are also active advocates of The Bend Energy Challenge.

Saginaw Sunset is a community of High Performance homes built with unparalleled, truly modern craftsmanship. These durable, solar-ready, eco-conscious houses, flowing with fresh, clean air, prove, once and for all, that form and function can elegantly coexist.

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