



KCEDA

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Climate Trust and the Klamath County Economic Development Association Launch Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program in Southern Oregon

Portland, Ore.- The Climate Trust has reached an agreement with the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) to commit \$250,000 to fund greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction projects, also known as carbon offset projects, in Oregon's Klamath and Lake counties. A greenhouse gas reduction project is implemented specifically to reduce the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This new program will provide examples of how offset projects can play an important role in combating climate change. The program will also will support the sustainable development goals of the region.

The program will first identify economic sectors that could generate cost-effective CO₂ reductions. Once these sectors have been identified, KCEDA will work with local businesses to propose and develop specific projects from which The Trust will purchase CO₂ offsets. The Trust considers this a minimum two-year pilot program to test focusing offset funds in a confined geographic area in order to develop offset supply and capability. "We are very excited about this opportunity to work with KCEDA to implement high-quality carbon offset projects in Southern Oregon," stated Mike Burnett, executive director of The Trust. "The projects developed under this program will further demonstrate how offsets can be a valuable part of global warming policy."

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program will further KCEDA's broader goals of creating an integrated, region-wide approach to climate sustainability and demonstrating how it can be a vital part of a winning economic development strategy. Trey Senn, executive director of KCEDA, thanked The Climate Trust and the members of TEAM Klamath for all of the hard work in bringing this pilot program to our area. Mr. Senn stated, "We recognize the value and

importance of utilizing our sustainable natural resources as part of a comprehensive economic development strategy, and we look forward to a successful partnership working with The Climate Trust.”

The funding for this initiative has been provided by Portland General Electric (PGE) to fulfill a state requirement to offset greenhouse gas emissions from its new Port Westward Generating Project north of Clatskanie, Oregon. ###

The Climate Trust is a not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to promote climate change solutions by providing high-quality GHG offsets to both regulatory and voluntary markets from projects that meet strict criteria for environmental integrity. The Climate Trust also works to advance sound offset policy. The Climate Trust has offset more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide with a portfolio of over \$4.7 million invested in GHG offset projects, and is currently placing an additional \$7 million in project-based reductions – making it one of the largest and most experienced institutional offset buyers in the U.S.

The **Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA)** is a private, non-profit corporation chartered to foster and develop responsible industrial activities in Oregon’s Klamath Region. KCEDA has served as a lead for economic development contact since 1975, and its goal is to bring economic vitality back to the Klamath Region. KCEDA is a unique organization, reflecting the best of private responsibility and public dedication. Its mission: to provide, through tailored recruitment and retention/expansion programs, new opportunities for jobs, a diversified, value-added industrial base and expanded economic development.