

## *Five Sites in Kittitas Valley Selected* Major New Solar Power Development Announced

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TUUSSO Energy, LLC announced plans today to build five solar energy power plants near Ellensburg, Washington. Together the projects slated for the sunny Kittitas Valley will total 25 megawatts (MW) or enough electricity to supply roughly 5,000 homes. TUUSSO Energy's investment in Kittitas County will total nearly \$50 million.

The Seattle-based independent power producer, which has developed solar power plants around the country, will deliver its carbon-free power to Puget Sound Energy (PSE). TUUSSO's projects will expand PSE's supply of renewable energy while creating jobs and adding property tax revenue to Kittitas County.

"We are excited to be developing these projects," said TUUSSO's Jason Evans. "As windy as Kittitas County is, its solar potential is great too. Local residents support renewable energy, and we'll be able to generate the clean power PSE customers want at competitive prices."

TUUSSO Energy's five projects are known as the Columbia Solar Projects referencing Washington's premiere natural energy resource. They are sited on 232 acres of private agricultural lands, and will connect to PSE's local power lines. The projects will deploy ground-mounted photovoltaic polycrystalline panels that directly convert the sun's rays into electricity.

TUUSSO has applied to Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) for a comprehensive, "one-stop," permit. Kittitas County will participate in the EFSEC process despite the local moratorium on solar power projects it adopted in January. The moratorium, which extends through this year, persuaded TUUSSO to file at EFSEC given its projects' timelines.

TUUSSO plans to have the Columbia Solar Projects generating electricity by November 2018.