

Mission Critical: Clean Energy and the U.S. Military - PORTLAND, OR (October 11, 2012)



Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) enjoyed an enthusiastic turnout as nearly one hundred Portland business leaders met to hear from three distinguished speakers about the commitments by the U.S. military that are stimulating innovation and providing critical support for the emerging U.S. clean energy sector – with significant impacts for Oregon.

Oregon First Lady Cylvia Hayes, Brigadier General Mike Caldwell (Oregon National Guard), and **E2's James Marvin** (CDR, USN - retired and CEO of Federal Green Solutions) each presented interesting facts and perspectives on the importance of leveraging clean energy technologies.

The speakers' knowledge and experience created a dynamic demonstration of what is already happening and what will happen in the U.S. military's energy strategy.

Leveraging her experience in the local clean economy, Ms. Hayes highlighted what Oregon is doing to support renewable energy, and argued that the economy is not only *recovering*, but it is being *reinvented*. She pointed out that green initiatives can plant the seeds of a new economy that sprout higher-paying, more sustainable jobs that offer better opportunities to workers while preserving America's competitiveness.



General Caldwell – joined by Colonel Christian Rees, Director of Installations for the Oregon National Guard – spoke of what the Oregon Guard is doing to cut dependence on fossil fuels at its facilities across the state. In explaining the Oregon Guard’s ambitious energy targets it became clear that the military can have an immense impact by spurring efficiencies and innovations all along the supply chain.

E2’s James Marvin presented memorably on his experience as a 20-year Navy SEAL and connected the loss of human lives to the military’s dependence on fossil fuels. He pointed out that flying barrels of oil to remote parts of Afghanistan is not only incredibly costly, but it’s a precarious strategic necessity that places human lives at risk.

The combination of these perspectives was a compelling vision of the natural alliance between the U.S. military and the clean energy industry, and how this partnership can support mission-oriented forces at the front while creating fruitful industries here at home.

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