

## Building a Sustainable Future

By Harry Haigood, CEO, One PacificCoast Bank

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) annual "World Energy Outlook" released in November 2011 contains a grim forecast on climate change.

"The scale of the energy challenge is becoming increasingly difficult," said Maria van der Hoeven, IEA's Executive Director. "Without an urgent and radical change in energy policy, the world risks locking itself into an unsustainable energy future."

That future could be sooner than we think. Global energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) jumped 5.3% in 2010. The report predicts that we are on a path to increase global temperature by 3.5°C by 2035, well beyond the 2°C threshold that most scientist believe could trigger catastrophic climate events.

## *Banks can play a key role in driving clean energy investments.*

New plant and building construction, without investments in clean energy, 'lock-in' a high carbon infrastructure. Once a building or plant is completed, there is little incentive to construct a cleaner replacement prior to the end of its useful life, typically 50 to 100 years.

If we continue to build fossil-fueled factories and inefficient buildings it will be increasingly difficult for us to stop global warming from irreversibly altering the earth's climate.

Banks can play a key role in driving clean energy investments today, and helping cultivate a more sustainable tomorrow. At One PacificCoast Bank, we take this responsibility very seriously.

Our team of commercial lenders has expertise in green building, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. With this expertise, we support our client's efforts to incorporate high efficiency building designs into their real estate projects as well as their efforts to harness renewable energy sources.



In addition to financing green investments, we believe banks should lead by example.

In 2010, our Portland office was awarded LEED Gold status for Commercial Interiors, while our Seattle office is located in a mixed-use building with LEED Silver certification. Our Ilwaco office incorporates water and energy saving systems, and our Oakland office is certified through the Bay Area Green Business Program.

While the IEA report is daunting, Ms. Van der Hoeven offers a glimmer of hope. "Of course there is still time to act," she says. "But the window of opportunity is shutting fast." Through beneficial banking we hope to keep the window of opportunity open and triple-paned.

To speak with a Banker about financing your next commercial real estate project, please call us at 510.550.8431, or email [cwick@opcb.com](mailto:cwick@opcb.com).

An executive summary of the IEA's World Energy Outlook can be found here: [http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/docs/weo2011/executive\\_summary.pdf](http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/docs/weo2011/executive_summary.pdf)

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**BACK TO THE ROOTS**

Oakland-based Back to the Roots, an OPCB customer since 2011, sells a grow-your-own gourmet mushroom garden using recycled coffee grounds. More at our Customer Corner >> [opcb.com](http://opcb.com)



**OPCB Events of NOTE:**

- December 1**  
NW Environmental Business Council Holiday Mixer  
<http://www.nebc.org/Events.aspx>
  - December 6 - Webinar**  
BALLE's Accelerating Community Capital  
[www.livingeconomies.org/events\\_community\\_capital](http://www.livingeconomies.org/events_community_capital)
  - December 6**  
Climate Solutions Annual Dinner  
<http://climatesolutions.org/events/3rd-annual-oregon-dinner>
  - December 12**  
Rainier Biogas Dairy Manure Digester Groundbreaking  
43218 208th Ave SE Enumclaw, WA 98022
  - December 14**  
Rose CDC Open House  
7901-7929 SE 92nd Ave. Portland, OR 97266
  - December 17**  
East Bay Asian Local Community Development Corp  
Art Exhibit Changing Landscapes Reception  
310 8th St., Oakland, CA
  - December 25**  
Christmas Day -- All branches closed
  - January 2**  
New Year's Day -- All branches closed
  - January 16**  
Martin Luther King Jr., Day -- All branches closed
- More at our website >> <http://onepacificcoastbank.com/events.aspx>

**Happy Holidays!**

From all of us at **One PacificCoast Bank**, we wish you a peaceful and joyous holiday season, and a prosperous **2012**.



Want to comment on this newsletter?  
Please contact:  
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