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## Northwest SEED becomes Spark Northwest

**SEATTLE, WA (June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017)** - Northwest SEED announces a new name: Spark Northwest. This new name, and its accompanying bright green spark logo reflect the organization's vision to expand the reach of affordable, locally-controlled clean energy, and doubles down on its longstanding commitment to help communities reduce their dependency on high-carbon fuels.

Spark Northwest (formerly Northwest SEED), also announces that it has launched six local governments on the path to achieve the national SolSmart designation. With help from Spark Northwest, the communities of King County, Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Edmonds and Langley, will make it faster and easier for residents to go solar.

The organization began in 2001 with a focus on rural economic development through wind energy projects. It demonstrated that local control and ownership of homegrown energy production is possible. It later expanded to provide low-cost energy conservation solutions, and to enable neighborhood adoption of solar energy. Spark Northwest's *Affordable Clean Energy for All* program breaks down barriers to clean energy for low-income residents. And its *Solarize Northwest* program has helped create 19 clean energy communities in Washington and Oregon by bringing homeowners together with discounted installation services and local bank financing. This program not only saves homeowners money, but also provides local jobs and environmental benefits.

Spark Northwest believes communities will lead the clean energy transformation. Through its distinct grassroots approach, it works to accelerate this shift one community at a time. Consumers gain control of their renewable energy resource while strengthening economic viability and resiliency. Overall, the organization's programs have served urban and rural energy consumers in over 100 communities.

*"Whether it's leading renewable energy workshops, advising the governor on energy policy, or putting solar on rooftops across the city, Spark Northwest inspires everyday people to act,"* says Karen Conover, Founder of Global Energy Concepts and Solarize Northwest participant.

Jennifer Grove, Spark Northwest Executive Director, adds, *"Consumers want more control over their energy future, and the Northwest, with its vast natural resources, is positioned to lead the clean energy transition. Building on our innovative set of programs, Spark Northwest sees itself as a catalyst, or a "spark", to accelerate this shift. With local action, we can provide a bright example of what is possible."*

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Spark Northwest, a nonprofit organization founded in 2001, accelerates the shift to clean energy one community at a time. Their programs make affordable, locally-controlled clean energy more accessible for all. [www.sparknorthwest.org](http://www.sparknorthwest.org)

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