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Renewable Northwest’s Executive Director, Rachel Shimshak Announces June, 2018 Resignation

Portland, OREGON — Dec. 6, 2017 — After 24 years of leading the Pacific Northwest’s preeminent clean energy advocacy organization, executive director, Rachel Shimshak has told her board and staff that she plans to resign in June, next year.

“This has been my dream job, helping lead an evolution and revolution for our quality of life and for our planet,” said Shimshak. “Now, I believe it is time for a new generation of leadership for the organization. My timing will provide ample opportunity to complete the work at hand and for the board to engage in a thorough search process.”

During Shimshak’s tenure she moved Renewable Northwest from pioneer to power player, supporting the implementation of more than 8,000 MW of wind, geothermal and solar resources in the Northwest. Shimshak grew her organization membership into nearly 50 industry, public interest, tribal and educational entities, helping propel the region to a national clean energy leader — attracting large numbers of renewable energy jobs and manufacturing clusters.

“Rachel had the rare combination of vision, strategic smarts, determination and sense-of-humor, to not only lead this organization, but to lead our region to its national prominence,” said Nancy Hirsh, Renewable NW Board Chair and executive director of NW Energy Coalition. “More importantly, Rachel’s commitment to building a broad community of support for clean energy will positively impact the quality of life in our communities for generations to come.”

The board will begin an immediate and thorough search process and is confident that the attractiveness of leading this organization will yield a high number of quality candidates.

“Anyone who’s been around the clean energy movement in the northwest during the past quarter of a century knows that Rachel had a big hand in their success,” said Kevin Lynch, Renewable NW Vice Chair and Avangrid Renewables’ head of External Affairs. “Every renewable megawatt generating today and planned for the future has been made possible by Rachel’s advocacy. She leaves a remarkable legacy, and a strong organization to continue this great work.”

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