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UPDATE / NEXT Renewable Fuels first hire

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Natasha Parvey
Photo / Courtesy

Natasha Parvey will lead NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc. community outreach efforts as its first hire for a proposed plant at Port of Columbia County.

In a release, NEXT Renewable Fuels President Lou Soumas said the company is thrilled to have Parvey joining the company.

"It's important to us to develop and maintain strong ties and open dialogue with the people of Columbia County, and Natasha will help us do that," Soumas said.

Parvey's background includes five years working across Columbia County helping small businesses. She is also the director of the shop local marketing campaign, Keep It Local Columbia County, which promotes all things Columbia County, and a former director of the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

"I always look for win-win projects," Parvey said. "NEXT is a win for Columbia County and for Oregon. I couldn't be more excited to represent and connect the community to this project."

NEXT is in the planning stages for a facility at the Port of Columbia County that would convert renewable feedstock into Advanced Green Diesel and other biofuels, to be transported via the Columbia River. According to the release, the plant will engage hundreds of skilled, local tradespeople for the building phase – for 2 million labor hours – and, once operational, will hire more than 200 full-time local employees.

NEXT officials said the facility will contribute \$12 million in local property taxes and \$5.5 million in port fees annually. The biofuels produced will also help Oregon and the nation meet renewable fuels standards.

NEXT is currently in the permitting phase for the facility.