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## **NEXT Renewable Fuels updates MOU with unions to construct \$1.6 billion renewable diesel facility in Columbia County**

PORTLAND, ORE. – March 15, 2021 – NEXT Renewable Fuels has updated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council and the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters that was first signed in March of 2019 for the construction of the NEXT Advanced Green Diesel Facility at Port Westward, an anticipated \$1.6 billion investment.

“We are pleased to update the MOU with the building trades and carpenters for construction of our facility that we originally signed two years ago. This revised MOU shows momentum building behind the development of the facility and reaffirms our commitment to building in a safe and environmentally conscious manner, and to giving preference to local skilled and qualified labor. The Building Trades and Carpenters bring the highest level of local expertise and professionalism,” said Christopher Efir, the Executive Chairman of NEXT Renewable Fuels.

NEXT Renewable Fuels Oregon will supply the West Coast with Advanced Green Diesel, creating emissions savings equal to removing 1 million vehicles from the road. Now scheduled to open at Port Westward in 2024, this state-of-the-art facility will eventually employ more than 200 skilled workers on site and will position Oregon as a leader in advanced bio-fuels production.

“Although it has taken some time to develop, we continue to believe that this is a project that is good for Oregon. It will help achieve important renewable fuel standards while creating economic benefits that stay in the region. We at CPBCTC are excited to partner with NEXT to build this project to provide jobs for our members and a clean energy source for the Northwest,” said Willy Myers, executive secretary treasurer, Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council.

The next step will be for NEXT and the building trades to negotiate a project labor agreement (PLA).

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### **About Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council**

CPBTC represents 25 different crafts and more than 20,000 union construction workers, including: heat & frost insulators, boilermakers, brick & stone masons, cement masons, electricians, elevator constructors, glaziers, ironworkers, laborers, linoleum & carpet layers, painters & tapers, plumbers, plasterers, pipe fitters & steamfitters, roofers, sheet metal workers, sprinkler fitters and teamsters. We are committed to a high level of professionalism and quality achieved through our extensive apprenticeship and journey level programs, including nine different training centers located throughout our area. We spend over ten million dollars a year, 100% private sector, providing our members with access to training programs designed by the construction industry for the construction industry. These programs are State of Oregon Certified and nationally acclaimed. Visit us at [www.oregonbuildingtrades.com](http://www.oregonbuildingtrades.com) .

### **About Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters**

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters (Carpenters) represents more than 24,000 men and women working throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Carpenters provide the education, training, partnerships, and collaboration that guarantee not just stability, but growth and boundless opportunity in an ever-changing industry. Visit is at [www.nwcarpenters.org](http://www.nwcarpenters.org).

### **About Advanced Green Diesel**

Advanced Green Diesel is a second-generation biofuel, meaning it is a drop-in replacement for fossil fuel-based diesel. That means that while you can blend Advanced Green Diesel with traditional diesel, you don't have to. Our advanced biofuel can be used in diesel engines without modification and without negative long-term effects, and it burns cleaner than other fuel options.