



**COLUMBIA
ECONOMIC
TEAM**

Columbia Economic Team

St. Helens City Council Semi-Annual Report

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Executive Director Report

Overview: Update, Work In-Progress

- Recruitment balanced with Retention & Expansion
- Energy supply & service continues at forefront
- Robust, sustained small business activity & programming
- Nothing is constant but change



Active & Pending Investment Projects

Scion Lumber – Financing in finalization, CET assistance, SRF

NXT Clean Energy –

- Land use appeal pending;
- DEQ 401 permit comment period/hearing;
- EIS progress

Project Arcadia – PSA signed with City of St. Helens;

- 90 days due diligence;
- CET connecting Arcadia with State

Project Spice – Singular Oregon site in N. America;

- Sixteen supplemental requests
- OMIC R&D/Boeing executive outreach
- Follow-up site visit
- October company team recommendation; January decision expected



Additional Prospects & Projects

- Project Impossible
- Project Falcon
- 3 Teevin property interests
- 2 early Rainier building/housing interests
- American Fabrication
- QPO
- Peninsula Compounding
- Genesee & Western
- TuraFab
- Project Fabrik
- 7 examined and not pursued
- **OMEP Manufacturing Tabletop:**
- **Manufacturing Day, Oct. 4**
- **OBI Manufacturing Roadshow, Oct. 7**
- **Future Ready Oregon: PCC/CET Partnership**
- **OMIC R&D Small Business Incubator**



Energy

- **Oregon Semiconductor Infrastructure Land Readiness Grants**
 - County Load & Transmission Planning
 - St. Helens Kaster substation
- **RestorCap Service Request/LLIR study**; received, analysis underway
- **Two additional CRPUD LLIRs** underway (Spice, N. County)



Engagement & Advocacy

- **Columbia County Public Health Initiative**
- **St. Helens Economic Opportunity Analysis TAC**
- **Housing** – County/Small City Infrastructure Gap Analysis
- **Brownfields**, Assessments & Remediation (workshop, businesses)
- Congressional **Community Project Funding** (CPF); 5 listed projects, pending
- **Oregon Economic Development Association** (OEDA)
- **CountryMedia**
- **Connect Oregon** (Port, Beaver Dock)
- **DEQ**: Climate Protection Program (CPP) & NXT Energy 401 permit
- **FEMA BiOp**
- **Measure 118** – Betsy Johnson
- **Columbia County Jail Levy**, Measure 5-302,



Small Business Resources -- Highlights

- **90 Clients served** (49 in May)
- **"Munch N Learn" educational series**, 166 participants to date
- **New "Business Startup" class** aligns with GRO Greater; 6 businesses to date
- **Youth Entrepreneurship Program**: collaboration initiated with local high schools
- **OMEP Manufacturing Tabletop**; High Schools, OMEP, OMIC R&D
- **Financial Planning** for the Center
- **Ford Family Foundation: GRO Gathering**, full participation
- **Resource/Role reallocation**; Navigator role in transition; Coordination & Communication accelerating
- **Communication & Resource Coordination**:
 - Website launched <https://www.gro-sthelens.com/>
 - New events – e-commerce (online);
 - Increasing role in planning, external outreach
- **Technical Assistance matching grants** (ColPac)
- **Community Lendingworks**, 3% loans (2 & 6)
- **Upcoming**: Annual reporting, re-application



GRO Greater

- **Close intersections** with all CET programs, including BRE
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- Growing **local Leadership Team**
- **Upcoming:** Annual reporting, re-application



Administration

- **2023 Audit**
- **CET/ColPac Office relocation** to John Gumm Civic Center, Oct. 15
- **SBA/Earmark Reporting (2)**
- **GRO Report/2025 application**





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**Thank you for your
partnership and
support!**