



SGL Automotive  
Carbon Fibers



Pre-Employment  
Training Program



REC Silicon

# Growing Grant County

May 2011



## Welcoming Emily Braunwart to the EDC

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### Economic Development Projects

New Requests for Information: 15

Active Projects: 19

Projects under Construction: 7

#### Active Projects by Type

Agricultural Related: 3

Manufacturing: 9

Retail: 2

Data Center: 5

#### Impacts of Active Projects

Estimated New Jobs: Over 1,000

Estimated Annual Wages: Over \$50 million

Total Project Values: Over \$2 billion



The Grant County EDC has welcomed Emily Braunwart to its staff as the new Accountant. She started with the EDC on May 9, 2011.

Emily Braunwart grew up in the Columbia Basin and attended Othello High School. She then went on to graduate from Western Washington University with her BA in Financial Economics. For over two years she worked with a financial investment firm in downtown Portland, before moving back to the area. She has worked for many years within agri-business, including time with ProGene Plant Research, LLC as a financial project analyst.

Her main duties with the Grant County EDC include managing accounting records through invoice preparation, monitoring of transactions and ledgers and creating financial records. She will also be spending time assisting investors and new business evaluations.

Emily is looking forward to working with the Grant County EDC, meeting the people of Grant County and understanding the overall business economics of Grant County so that she will be able to offer a greater contribution to businesses in the area.

"We are excited to have Emily as part of the Grant County EDC team," said Jonathan Smith, Managing Director for the Grant County EDC. "She is a great fit and will be a tremendous asset in our continued work to improve the local economy."

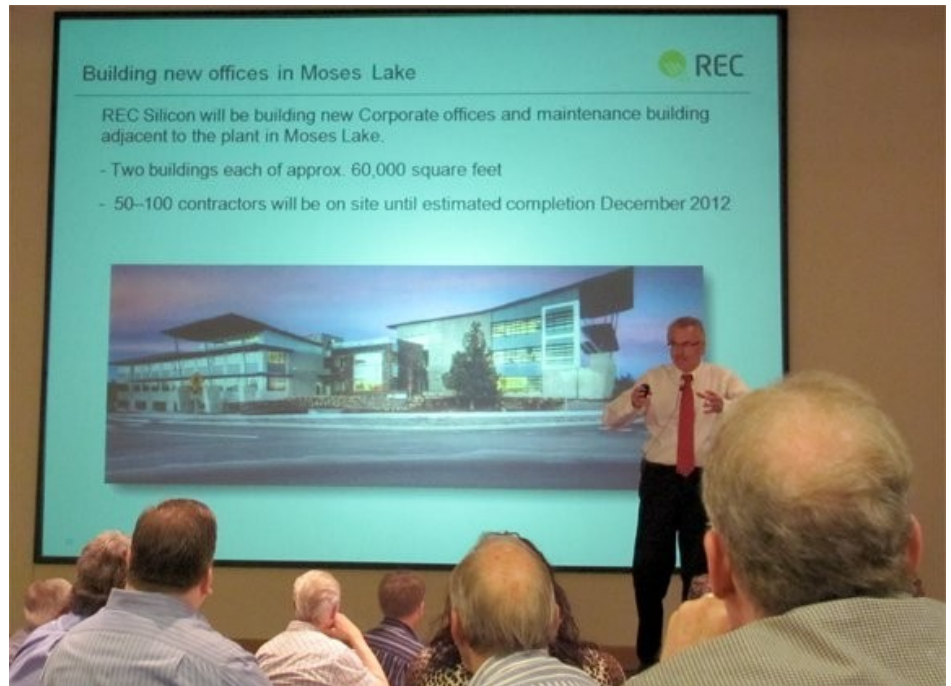




## May 19th Luncheon: The Future of REC Silicon

Tore Torvund, President and CEO of REC Silicon, announced today, at the EDC luncheon, they plan to construct a new corporate headquarters and maintenance building in Moses Lake. The two facilities will each be around 60,000 square feet and will require an estimated 50-100 construction workers through the end of 2012.

Torvund explained that in order for REC to be competitive it needs to continue to grow its production capabilities for solar grade polysilicon, electronic grade polysilicon and silane gas. Torvund said that Moses Lake makes the most sense for future growth due to the skilled workforce. A decision about an expansion is expected in the third quarter of 2011.



REC Silicon currently employs approximately 700 people with an estimated annual payroll of around \$40 million, and is the largest payer of property taxes in the county.



Photo from REC Silicon





## 10th Class Graduates from Pre-Employment Training Program

Twenty job seekers graduated from Big Bend Community College's manufacturing Pre-Employment Training Program on May 6. This was the tenth graduating class, bringing the total number of graduates that have completed the program to 141.

Ten local manufacturing companies are committed to giving preferential hiring to these graduates. The companies are Basic American Foods, Chemi-Con Materials, Columbia Colstor, Lamb Weston/BSW, Laserfab, McCain Foods, Quincy Foods, Simplot Moses Lake, SVZ, and SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers.

SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers, a joint venture between SGL Group and auto maker BMW, is the newest manufacturing company to locate in the area, and also the newest company to commit to giving preferential hiring to Pre-Employment Training graduates. Six graduates have already received employment at SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers.

The majority of graduates have taken positions at local food processing companies. Simplot Moses Lake & Othello, McCain Foods, SVZ, Lamb Weston/BSW and Quincy Foods have hired a combined total of 65 graduates.

"The Pre Employment Training Program gave me an overall knowledge to be able to work in a production environment," said Walter Hayes, one of the first graduates of the program. Walter was hired at



Columbia Colstor as a forklift operator.

Janette Einspahr, was hired by McCain Foods and says that the value of the program isn't only in the training. Einspahr, and her fellow students were able to tour each of the manufacturing facilities. When explaining how this helped her in obtaining a job Einspahr said, "It wasn't just filling out an application and dropping it off; I had the chance to go inside and see the facility."

Chris Vogel, plant manager of Quincy Foods, emphasized the Pre-Employment Training Program's unique ability to really connect job seekers with employers. We get the opportunity to introduce students to real jobs at

locations the students never knew existed, said Vogel. Students recognize that they are getting experienced instruction and once hired, they come in knowing people at the plant and that support adds to their confidence.

The next Pre-Employment Training Class is scheduled to start Monday June 6. For more information about registering for the training contact Jennifer Thomas at 509-793-2423. A special orientation meeting for interested job seekers is also being held May 25, at 6 pm at WorkSource Moses Lake.





## **SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers facility nears completion**

SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers, a joint venture between SGL Group and BMW Group is nearing completion of its new carbon fiber manufacturing facility in Grant County. Approximately 30 employees have already been hired and the first production line has been installed and is being tested. Production at the facility is anticipated to begin in July and everything is on schedule to meet that timeframe.

The facility will manufacture carbon fiber that will be used to make the body of BMW's new all electric Megacity vehicles which will debut in 2013.



## **Upcoming Events**

### **June 8th**

Transco Meeting  
9:00-3:30  
BBCC ATEC

### **June 9th**

Retail Task Force  
8:00-9:00 am  
Hardin Room

### **June 15th**

Board & Member Meeting  
7:00-8:00 am  
BBCC ATEC

### **June 16th**

Columbia Basin Water Resources Luncheon  
11:30-1:00  
BBCC ATEC

### **July 21st**

SGL Luncheon  
11:30-1:00  
BBCC ATEC

### **August 5th & 6th**

Duel in the Desert  
Moses Lake Golf Club  
Moses Point