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Barefoot Motors of Ashland: producing electric ATVs

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Electric Utility Vehicles (EUV) produced by Barefoot Motors in Ashland would help reduce the carbon footprint caused by gas vehicles used for vineyards, farmland, woodlands and ranches. The drawback traditionally has been the price tag – an EUV is 50% higher than a heavy duty gas-powered ATV.



However, there is information from Matt Hale, Columbia Willamette Clean Cities, that The Oregon Department of Energy will allow Barefoot Motors vehicles to take advantage of the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) which will reduce the initial purchase cost by as much as 35%. Moreover, with the high price of gas compared to the low cost of electricity (\$500 to \$700 per year

savings) and with reduced maintenance (\$500 per year savings), the cost evens out over three to four years, depending on the miles driven. This makes the EUV competitive with gas off-road vehicles now used for vineyards, farms, woodlands and ranches.

Bob Acheson gave me a tour of the Ashland facility in June where I met the crew and learned much more about the technology and design development of this innovative clean machine and even got to take

*The electric utility vehicles
can operate for about 4
hours of continuous use*

it out for a spin. I found the EUV to be quiet, smooth and fume free. With my allergies that was a real plus; for the daily operator it eliminates noise, fumes and vibration. It benefits everyone in the

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Clean Cities Coordinator Sue Kupillas drove the Barefoot Motors ATV in Ashland and found it to be durable, maneuverable and affordable.

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air shed. This EUV is more powerful than a golf cart because it can handle bumps and ditches, and better than a tractor because it is more nimble and less expensive to operate. The EUV can operate for about 4 hours of continuous use or 8 of intermittent use (depending on conditions) before the batteries have to be recharged. I was very impressed by the quality of the vehicle, the efficiency of the operations in producing the vehicle and the commitment of the crew to purchase all parts locally. Only the batteries are produced in China, and the rest is produced in the USA, with frames and other components produced here in the Rogue Valley. The business is planning to expand in the future. The Barefoot Motors EUV meets the mission of

Rogue Valley Clean Cities to support alternative fuels, electric vehicles to get off our reliance on foreign oil and also vehicles which reduce emissions. Learn more at <http://www.BarefootMotors.com>

Specifications. Motor: Dual Sepex Drive, governed to 38 hp; Speed: 0-30 mph; Voltage: 80V; Charge Time: 7 hours; Range: Up to 40 miles, depending on usage and terrain, 3-8 hours work time; Suspension: Adjustable coil over double A-arm front; adjustable coil over swing arm rear; Tires/Wheels: 25x8 R12 front, 25x10 R12 rear; Max Tow Weight: 1,250 lbs; Vehicle Weight: 770 to 880 lbs.

News Briefs

Website Sponsors: Are you a local business that sells alternative fuel vehicles? Would you like to help sponsor the Rogue Valley Clean Cities website? Download a web sponsor form from the website or request a form by email, sue@roguevalleycleancities.org. The Rogue Valley Clean Cities website is linked to the Department of Energy's website. RVCC hopes to exchange web links to improve ranking with search engines and to expand the audience.

Clean Tech TV: Watch a free forum called "Clean Technology Investment Roundtable" from 9 to 10 am Thursday, July 16 broadcast live from Capitol Hill during the CleanTech Expo. Register at <http://www.cleantechtv.us/CleanTech>. Bill Kovacs of the U.S. Chamber, Robert Frick of Kiplinger's, Jim Lucier of Capital Alpha Partners and others will discuss issues related to investment in clean technology development, what government policies can best stimulate investment and which technologies are the most promising for rapid commercialization.

The Chronicle is a monthly publication of Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition. The Coalition is made up of businesses and agencies with a shared goal of reducing the nation's dependence on imported oil. Contact Sue Kupillas, coordinator, by email, sue@roguevalleycleancities.org. Learn more from the website: www.roguevalleycleancities.org