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OREGON—Rural Business Service

# Alternative Energy

## Power of Solar is Realized by Rural Oregon Business

### Outline Of Need:

Committed to finding sustainable solutions to the reality of rising energy costs and limited supplies of fossil fuel resources, Dr. Thaddeus Gala decided to construct his new clinic in Eagle Point, Oregon, to be environmentally friendly. At first glance, building an environmentally friendly facility and incorporating a roof-top solar energy system did not show promise to pencil out financially. Upon consultation with a local solar company however, Dr. Gala became aware of USDA Rural Development’s Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP).

### How Rural Development Helped:

With the help of Resource Consultants, an Oregon-based funding solutions provider, Dr. Gala successfully completed an application for a REAP grant resulting in a \$20,000 award in early 2011. The REAP grant was used to install a two-part solar energy generation system on the roof of Dr. Gala’s new Complete Care Chiropractic and Massage Clinic.

### The Results:

Despite the current turbulent economic climate, a new health care provider has been able to open its doors to of-



*Dr. Thaddeus Gala and an employee stand outside Complete Care Chiropractic and Massage with the new solar array displayed on the roof.*

fer comprehensive care under one roof in rural Oregon. “The REAP grant provided an additional comfort in terms of the stress of opening a new business,” explains Dr. Gala. “It really helped to make the initial burden more manageable.”

The clinic’s renewable energy system was built with the capacity to provide commercial solar electricity to meet the energy needs for the operation of the clinic while selling power to the grid. In addition, the system, with total rated power of 12,380 watts is on track to pay for itself in less than ten years.

Not only is access to the multidisciplinary healthcare services offered at Complete Care crucial for Eagle Point residents, but Dr. Gala’s commitment to environmentally friendly practices will have positive impacts that reach beyond the local community by protecting limited supplies of fossil fuel resources.

Dr. Gala applauds the program, stating, “I think it’s great that with the REAP program the Federal government is giving back to the people.”

## Fast Facts

- Program: Rural Energy for America Program
- Investment: \$20,000 grant
- Partners: Complete Care Chiropractic and Massage Clinic, Solar Man Company, Resource Consultants
- Demographics: Eagle Point, Oregon, estimated population of 8,790
- Impact:
  - Improved access to comprehensive, multidisciplinary health care
  - Created nine (9) long-term, family wage jobs with benefits within the local community
  - Solar energy generation of 12,380 watts