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Beyond Toxics is pushing for shuttered J.H. Baxter facility to become solar power array

By: Julio Mora Rodriguez

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Local Environmental group is pushing for JH Baxter Wood Treatment Facility to become a Solar Array

EUGENE, Ore -- Ever since the closure of J.H. Baxter's wood treatment facility in Eugene, Beyond Toxics has been eyeing the property for an ambitious project.

The organization led by executive director Lisa Arkin is advocating to transform the

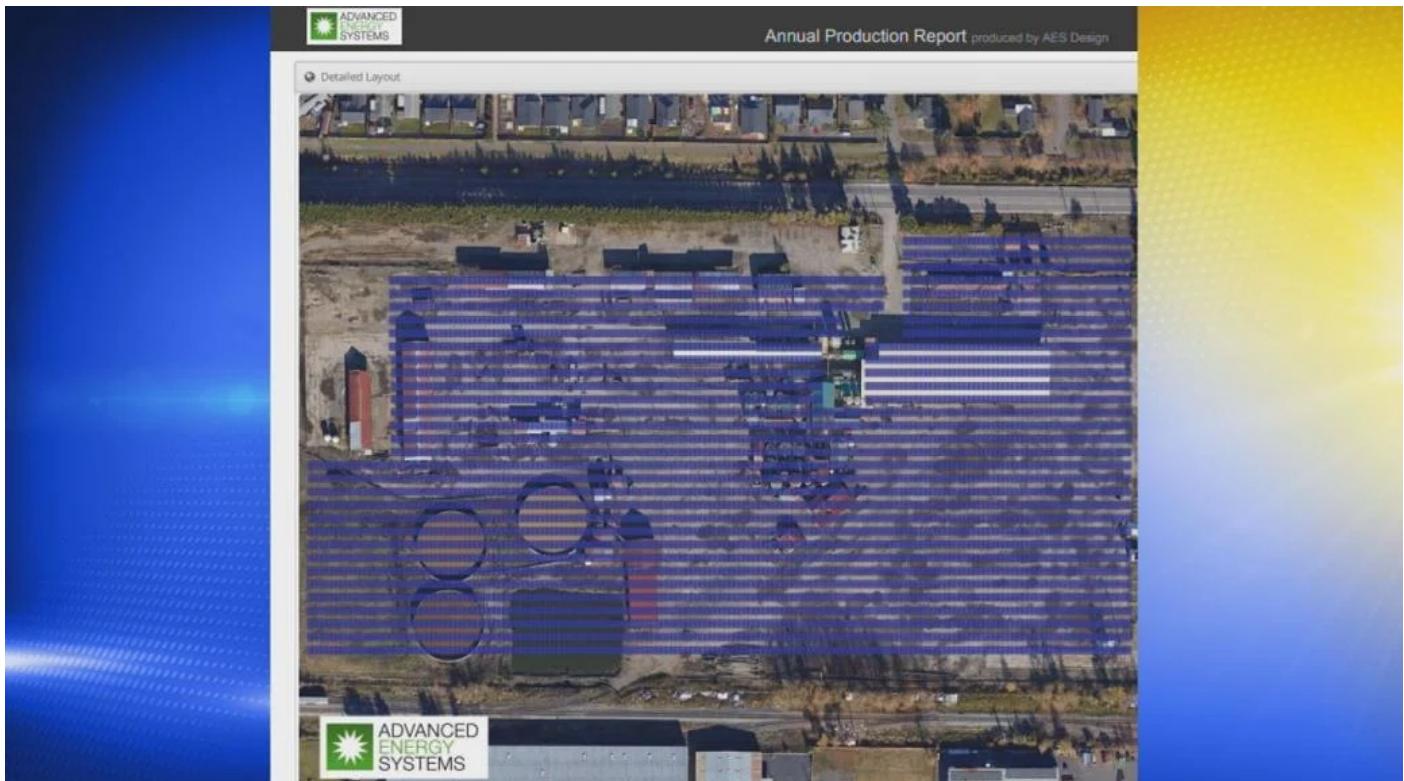
controversial facility into a clean power hub. The site was shut down in 2022 due to pollution.



J.H. Baxter to pay full fine for hazardous waste damage

By: Robert Desaulniers

Arkin said, "That site is so polluted, we don't want another business on there. It can't be used for parks or homes, so the best use would be to generate renewable solar electricity."



It's called the Roosevelt Community Solar Project and it would cover the old J.H. Baxter facility's 42 acres. If the project were to go through, it has the potential to generate 11.8 megawatts of energy with about 24,375 solar panels in total.

Arkin said, "It could power almost 1200 homes. It would be an amazing boost for our

local energy production."

According to early estimates from Advanced Energy Systems, the project would cost a maximum of \$22 million. Advanced Energy Systems has completed hundreds of solar energy installations throughout Oregon. They are collaborating with Beyond Toxics in relation to this project.



Beyond Toxics said much of the funding would have to be covered by state and federal grants. They are reaching out to members of the community and elected officials to make this dream a reality, but they also know they have a long road ahead of them.

Arkin said, "This is a vision we have for our community, it's going to take a couple of years to clean up the J.H. Baxter site and start to work on installation of this project."

Beyond Toxics firmly believes the benefits of the project outweigh its costs.

Arkin said, "It would reduce the cost of energy for families in the Bethel neighborhood, it would improve air quality by getting us off of fossil fuels."

They also believe solar panels are more adaptable with changing conditions.

Arkin said, "Having solar power would help us run air conditioners in the summer to cool our homes when we have heat domes and intense pollution from wildfires."



Local non-profit to give away air purifiers to residents affected by J.H. Baxter pollution

By: Robert Desaulniers



Some neighbors in the West Eugene area have also shared their thoughts on the project. Tracy Dow has been living across the street from the JH Baxter facility in Eugene for 17 years and she was never a big fan of it. For Dow, the idea of replacing the J.H. Baxter facility with solar panels is intriguing.

She said, "I think it would be a great idea, it would be a complete 180 from what it is now."

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By: Robert Desaulniers

