

Energy Trust of Oregon, ag group share much-sought honor for water work

Jun 16, 2016, 6:37am PDT

Two Oregon groups have received kudos for water programs they say save billions of gallons annually.

Farmers Conservation Alliance and [Energy Trust](#) of Oregon received [the 2016 State Leadership in Clean Energy Award State Leadership in Clean Energy Award](#), given by the Clean Energy States Alliance.



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A screenshot from a video produced touting the water-saving system developed by Energy Trust of Oregon and Farmers Conservation Alliance.

The award "recognizes the coordinated and comprehensive approach developed by Energy Trust and FCA to help irrigation districts and the farmers they serve develop modern irrigation systems that can save billions of gallons of water annually."

The system solves the problem of evaporation from open irrigation canals, which draw water from rivers and other water sources.

The Irrigation Modernization Program "helps irrigation districts find the funding and resources they need to create state-of-the-art irrigation systems that replace open canals with pipes," the groups said in a release announcing the award.

As such, more water is left in-stream for fish and wildlife.

"The work done by the Farmers Conservation Alliance is a powerful example of how irrigation modernization can address multiple challenges and provide multiple benefits," said Oregon Sen.

[Jeff Merkley](#), in a release. “The potential exists over the next decade for irrigation districts across the state to upgrade to more modern infrastructure, saving water, restoring streams and generating green, renewable energy.

"These investments in irrigation systems are also investments in the future resiliency, competitiveness and livability of Oregon's rural economies.”

Energy Trust is based in Portland while Farmers Conservation Alliance is based in Hood River.