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Lighten Up – Celebrate Earth Day at the Future of Flight

(Mukilteo, Washington) – What does an airplane such as Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner have in common with Wikispeed’s SGT01 (its parts are interchangeable), Western Washington University’s Viking 45 (no it’s not a household appliance), Northwest Wind Power’s energy ball (it has turbine blades) have in common? They are lightweight, fuel efficient, made of advanced composite materials, innovative and the perfect way to learn more about how new technology will help us lighten up and celebrate Earth Day, every day.

On Friday, April 22, 2011, Future of Flight Aviation Center invites everyone to celebrate Earth Day by visiting between 9am – 3pm. An official program presented by Snohomish County PUD Legislative Liaison, Brenda White, begins at 10am. Wikispeed driving demonstrations will run until 3pm. Earth Day activities, which include all the aviation gallery exhibits as well, are \$5, children 5 and under are free.

Other activities on Earth Day include presentations by students from Edmonds Community College’s Materials Science Technology class (a windmill), Marysville Arts and Technical High School who will display a solar car project, and Totem Middle School students, who completed a six-week Flights of Innovation education program at Future of Flight and will discuss Flight 1 of the program, which includes innovative solutions to a climate change issue.

The Future of Flight Aviation Center is a unique learning and interpretive facility designed to give wings to innovative thinking. The 73,000-square-foot Future of Flight facility includes a 28,000-square-foot Aviation Gallery with interactive exhibits and displays, 9,000-square-foot rooftop observation deck overlooking Paine Field, Boeing Tour Center, conference space for 250 people, special event space for groups of up to 750 people, a 240-seat theater, 125-seat café, Future of Flight Store and Boeing Store.

The Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour is open from 8:30am – 5:30pm daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Tours of the Boeing Assembly Plant operate daily at 9, 10, 11am and 1, 2 and 3pm. www.futureofflight.org

Background:



WIKISPEED (www.wikispeed.com) is a lean automotive company that has engineered the SGT01—an ultralight four-seat commuter car that according to highway fuel-economy test simulations can achieve up to 114 miles per gallon running on its gasoline engine. The SGT01 runs on regular gasoline, meets all road-safety regulations, and is modular in design, making parts interchangeable including the drive train, suspension, safety structures, body design, and interior from two to four seats. The design is so flexible that even the engine can be switched from gasoline to electric in about two hours.

NORTHWEST WIND POWER (www.nwwindpower.net) has the Energy Ball, a spherical wind turbine with 5 rotor blades and a diameter of 6.5 ft., which rotates horizontally on a perfectly balanced axis making it an efficient and quiet way to generate electricity.



WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY VIKING 45 (<http://vri.etec.wvu.edu/xprize/xprize.html#>) is an Automotive X Prize finalist. WWU is the only remaining American university team is backed by a legacy of fuel mileage records dating back to the mid-1970s. The school's Vehicle Research Institute has built 48 cars in the intervening years, including a few small series production runs, and one previous attempt at commercial production. The Viking 45 (named like all the school's cars after the University mascot) is a hybrid, using 1.0-liter, three-cylinder engine and a lithium-ion battery. The weight target is 1,080 pounds.



EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MATERIALS SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY CLASS has a new fabrication course that combines all the disciplines of the modern machine shop using CATIA, advanced composite materials and even welding. They have designed and built their own windmill, which will be displayed at Future of Flight on Earth Day.