Energy Plant Micro-Turbines

After several years of feasibility studies and coordination with the Department of Energy and Avista Utilities, the District Energy Plant intends to install three backpressure steam turbines to produce electrical power on campus using woody biomass fuel. This project was approved for construction earlier this year by the State of Idaho Board of Education. Work will begin later this summer to install the turbines and controls for the first campus microgrid. Part of this project includes moving and improving the bathroom facilities for the plant as well as restoring the 6th St. windows as funding permits. Generating 13% of the campus electricity load, the project is estimated to save the university \$360,000 annually. The project was awarded a \$250,000 Wood Innovations Grant from the U.S. Forest Service. Anticipated project completion date is December 2021.



