



## For Immediate Release

**CONTACT:** Adrienne Saia Isaac  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
National Ski Areas Association  
[aisaac@nsaa.org](mailto:aisaac@nsaa.org)  
(720) 963-4217

### NSAA Announces 2019 Sustainable Slopes Grant Winners

#### *Funds Target Carbon Emission Reductions, Installation of EV Charging Stations, and Snowmaking Improvements*

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — April 24, 2019 — The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) named four member ski areas as the recipients of Sustainable Slopes grants: **Crystal Mountain Resort** in Washington, **Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort** in Oregon, **Sugarbush Resort** in Vermont, and **Whaleback Mountain** in New Hampshire.

**Crystal Mountain Resort** in Washington received a \$5,000 grant in support of its project to install eight Level 2 EV (electric vehicle) charging stations, along with the electrical infrastructure to expand to 25. This will allow for current owners of electric vehicles to confidently drive their cars to the mountain and assist with lowering overall greenhouse gas emissions associated with people traveling to and from the mountain. Additionally, guests considering the purchase of an EV will see that charging is a possibility while at the resort, demonstrating a reduced barrier to mountain access. Skiers travelling to Crystal drive an average of 65 miles; roundtrip, gasoline-powered vehicles will emit approximately 120 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>. By contrast, electricity generation emits approximately 1 lb. of CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh, and EVs can travel 100 miles on 30 kWh of electricity. The reduction in carbon emissions could add up to as much as 279 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over 10 years as use of EVs becomes more commonplace. Crystal Mountain Resort will be joining NSAA's Climate Challenge next season.

Vermont ski area **Sugarbush Resort** will assign its \$5,000 grant toward the installation of six Level 2 EV chargers in its Mt. Ellen parking lot and two in its Sugarbush Inn parking lot. The additional chargers will supplement the 15 Level 2 chargers currently installed at Lincoln Peak, allowing more charging options for guests driving electric vehicles. Transportation accounts for the bulk of the state's greenhouse gas emissions; by installing the chargers in high-traffic areas, the ski area promotes and supports the use and purchase of EVs. A member of NSAA's Climate Challenge, Sugarbush estimates that their original chargers led to the reduction of 10 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in their first seven months of operation. The ski area anticipates a reduction of approximately 40 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually once all chargers are operational.

**Mt. Hood Meadows**, also a participant in NSAA's Climate Challenge, is lowering emissions from resort vehicles by significantly reducing idling of their resort shuttle buses. Large vehicles like shuttle buses often run on diesel engines, which can require long idling periods in order to be operational. The ski area's \$5,000 grant will go toward the purchase of preheater equipment which allows for heating of the diesel engine without idling. The installation of this technology will reduce overall idling time by 400 hours during peak season and reduce the amount of fuel consumed by the buses. It is anticipated that the project will prevent the emission of 3.66 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per season. The project will raise awareness about idling among resort guests and hopefully reduce their vehicle idling as well.

Massachusetts-based **HKD Snowmakers** awarded a high-efficiency snowmaking grant to **Whaleback Mountain in NH**. The ski area will receive five high-efficiency Impulse R5 Viper snowmaking guns from HKD Snowmakers, a total value of \$25,055. The new equipment received from this in-kind grant would be used across the entire mountain to help provide a more consistent skiing surface more efficiently, virtually eliminating the need to use older, less efficient snowmaking equipment. This new technology will also allow the ski area to maximize its water resources. Whaleback's current system pumps 600 GPM using 900 CFM and covers about 25 acres of terrain with 24" of snow.

"This year we evaluated several very compelling snowmaking grant applications, and ultimately we felt our grant would offer Whaleback the greatest benefit to their snowmaking system," said Charles Santry, president of HKD Snowmakers. "We are excited to support Whaleback's efforts to improve snowmaking efficiency and maximize their water resources." HKD is a founding sponsor of the grant program and has provided 15 snowmaking grants over the past ten years.

Since its inception in 2009, the Sustainable Slopes Grant Program has awarded \$143,500 in cash grants and \$417,500 in in-kind grants, for a total of **\$561,000 in support of resort sustainability projects**. Past winners of the Sustainable Slopes grants include: Alpine Meadows, Calif.; Alta Ski Area, Utah; Arapahoe Basin, Colo.; Beaver Valley Ski Club, Ontario; Blue Mountain, Pa.; Burke Mountain, Vt.; Canyons, Utah; Copper Mountain, Colo.; Crested Butte, Colo.; Crystal Mountain, Mich.; Giants Ridge, Minn.; Grand Targhee, Wyo.; Granite Peak, Wisc.; Greek Peak, New York; Mountain High, Calif.; Mt. Abram, Maine; Mt. Ashland, Ore.; Mt. Bachelor, Ore.; Mt. Hood Meadows, Ore.; Oak Mountain, New York; Ober Gatlinburg, Tenn.; Powdr Resorts, Utah; Spirit Mountain, Minn.; Snow Creek, Mo.; Stevens Pass, Wash.; Stratton, Vt.; Sugarbush Resort, Vt.; Tamarack, Idaho; Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico; and Telluride Ski & Golf, Colo.

Sustainable Slopes Grant winners will be highlighted in the 2019 *Sustainable Slopes Annual Report*, to be published in September 2019. For more information on NSAA's Sustainable Slopes Grant program, the Climate Challenge, or to learn more about environmental initiatives and projects, visit the Environment section of [nsaa.org](http://nsaa.org).

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