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June 25, 2010-The Flathead Valley, NW Montana

Montana West Economic Development has been awarded a Montana Department of Commerce Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund \$11,000 grant on behalf of **Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies (AACT)** of Whitefish. The grant is intended to aid the alternative energy company in their project at the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company in Columbia Falls.

Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies in partnership with F.H.Stoltze is combining three types of established technology with AACT's own proprietary control system to use waste woody biomass from Stoltze to create electricity and heat for both Stoltze's processes and AACT's own GreenPower House™ which will also use the bi-product CO2 to grow algae to be converted to organic fertilizer for the wholesale market. The entire process is CO2 negative with no emissions.

The Big Sky Trust Fund grant will provide a portion of the funds required to build a bench model of the system and determine the quantities of heat, electricity and algae that can be produced with biomass inputs and the associated costs.

The project has succeeded in part due to the collaboration of a number of local scientists and business leaders including Michael Smith, President and Project Lead AACT; Chuck Roady, Vice President F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber; Brad James, Millwright, F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber; Paul Martino, Chemist FVCC; and John Murdock, VP Engineering AACT.

While the AACT project holds great promise for mills and other producers of woody biomass waste, there are potential customers for the system in other industries as well. Nationally, agricultural product processors have already begun to express

interest in the possibility of using their own waste products such as nut shells or sugar cane pulp to produce their own energy and fertilizer with the AACT system.

Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies anticipates that the system and the full scale GreenPower House™ that could eventually be located at the Stoltze mill site will be the showcase for other potential clients to tour before investing in their own systems.

Kimberly Morisaki, Manager of Client Development for Montana West Economic Development stated, “Montana West is extremely pleased to see Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies continue to push forward with their research and business development plans to bring new technology in the renewable energy/ biomass industry to Montana. This system holds the promise of both creating new revenue streams for businesses in the local wood products industry and for creating new technology-related jobs in the Flathead. The Big Sky Trust Fund grant is one additional brick in AACT’s foundation as the business works toward full commercialization of their product.”

Montana West Economic Development is a non-profit private/public partnership dedicated to Quality Job Growth, a Broader Tax Base, Economic Diversity and Regional Collaboration to benefit the broader Flathead community through attraction, retention and growth of businesses.