



October 3, 2019

Welcome to this month's issue of *Solar Newsbriefs*, brought to you by the Washington State University Energy Program. Please feel free to forward this issue to those of your colleagues interested in solar energy. For archives of past *Solar Newsbriefs*, visit

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/solarnewsbriefs.aspx>

Oregon News

Solar Manufactured Homes Concept Wins National Award For Portland Firm

An idea to build solar panels into manufactured homes has given a Portland-based company a big win in a year-long national competition. The U.S. Department of Energy and Renewable Energy announced Phase3 Photovoltaics along with another team won the first round of the American-Made Solar Prize. – by Monica Samayoa, OPB, Sept. 30, 2019:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/portland-solar-manufactured-homes-energy/>

Oregon Department of Energy Program Supports Renewable Energy Projects from Gold Beach to Enterprise

The Oregon Department of Energy announced today 19 recipients of about \$1.6 million in Renewable Energy Development Grant funds. The RED Grant program supports Oregon businesses, nonprofits, and organizations investing in renewable energy systems that use biomass, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, wind, landfill gas, biogas, wave, tidal, or ocean energy to produce electricity – ODOE Blog, Sept. 10, 2019:

<https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/blog/2019/9/10/oregon-department-of-energy-program-supports-renewable-energy-projects-from-gold-beach-to-enterprise>

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program Rulemaking

The Oregon Department of Energy has set up a new website for the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program rulemaking. For information on the program and times for public meetings to discuss implementation see:

https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Pages/Solar-Rebate-Program-Rulemaking.aspx?utm_source=NEWSLETTER%3A+Oregon+Solar+Review+-+Oct+2019&utm_campaign=Newsletter+-+Oct+2019&utm_medium=email

Washington News

Franklin Pierce School District and Jason Lee Middle School to Build Solar Learning Labs on Campus

Franklin Pierce School District (FPSD) and Tacoma's Jason Lee Middle School are the 2019 recipients of Evergreen Options Renewable Energy Project grants, winning a vote by Evergreen Options participants. Both Jason Lee Middle School and FPSD plan to build solar learning labs on campus, reducing energy costs and teaching students about the importance of renewable energy – Press Release, Tacoma Public Utilities, Sept. 29, 2019:

<https://www.mytpu.org/franklin-pierce-school-district-and-jason-lee-middle-school-to-build-solar-learning-labs-on-campus/>

Group Wants To 'Solarize' Yakima Group

If you would like to save some money on your electric bill, a group is trying to convince you solar panels are a good choice for your house. The U.S. Department of Energy partnered with Spark Northwest to reach people so they can learn about how the project works and to how save money on outfitting their buildings with solar panels – by Dax McCoy, KIMA, Sept. 25, 2019:

<https://kimatv.com/news/local/group-wants-to-solarize-yakima>

Snohomish PUD holds open house at Community Solar project

Snohomish PUD opened up their Arlington Microgrid site to show their Community Solar program to local customers of the program on Sept. 21. The Community Solar program allows Snohomish County residents to invest in a 'unit' of a solar panel that is kept at a site managed by the PUD – by Christopher Andersson, *North County Outlook*, Sept. 24, 2019:

https://www.northcountyoutlook.com/news/snohomish-pud-holds-open-house-at-community-solar-project/article_2f9efb94-def5-11e9-bca2-7790878a407f.html

Centralia Coal Transition Grants Energy Technology Board Supports the Providence Health Care Foundation

The Centralia Coal Transition Grants Energy Board is pleased to announce a grant award to the Providence Health Care Foundation to support the installation of a 99kW roof top solar project on the Providence Centralia Hospital. The Foundation will receive \$238,036 from the Energy Technology Board to help fund the replacement of a 25-year old roof which has increasingly required expensive and temporary patching – *Centralia Coal Transition Grants News*, August 27, 2019:

<https://cctgrants.com/category/news-articles/>

See also: **Providence Aims for State's Largest Hospital Solar Array: More Than \$238,000 Project Funded by TransAlta Coal Transition Grant**

http://www.chronline.com/news/providence-aims-for-state-s-largest-hospital-solar-array/article_9749ad84-d4dc-11e9-855d-871ef0edc5e2.html

Silicon Smelter Project Represents Big Questions for PNW leaders: What We can Learn from Pend Oreille's Struggle with Clean Energy, Tribal Rights, and Fair Process

In a sleepy rural corner of Washington, one of the region's most intriguing debates over modern energy development is playing out. Tucked up against Idaho's panhandle, some 13,000 residents of Pend Oreille County are grappling with a \$325 million proposal to build a polluting industrial smelter that

would manufacture silicon metal from ore for solar panels and electronics—

Eric De Pace, *Sightline Intitute*, Sept. 24, 2019: <https://www.sightline.org/2019/09/24/silicon-smelter-project-represents-big-questions-for-pnw-leaders/>

Agrivoltaics

Applications Now Open for Rural Renewable Energy Projects

As climate variability increases and energy costs continue to rise, producing on-farm, renewable energy has become an attractive option for many farmers and ranchers. In order to help farmers and ranchers save money and utilize renewable energy, the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loans to farmers and rural businesses interested in making energy efficiency improvements. At the end of August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of at least \$50 million in grant funding to support on-farm renewable energy projects for the coming fiscal year (FY). To read more see *National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition* Sept. 6, 2019:

<https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/reap-rfp-for-rural-renewable-energy-projects/>

Struggling Farmers See Bright Spot in Solar

U.S. farmers are embracing an alternative means of turning sunlight into revenue during a sharp downturn in crop prices: solar power. Solar panels are being installed across the Farm Belt for personal and external use on land where growers are struggling to make ends meet – By Kirk Maltais, *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 23, 2019:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/struggling-farmers-see-bright-spot-in-solar-11569242733>

Industry

Utility Solar Sets Record, but Tax Credit Phase-Down Looms

More large-scale solar projects are waiting to be built than ever before, as utilities and corporations move to lock up deals before federal tax incentives diminish, according to an analysis released today by Wood Mackenzie and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) – by David Iaconangelo, *Governor's Wind & solar Energy Coalition*, Sept. 17, 2019: <https://governorswindenergycoalition.org/utility-solar-sets-record-but-tax-credit-phase-down-looms/>

Solar Tax Credit Extension Would Bring in \$87B – Report

The solar industry's trade association is framing the federal investment tax credit as the cornerstone of its plan for solar to power a fifth of the nation's electricity – even as the future of the credit appears uncertain. Source: By David Iaconangelo, *E&E News* reporter, *Governors Wind & Solar Energy Coalition*, Sept. 24, 2019:

<https://governorswindenergycoalition.org/solar-tax-credit-extension-would-bring-in-87b-report/>

Solar Industry Maps Out Next Steps for 20% by 2030 Goal

As part of the first steps into the Solar+ Decade, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) released a roadmap that puts solar energy on a path to reaching 20% of U.S. electricity generation by 2030. The roadmap is a 10-year strategic vision for the solar industry that highlights both opportunities and systemic challenges the industry will need to overcome to reach its goals – *SEIA Press Release*, Sept. 23, 2019: <https://www.seia.org/news/solar-industry-maps-out-next-steps-20-2030-goal>

Using Solar to Displace Fossil Fuels for Process Heat in Industrial Facilities

Farms, factories and other industrial businesses require a lot of heat. Solar thermal startup Skyven Technologies wants to help – Justin Gerdes, *gtm*, Sept. 27, 2019:

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/using-solar-to-displace-fossil-fuels-for-process-heat-in-industrial-facilit#gs.6tsybz>

Conferences and Events

Oregon Solar Workforce Celebration at Lucky Lab, Portland, OR – Nov. 14, 2019

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) invites you to an event to kick-off our new workforce development programs. OSEIA will talk about the two pilot programs done with partner organizations this year and then hear from community groups what they would like to see in a collaborative workforce development program with OSEIA. For more information and to register:

<https://www.oseia.org/workforce-celebration>

Oregon Community Solar Webinar, Oct. 8, 2019

On September 13, the PUC released a [policy proposal](#) regarding the low-income program, the transition between start-up and ongoing costs, and the bill credit rate. Many of OSEIA's recommendations were reflected in the proposal, most importantly the credit rate will be the residential retail rate with a 2% annual escalator. The staff memo with final interconnection recommendations will come out on October 4, with comments due October 15. For more information with times and numbers see:

<https://oseia.regfox.com/oregon-community-solar-program-review>

GridForward 2019, Seattle, WA – Oct. 7-9, 2019

Accelerate grid modernization at GridFWD 2019. Join 90+ senior leaders from utilities, solution providers, regulatory agencies, governments and advocates. Learn about modernization best practices, emerging markets & models, and building a culture of innovation. Grid-focused trainings and tours round out this three-day event. This event will be held at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Oct. 7-9, 2019. For more information see: <https://gridforward.org/events/gridfwd-2019/>

2019 Fall Energy Symposium The Great Oregon Shakeout, Klamath Falls, Oregon – Oct. 17-18, 2019

Sustainable Northwest is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Fall Symposium in Klamath Falls. This 2-day event will bring together community leaders, businesses, elected officials, ranchers, farmers, and agency partners to identify strategies that advance clean energy initiatives across Oregon. The Symposium features panel discussions from the state's leading energy experts and local innovators, plus an evening networking reception and field tour. The agenda includes: *Community Energy Resilience: Mitigating Natural Disasters with Distributed Energy and Storage* and *Growing Solar: How to Accelerate Local, Responsible, and Equitable Solar*. For more information and to register:

<https://www.oseia.org/new-events/snwfall2019>

Washington State Solar Summit, Bellevue, WA – Oct. 18, 2019

The Washington State Solar Summit is an important annual conference and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators, educators, students, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, financial lenders, consultants and more. Last

year over 250 industry professionals gathered to network and tackle the issues facing the solar energy landscape in Washington. For more information and to register:
https://www.solarwa.org/2019_solar_summit_register

Want to Contribute? If you have information on events, publications or other solar topics that you would like mentioned in an upcoming issue of Solar Newsbriefs, please contact Anne Whitney at whitneya@energy.wsu.edu

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This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Solar Plus Strategies for Oregon and Washington award number DE-EE0007665.

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