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Welcome to the first 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.

Solar Plus

The Solar Plus Website is up!

This valuable resource describes the project's goals for both the states of Oregon and Washington, lists the primary stakeholders, and links to the most relevant reports that have helped form the focus of the program.

<http://solarplusnw.org/>

Oregon News

Oregon Governor Says New Homes Must be Solar Ready by 2020

Oregon State's Governor Kate Brown (D) issued Executive Order 17-20, which among other things, mandates new residential and commercial structures be made solar ready by 2022. And the governor is implementing these changes through changes to the state's building codes, which the order argues is the most effective way to ensure these changes take place — *PV-Magazine*, November 15, 2017.

<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2017/11/15/oregon-governor-says-new-homes-must-be-solar-ready-by-2020/>

Solar Energy Company Makes \$1 Billion Bet on Oregon

Cypress Creek Renewables, a national energy company that already operates seven solar sites in Oregon, is building farms near Salem, Silverton, Gervais, Turner and Grand Ronde. The Marion and Polk county farms will cover about 12 acres each, producing enough energy to power some 450 homes. Company officials say they try their best to hire local workers to build the farms and believe the projects will create "hundreds of good-paying jobs" in the vicinity — *US News and World Report*, October 23, 2017.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/oregon/articles/2017-10-23/solar-energy-company-makes-1-billion-bet-on-oregon>

Washington News

Port of Seattle Takes Steps to Boost its Green Credentials with Rooftop Solar Panels, Policies

The Port of Seattle seeks to boost its green credentials with rooftop solar panels and policies to develop more sustainable operations. The push comes after the Port faced protests over use of a terminal for Arctic oil exploration. The Port of Seattle is putting solar panels on a Fishermen's Terminal net-shed as part of a broader push to boost the green credentials of waterfront and airport operations. Those efforts are outlined in an "energy and sustainability" directive that the five Port commissioners unanimously. The measure calls for more renewable energy as well as stepping up scrutiny of the environmental impact of new projects. The goal is to become the greenest, most energy-efficient Port in the nation, as well as carbon neutral – *Seattle Times*, November 2, 2017.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/port-of-seattle-takes-steps-to-get-greener/>

Klickitat PUD Net Metering Workshops

Klickitat PUD is revamping their net metering program. They are seeking public comments to their proposed updates on their Renewable Energy Generation Net Metering Program. In particular they will discuss rate structure applied to customer monthly billings. Two workshops will be held: Tuesday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Adams Elks Lodge, 235 NE Church Ave., White Salmon, WA and Wednesday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Klickitat PUD Meeting Room, 1313 S. Columbus Ave., Goldendale, WA. For more information please call Anita Clever at 1-800-548-8357 x622, or Klickitat Energy Services Department at (509) 773-7622.

<http://www.klickitatpud.com/news/2017/11/20/net-metering-workshop>

Conferences

2017 Washington State Solar Summit

Solar Washington presented the annual Washington State Solar Summit on October 13, 2017, at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, WA. This conference is an important annual information gathering and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators, educators, students, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, consultants and more. For more information on the conference and presentations click here:

http://www.solarwa.org/2017_solar_summit_agenda

Upcoming 2017 Solar Oregon Annual Meeting

The 2017 Solar Oregon annual meeting topic will be "Community Energy Preparedness and What's Next for Solar in Oregon", and will be held at the Global Homestead Community Garage, 416 SE Oak Street, Portland, OR. For more information and to RSVP:

<http://solaroregon.org/event/solar-oregon-annual-meeting/>

Technological Innovations

NREL, University of Washington Scientists Elevate Quantum Dot Solar Cell World Record to 13.4 Percent

Colloidal quantum dots are electronic materials and because of their small size (typically 3-20 nanometers in dimension) they possess fascinating optical properties. Quantum dot solar cells emerged in 2010 as the newest technology to convert sunlight to electricity with increasing efficiency. The initial lead sulfide quantum dot solar cells had an efficiency of 2.9 percent. The latest development in quantum dot solar cells comes from a completely different quantum dot material. The new quantum dot leader is cesium lead triiodide (CsPbI₃), and is within the recently emerging family of halide perovskite materials. To read more see:

<https://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2017/scientists-elevate-quantum-dot-solar-cell-world-record.html>

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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