



**April 4, 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>

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## **Oregon News**

### **Oregon Solar Dashboard**

Visualizing the rise in Oregon's renewable solar electricity is easier than ever thanks to a new Oregon Solar Dashboard. The Oregon Department of Energy developed the dashboard with partners across the state, and we were thrilled to include data from many Oregon utilities and organizations. We recently provided a sneak peak of the dashboard to utility managers and asked for feedback to help make it better. Thanks to everyone who offered suggestions. The dashboard is now live on our website, but we'd still love to hear your ideas and comments as we implement the great feedback we've received to make it more useful. Click below to visit the OR Solar Dashboard:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/Oregon-Solar-Dashboard.aspx>

### **Renewable Energy Development Grants**

The Oregon Department of Energy's RED Grant program promotes investment in and development of renewable energy projects by providing a grant up to \$250,000 for businesses, organizations, public bodies, schools, nonprofits, and tribes that install and operate a renewable energy system that produces electric energy. Since 2012, ODOE has awarded nearly \$7 million for 73 renewable projects statewide, including solar, hydropower, biogas, biomass, and geothermal installations. Application due date is April 22, 2019. For more information and to access the 2019 opportunity announcement and application see:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/Renewable-Energy-Grants.aspx>

### **City of Talent Paves the Way for More Solar Energy Initiatives in the Rogue Valley**

The city of Talent is leading the Rogue Valley in going solar. Local non-profits are working with the city to create a community-wide energy plan. The project would allow electric utility customers who can't put solar panels on their property to purchase solar panels that would be installed

somewhere else. The energy generated would then be credited to their bills—By Rayvan Vares, NBC, March 26, 2019:

<https://kobi5.com/news/top-stories/city-of-talent-paves-the-way-for-more-solar-energy-initiatives-in-the-rogue-valley-98818/>

### **Portland General Electric Set to Build 1st-Of-Its-Kind Renewable Energy Site**

Eastern Oregon may soon be home to a next-generation renewable energy project. Portland General Electric is making plans to build the country's first large-scale energy facility that combines wind turbines, solar panels and battery storage. It's that combination of renewable energy and battery storage that the company said could be one model for integrating renewable energy. Battery storage is often said to be the key to overcoming one of the biggest challenges with renewable power: it's intermittent. Read more at: *OPB*, February 16, 2019:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/eastern-oregon-solar-wind-battery-renewable-portland-general-electric/>

### **Oregon OKs Dual PGE Approach to Procure Renewables for Business**

The Oregon Public Utilities Commission has approved a Voluntary Renewable Energy Tariff (VRET) proposed by Portland General Electric, paving the way for large customers to purchase energy directly from solar, wind or other renewable generators: Read more at *Utility Dive*, March 7, 2019:

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/oregon-oks-dual-pge-approach-to-procure-renewables-for-business-customers/549955/>

### **Morrow County Energy Project Will Bring Surge of Funding to Schools**

The major energy project slated for Morrow County is going to have a ripple effect — with the capacity for more battery storage than any other facility in the country. With that surge in power storage will come funds for local schools' science, technology and art programs. By Jayati Ramakrishnan, *East Oregonian*, March 20, 2019:

[https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/morrow-county-energy-project-will-bring-surge-of-funding-to/article\\_30fd5bee-4b38-11e9-9fd4-7702488780a7.html](https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/morrow-county-energy-project-will-bring-surge-of-funding-to/article_30fd5bee-4b38-11e9-9fd4-7702488780a7.html)

## **Washington News**

### **Washington State Renewable Energy System Incentive Program Summary Update**

New summary update and information as of March 20 are now available on the WSU Energy Program Renewable Energy System Incentive Program website: Go to:

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/RenewableEnergySystemIncentiveProgram/Background.aspx>

Click on **Program Summary** on the right and then again on the **Program Summary** tab for information.

### **Bite-Sized Solar Investment is coming to Snohomish County**

Homeowners and apartment dwellers alike can soon buy into solar energy generated in Arlington. "Community Solar" launches this spring. Customers can purchase units in a field of solar panels being built in Arlington. Each unit consists of one-fifth of a solar panel and will cost \$120— by Julia-Grace Sanders, *HeraldNet*, March 7, 2019:

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/bite-sized-solar-investment-is-coming-to-snohomish-county/>

### **Solarize the Land Trust**

Homestead Community Land Trust and Spark Northwest have partnered for a new homeowner program called Solarize the Land Trust to help community land trust members install residential solar systems on their homes in 2019. Solarize the Land Trust will feature free educational solar energy workshops coupled with a group purchase discount opportunity and a simplified purchasing process, and grants to a limited number of homeowners to help pay for solar. Homestead Community Land Trust makes it possible for low and moderate income residents of King County to own their own home. Read more and register for upcoming workshops & events at:

*Solarize Northwest Powered by Spark Northwest:*

<https://solarizenw.org/campaigns/solarize-the-land-trust/>

### **Avangrid Renewables and PSE Announce Largest Solar Project in Washington**

Avangrid Renewables, LLC, a subsidiary of AVANGRID, Inc. (NYSE: AGR), and Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”), announced a solar power contract for the Lund Hill Solar Project, under development in Klickitat County, Washington. Avangrid Renewables is developing the 150 MW solar project, which would be the largest solar project in Washington. It would supply PSE’s innovative renewable energy product, Green Direct, which allows participants the ability to purchase 100 percent of their energy from dedicated, local, renewable energy resources. For more information see the PSE

March 3 Press Release: <https://www.pse.com/press-release/details/avangrid-renewables>

### **Cattle Grazing Gives Way to Big Solar Farm Leases In Central Washington**

A Portland-based energy developer has signed property leases for a big solar farm in Klickitat County near the Columbia River. When completed, the solar project will be the largest in Washington. The Avangrid Renewables solar farm is slated for 1,800 acres that most recently served as grazing land for cattle between Bickleton and Roosevelt, Washington. The development is named the Lund Hill Solar Project. *OPB*, March 7, 2019:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/central-washington-solar-energy-cattle-ranch-farms/>

### **Grant to Fund Solar Power at Former Yakima Armory**

A housing project for homeless veterans planned at the former Marine Corps reserve armory in Yakima will be mostly solar powered, thanks to a grant from Pacific Power. The utility Thursday announced a rooftop solar installation at the old armory is among the projects approved for grants from the Blue Sky Fund, which comes from customers paying a few percent extra on their bills to fund renewable energy—*Yakima Herald-Republic*, February 28, 2019:

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/grant-to-fund-solar-power-at-former-yakima-armory/article\\_5636231a-3b92-11e9-816f-b31f48396659.html](https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/grant-to-fund-solar-power-at-former-yakima-armory/article_5636231a-3b92-11e9-816f-b31f48396659.html)

## **National**

### **Solar Market Insight Report show Residential Segment Rebounded in 2018**

For the third year in a row, the U.S. solar industry installed double-digit gigawatts of solar PV capacity, with 10.6 GW coming online in 2018. The amount was a 2% decrease from 2017. However, the forecast shows the market rebounding in the years ahead, according to the newly release “[U.S. Solar Market Insight 2018 Year-in Review Report](#)” from Wood Mackenzie Power &

Renewables and the Solar Energy Industries Association— Kelsey Misbrener, *Solar Power World*, March 13, 2019: <https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2019/03/solar-market-residential-market-rebound/>

### **The 2019 U.S. Energy and Employment Report**

The U.S. Energy & Employment Report, compiled by the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), provides a unique window on the people who meet the nation's energy needs, and identifies important trends and skill sets for the 21st Century energy workforce. To read more and access the report, see the NASEO website: <https://www.usenergyjobs.org/2019-report>

See NASEO's statistics for Oregon:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f41e9f4e1fcc96b85138f/1551843817777/Oregon.pdf>

See NASEO's statistics for Washington:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f42671905f46e120fe202/1551843943942/Washington.pdf>

### **Conferences, Events, and Webinars**

#### **Oregon Solar Energy Conference, May 7-9, 2019, Portland, OR**

The Oregon Solar Energy Conference features three days of well-curated content including keynote presentations from industry leaders. The conference blends the best networking opportunities with training, panel discussions and new technology. Take advantage of interacting with over 30 solar, storage and smart energy exhibitors. To register and view the course schedule see: <http://oregonsolarenergyconference.com/schedule/>

#### **Oregon's First Solar Career Fair, May 7, 2019, Portland, OR**

Expand your network! Meet qualified and interested job candidates, learn where you can find more resources when you are hiring or job seeking, and hear others' solar stories! What is it? This is a career fair but not a traditional one. The fair will be organized by job function rather than by business so you can hear from industry professionals about their roles in solar. The goal is make it easy to network with new people whether you're recruiting, looking for a new job, or expanding your network. This is free to attend, but registration is required. For more information and to register: <https://www.oseia.org/latest-news/careerfair1>

#### **Students are invited to Oregon's First Solar Career Fair at the Oregon Solar Energy Conference**

OSEIA is working to increase access to solar. This year we are hosting Oregon's first Solar Career Fair and offering students of university, community college or qualifying pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs a 90% discount off of conference registration. For more information and to register: <https://www.oseia.org/latest-news/careerfair1>

#### **Need Continuing Education Credits in Oregon**

Announcing Solar Technical Training dates in Oregon. OSEIA is offering trainings in April and May:

- *Solar PV Systems based on the 2017 NEC (8h)*, Medford, OR on April 18 and Portland, OR, May 7

- *Solar PV Systems Best Practices & Energy Trust Installation Requirements (4h)*, Eugene, OR, April 26

For more information and to register see OSEIA's Solar Technical Training webpage:

<https://www.oseia.org/statewide>

### **Solar Permitting Plan Review Course: Portland Oregon, May 7, 2019**

This course, presented by OSEIA, is an interactive, in-person course designed to provide a practical process for consistent plan review, with an emphasis on how to catch the most frequent installation errors. Taught by a national expert in solar plan review, the course will walk you through the review of a complete permit plan application. To learn more and to register see the OSEIA website:

<https://www.oseia.org/latest-news/2019/3/26/solar-permitting-plan-review-course-may-7>

### **Net Energy Metering, Distributed Solar Valuation and Rate Design (Webinar) April 9, 2019**

This timely webinar will present overviews of three recent reports.

1. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) produced a report on net energy metering (NEM) in response to a request from Congress. To gather information for the report, DOE conducted a Request for Information (RFI) and tasked ICF, Inc. to review 15 recent cost-benefit studies related to NEM. DOE's report is a 10-page letter that summarizes the conclusions it drew from the responses to the RFI and from ICF's report.
2. ICF's analysis for DOE, *Review of Recent Cost-Benefit Studies Related to Net Metering and Distributed Solar*, highlights the different value categories, approaches, and assumptions used in NEM cost-benefit analysis, value of solar studies, and broader DER valuation frameworks, emphasizing commonalities and differences between them, and how they are evolving over time. A short summary is available on ICF's blog.
3. The National Regulatory Research Institute released a *Review of State Net Energy Metering and Successor Rate Designs*, which summarizes state public utility commissions' actions to find alternatives to the more commonly used net metering rate design. These alternative proposals include compensating for energy delivered to the grid at a price other than the retail service rate; increasing fixed charges and sometimes also minimum bills; time-varying rates; and adding demand-charges to bills for customers who did not have them previously.

To read more and to register for this webinar, see the Clean Energy State Alliance:

<https://www.cesa.org/webinars/net-energy-metering-distributed-solar-and-rate-design/?date=2019-04-09>

### **Two Successful Local Initiatives to Expand Solar Equity to Low Income Communities (Webinar) April 16, 2019**

We are seeing leadership across the country at local levels advocating for programs and initiatives for solar equity. This webinar will feature speakers that were deeply involved in two groundbreaking initiatives that were successful in the November 2018 elections. Please join Vote Solar and SEIA to hear

about these two successful approaches: The Portland Clean Energy Fund is a citywide initiative that would tax large corporations to fund rooftop solar panels, home weatherization, job training and other projects that support low-income communities and the fight against climate change. To read more and register see: SEIA Website:

<http://www2.seia.org/webmail/139231/318215296/97bdbce773fa70bf7bd626145b14f2d9f0436b73c0696e91feab6d89f8dd6b51>

### **Northwest Green Home Tour, May 4-5, 2019, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia**

An engaging, self-guided tour of new and remodeled homes in the Puget Sound area. For dozens of site hosts & sponsors, from Seattle to Olympia, the annual Northwest Green Home Tour is a chance to educate the public about green building and connect with potential clients. Get inspired by projects in all shades of light to deep green, from backyard cottages and kitchen remodels to new homes built with cutting-edge green features. <https://www.nwgreenhometour.org/>

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**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](mailto:whitneya@energy.wsu.edu)

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