



**May 3, 2018**

Welcome to the May 3 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**

### **Some Solar Customers Left Behind After Oregon Deadline Passes**

Some of Oregon's solar customers are going to miss out on thousands of dollars in savings, thanks to the expiration last weekend of Oregon's solar tax credit – Tony Schick, April 3, KUOW:

<http://kuow.org/post/some-solar-customers-left-behind-after-oregon-deadline-passes>

### **Two Solar Farms Planned for Boardman**

Morrow County may soon see the development of two new solar facilities with the ability to produce 125 megawatts within its boundaries. The Carty Facility has plans for a new solar farm on its property, and the deadline for a public comment period on the siting of the facility is Friday. Another solar farm, the Boardman Solar Farm, is planned for an area in northwestern Morrow County, but no immediate plan has been made for construction— Jayati Ramakrishnan, *East Oregonian*, April 4, 2018.

<http://www.eastoregonian.com/eo/local-news/20180404/two-solar-farms-planned-for-boardman>

### **New Solar-Paneled Tiny Houses Erected at Dignity Village**

The community-run Dignity Village shelter in Northeast Portland celebrated a collaborative milestone April 4, when four new tiny houses were unveiled on site. A collaborative project between the ReBuilding Center, DPI Solar and the Portland Trail Blazers, as well as a handful of trades training organizations, the tiny homes are the newest addition to a long-term plan to improve and innovate the older structures at Dignity Village – Melanie Sevckenko, *The Skanner*, April 12, 2018.

<http://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/26779-new-solar-paneled-tiny-houses-erected-at-dignity-village>

## **Washington News**

### **81,000 Solar Panels: Washington's Largest Solar Farm Planned near Lind**

Washington's largest solar farm is coming to Lind. A North Carolina company plans to start installing 81,000 solar panels in May near the small community about 75 miles west of Spokane. By mid-December, the solar farm could be generating power for companies interested in low-carbon electricity – Becky Kramer, *The Spokesman-Review* April 8, 2018:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/apr/08/81000-solar-panels-washingtons-largest-solar-farm/>

### **Solar Panels on Farmland? In Central Washington, that Stirs a Fight**

Gov. Jay Inslee will decide whether Washington's first solar farm should go on crop land in Kittitas County. The plan to convert prime agricultural acreage to wide expanses of photovoltaic panels is getting pushback. See Hal Breton's article in the April 27 issue of the *Seattle Times*:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/solar-panels-on-farmland-in-central-washington-that-stirs-a-fight/>

### **Northwest News**

#### **Wind, Solar Power Could Be Key to Salmon Survival in the Northwest**

A new study, "[Lower Snake River Dams Power Replacement Study](#)," concludes that four hydroelectric dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington State could be effectively replaced by renewable power and more conservation. Fred Heutte of the Northwest Energy Coalition explains why in his article in *NewsDeeply*, April 25, 2018. To read the article and access the report:

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/community/2018/04/25/wind-solar-power-could-be-key-to-salmon-survival-in-the-northwest>

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#### **National News**

#### **N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center Releases *the 50 States of Solar: Q1 2018 Quarterly Report***

The N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) released its Q1 2018 Edition of *The 50 States of Solar*. The quarterly series provides insights on state regulatory and legislative discussions and actions on distributed solar policy, with a focus on net metering, distributed solar valuation, community solar, residential fixed charges, residential demand and solar charges, third-party ownership, and utility-led rooftop solar programs. Read more at:

[https://nccleantech.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Q1-18\\_SolarExecSummary\\_Final.pdf](https://nccleantech.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Q1-18_SolarExecSummary_Final.pdf)

#### **CESA to Lead Multistate Initiative to Develop Solar in Locations that Provide Benefits to the Grid**

CESA was selected by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to lead a collaborative research effort with six state agencies, including the Washington State Department of Commerce – State Energy Office, to identify locations for distributed energy resources (DER) that provide benefits to the grid. While CESA's multistate initiative will provide information and analysis to assist decision-makers with identifying high-value locations for DER development, each participating state has its own specific approach and goals under the project. Read more at:

<https://www.cesa.org/about-us/member-news/newsitem/cesa-to-lead-multistate-initiative-solar-grid-benefits>

**What will we do with all those Solar Panels When Their Useful Life is over?**

Solar power is having its hockey stick moment. Since the early 2000s, the amount of solar panels being installed worldwide has been growing exponentially, and it's expected to continue to do so for decades. By the end of 2015, an estimated 222 gigawatts worth of solar energy had been installed worldwide. According to a recent report from the International Renewable Energy Agency, that number could reach 4,500 GW by 2050. But the solar panels generating that power don't last forever. The industry standard life span is about 25 to 30 years ... read more on the recycling on solar panels in Nate Berg's article published, April 11, 2018 in *Enzia*:  
<https://ensia.com/features/solar-recycling/>

## **New Reports**

### **Affordable Housing is disappearing: Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy can help reverse that Trend**

Many low-income individuals and families are finding it increasingly difficult to rent apartments but energy efficiency and solar energy can help save affordable multifamily housing. ACEEE's new report, "[\*Our Powers Combined: Energy Efficiency and Solar in Affordable Multifamily Buildings\*](#)," shows how building owners are combining energy efficiency upgrades and rooftop solar systems to reduce energy use and lower their energy bills. These upgrades enable housing providers to devote more resources to preserving and expanding affordable housing, while also improving the health and well-being of building residents. Read more: Stefen Samarripas' ACEEE May 2 post:  
<http://aceee.org/blog/2018/05/affordable-housing-disappearing>

### **Income Trends of Residential PV Adopters: An Analysis of Household-Level Income Estimates**

The Electricity Markets & Policy Group at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is offering new insights into the economic trends of residential solar adopters in the U.S. According to Berkeley Lab, the study, "[\*Income Trends of Residential PV Adopters: An Analysis of Household-Level Income Estimates\*](#)," relies on a unique combination of datasets to describe income characteristics and trends among roughly 800,000 residential rooftop solar adopters across 13 U.S. states – To read more and access the report see *Solar Industry*, April 18, 2018:  
<https://solarindustrymag.com/berkeley-lab-analyzes-income-trends-of-residential-solar-adopters>

### **Low-Income Households Represent 320 Gigawatts of Untapped U.S. Residential Solar Energy Potential**

Residential rooftop solar projects in the U.S. have historically been installed on wealthier, single-family households, meaning companies typically target higher-income households with their marketing efforts. Residential solar installations continue to grow across the country, but this focus is overlooking a massive growth opportunity: Low-to-moderate income (LMI) households. A new first-of-its-kind report, "[\*Rooftop Solar Technical Potential for Low-to-Moderate Income Households in the United States\*](#)," from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) finds nearly half of all U.S. residential rooftop solar technical potential is on LMI households, and LMI solar capacity could total 320 gigawatts (GW) of potential solar installations across America. To read more and access the report see *The Energy Collective*, April 1, 2018.  
<http://www.theenergycollective.com/energy-innovation-llc/2432277/low-income-households-represent-320-gigawatts-of-untapped-u-s-residential-solar-energy-potential>

## **Jump-Start: How Activists and Foundations Can Champion Battery Storage to Recharge the Clean Energy Transition**

This report was prepared by the Clean Energy Group, for activists and foundations who want to understand how battery storage can become an essential new part of their clean energy and climate advocacy. It tries to answer two basic questions: (1) what do we need to know to understand these opportunities? And (2) what actions should we support to realize them? This report explores the top 10 emerging trends for battery storage across all elements of the energy system, and it recommends over 50 actions that should be taken to accelerate battery storage in these topic areas. To access the report, click here:

<https://www.cleangroup.org/ceg-resources/resource/jump-start-battery-storage/>

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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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