



**June 7, 2018**

Welcome to the June 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 PUC Adopts Retail Credit Rate for Community Solar Projects**

State and national solar energy advocates today expressed support for the Oregon Public Utilities Commission's decision to adopt a retail credit rate for community solar projects. The solar industry believes the decision is an important step toward launching community solar in Oregon by the end of 2018, with a simple and financeable credit rate that will enable a set of community solar projects to move forward – *Solar Power*, May 24, 2018:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2018/05/oregon-puc-adopts-retail-credit-rate-community-solar-projects/>

### **New Next-Gen Manufacturing Report Shows How Solar Jobs Can Grow, Even Without the Sun**

The new report, [\*The Oregon Jobs Project: A Guide to Creating Jobs in Next-Generation Manufacturing\*](#) was produced by the American Jobs Project (AJP) as part of its state-by-state reporting. The series seeks to provide state-specific strategies that take advantage of the growing advanced energy sector to create good-paying, local jobs. The new report describes the potential for an overall job growth in Oregon's advanced energy field of more than 65,000 annually – *Clean Technica*, May 28, 2018:

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/05/28/new-next-gen-manufacturing-report-shows-how-solar-jobs-can-grow-even-without-the-sun/>

### **Oregon Utility Seeks Hundreds of Megawatts of Renewable Energy**

Portland General Electric is seeking the equivalent of 500-620 MW of utility-scale solar, with a minimum project capacity of 10 MW. A year ago both Portland, OR and the county in which it is located set 100% renewable energy goals. Following up on that, earlier this week, the region's public utility issued a request for proposals (RFP) for "100 average megawatts" of renewable energy, as a major step to reach that target. Benchmark bids are due on June 8 and RFP proposals on June 15 – *PV Magazine*, May 24, 2018:

<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2018/05/24/oregon-utility-seeks-hundreds-of-megawatts-of-renewable-energy/>

## Washington News

### Work Begins on 204-Acre Solar Farm in Washington

When Strata Solar decided to build a solar farm in Washington, they looked for one of the sunniest spots in the state. They found it near Lind, a small town in eastern Washington. The company and Avista Utilities broke ground on the 204-acre Adams County Neilson Road Solar Farm May 24. The project is touted as the largest solar plant in the state – *Capital Press*, May 25, 2018:

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Energy/20180525/work-begins-on-204-acre-solar-farm-in-washington>

## Northwest and Regional News

### Farmland Preservation Advocates, who Might Normally be Allies of Green Power, are trying to Block Solar Projects on High-Value Cropland

In farm fields from the Willamette Valley to the Kittitas Valley and east to Idaho, energy developers want to plant a new crop: commercial solar arrays. But a surge in utility-scale solar farm applications is generating pushback. Farmland preservation advocates, who might normally be allies of green power, are trying to block solar projects on high-value cropland – See *Oregon Public Radio*, May 15, 2018:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/npr-commercial-solar-arrays-on-farmland-cropping-up-bountifullyand-stirring-opposition/#>

### California Will Require Solar Power for New Homes

Long a leader and trendsetter in its clean-energy goals, California took a giant step on Wednesday, becoming the first state to require all new homes to have solar power. The new requirement, to take effect in two years, brings solar power into the mainstream in a way it has never been until now. For more information see Ivan Penn's article in the *New York Times*, May 9, 2018 –

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/09/business/energy-environment/california-solar-power.html>

## Resiliency

### How Solar Emergency Microgrids Provide Resilience to Vulnerable Communities

Microgrids have become crucial to the rebuilding effort in Puerto Rico in the six months since Hurricane Maria. The situation there provides a unique illustration of the importance of microgrids with solar+storage – *PV Magazine*, May 21, 2018:

<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2018/05/21/how-solar-emergency-microgrids-provide-resilience-to-vulnerable-communities/>

## Solar Jobs

### Jobs in the Energy Sector Continue to Grow with WA State Leading the Way

On Wednesday, Washington senator Maria Cantwell revealed the results of a new report, the [2018 U.S. Energy and Employment Report](#), that found the energy sector employed 6.5 million Americans in 2017, up 133,000 jobs from the prior year. “We know that the energy sector, the third largest [industry] in the U.S., is continuing to grow. We know that there are ever increasing technologies that are related to

renewables and energy efficiency that make our cars, our homes, our buildings and even us smarter, and help drive down costs for consumers and businesses,” – Read more at *KXLY.com*, May 16, 2018: <https://www.kxly.com/news/jobs-in-the-energy-sector-continue-to-grow-with-wa-state-leading-the-way/742644838>

### **Up, Down Or Sideways: Where Will U.S. Solar Jobs Head Next?**

The immediate impact of President Trump’s new solar tariff is unclear, but evidence is mounting that solar jobs will continue to increase. That’s not necessarily good news for solar job seekers in the manufacturing sector, though. The whole point of the tariff was to increase U.S. manufacturing, but solar companies have been slow to announce plans to open new factories in the U.S. – *TriplePundit*, May 31, 2018:

<https://www.triplepundit.com/2018/05/sideways-will-u-s-solar-jobs-head-next/>

## **Solar Equipment and Supplies**

### **How to Assess New Solar Technologies**

Which is a better deal: an established, off-the-shelf type of solar panel or a cutting-edge type that delivers more power for a given area but costs more? It turns out that’s far from a simple question, but a team of researchers at MIT and elsewhere has come up with a way to figure out the best option for a given location and type of installation – *MIT News*, April 30, 2018:

<http://news.mit.edu/2018/analysis-when-where-solar-panels-economic-install-0430>

### **The Benefits of Adhesive-Mounted Solar**

Attaching solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to roofs with high-performance adhesives instead of complex racking systems can not only substantially reduce the cost and complexity of installing solar – it can keep buildings cooler and reduce air conditioning expenses in the summer as well – *SolarNovus Today*, June 1, 2018:

[http://www.solarnovus.com/the-benefits-of-adhesive-mounted-solar\\_N11548.html](http://www.solarnovus.com/the-benefits-of-adhesive-mounted-solar_N11548.html)

## **New Reports**

### **Thinking Creatively About Residential Solar PV System Optimization: The Solar Plus Approach**

Grid-tied residential solar photovoltaic (PV) systems reduce customer grid electricity costs. In most major PV markets, customers are also compensated for PV output exported to the grid. Researchers at the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are exploring ways to increase the value of PV through integration with devices that increase self-use. Read summary here in *Science Trends*:

<https://sciencetrends.com/thinking-creatively-about-residential-solar-pv-system-optimization-the-solar-plus-approach/> and connect to the fuller in-depth article in *Applied Energy* here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306261917318421>

### **GRID Alternatives and Vote Solar Release 2018 Low-Income Solar Policy Guide**

National nonprofits GRID Alternatives and Vote Solar today announced the release of their updated [Low-Income Solar Policy Guide](#). First published in 2016, the guide is an online resource to help policymakers, utilities, and community leaders draw from proven strategies for expanding solar access that are being used in states and cities across the country – *Vote Solar*, May 30, 2018.

<https://votesolar.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2018-low-income-solar-policy-guide/>

## Webinars

### Update on the Low-Income Solar Policy Guide & Updates from Colorado

Join SEIA, Vote Solar, and GRID Alternatives to learn about the newest edition of the Low-Income Solar Policy guides, with new insights, policy guidance, and tools for making solar truly for all. To be held Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 2:00 PM EST/ 11:00 AM PST. Cost: free. For more information see:

<https://www.seia.org/events/update-low-income-solar-policy-guide-updates-colorado>

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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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