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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

Cypress Creek Renewables Announces Renewable Energy Workforce Development Initiative in Oregon

Cypress Creek Renewables announced today the launch of a partnership with Oregon Institute of Technology to strengthen Oregon's energy workforce and grow the state's clean energy economy. The partnership will support the state's thriving solar industry and encourage development of a high-tech workforce in rural communities. The initiative, which includes a \$26,000 investment by Cypress Creek, will reduce course fees for students focused on Renewable Energy Engineering, with an emphasis on recruiting more women, veterans, and underrepresented communities to the industry. Cypress Creek also commits to build relationships between students and industry, by sharing professional expertise with students as mentors and guest lecturers—*Oregon Tech News*, Oct 16, 2018:

<https://webadmin.oit.edu/news/2018/10/16/cypress-creek-renewables-announces-renewable-energy-workforce-development-initiative-in-oregon>

Portland General Electric to Develop 'Smart Grids' in 3 Oregon Towns

Portland General Electric (PGE) unveiled on Thursday [plans to build "smart grids"](#) serving 20,000 people in three towns, scaling up clean energy technology more commonly seen in a microgrid in order to boost grid decarbonization efforts. The Oregon towns of Hillsboro, Portland and Milwaukie will make up [PGE's Smart Grid Test Bed](#), where the utility will leverage advanced communications capabilities and distribution system upgrades to deliver demand response signals to customers using a range of smart-home technologies—*UtilityDive*, Oct 15, 2018:

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/portland-general-electric-to-develop-smart-grids-in-3-oregon-towns/539720/>

Washington News

Washington Governor OK's Solar Project in Kittitas County

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has approved a new solar energy project in central Washington. Seattle-based Tuusso Energy sought a permit from the state to build photovoltaic facilities at five locations encompassing about 200 acres of farmland in Kittitas County. The Columbia Solar project is expected to generate about 25 megawatts of power, or enough to power about 5,000 homes—*East Oregonian*, Oct 18, 2108: <http://www.eastoregonian.com/washington-governor-oks-solar-project-in-kittitas-county-eo-ap-webfeeds-news-northwest8be239029500492fbacf141ed5f2c48d>

Ribbon Cut to Lind's New Solar Array, the State's Largest

The ribbon cutting of Washington's largest solar array, Adams Nielson Solar Farm, drew a crowd of guests ranging from the region's congressman, the state's governor and the nearby middle school's associated student body president. Made up of 81,700 solar panels, the site is estimated to be 10 times larger than the state's previous largest array. The project was created in collaboration between Avista Utilities, Strata Solar, WSU Energy Program and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and can provide power to Avista's commercial customers—*SunTribune News*, Oct 24, 2018: https://www.suntribunenews.com/business/20181024/ribbon_cut_to_linds_new_solar_array_the_states_largest

Rain Doesn't Prevent Washington's Solar Market from Growing

Although Washington may not look like a prime location for solar power, the market is growing reliably, according to Washington Department of Commerce staff Glenn Blackmon, senior energy policy specialist; Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, program and grant manager; and Seth Kolodziejcki, policy and contracts supervisor. In this joint written interview, they said utilities and the state are building energy efficiency programs and exploring electrification strategies—*Clean Energy Finance Forum*, Oct 17, 2018: <https://cleanenergyfinanceforum.com/2018/10/17/rain-doesnt-prevent-washingtons-solar-market-from-growing>

Inslee Announces Largest-Ever Purchase of Green Power for State Operations

Gov. Jay Inslee announced that eight state agencies will purchase over one hundred million kWh of electricity by 2021 from wind and solar projects built in Washington State. Overall, the purchase represents nearly one quarter of the electricity demand required for state agency operations, or enough electricity to power more than 6,000 homes—*Tacoma Daily Index*, Oct 23, 2018: <http://www.tacomadailyindex.com/blog/inslee-announces-largest-ever-purchase-of-green-power-for-state-operations/2444095/>

Tri-Cities to get \$10M Solar Energy Project. Workers Nationwide Will Train Here

Energy Northwest is moving forward with plans for a 20-acre solar project in the Horn Rapids area just north of Richland. It's expected to be a one-of-a-kind project that combines solar energy generation with battery storage and a center to train solar technicians from across the nation—*Tri-City Herald*, Oct 25, 2018— Read more here: <https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/article220637390.html>

See also: **Washington State Moves Forward with 5 MW Solar-Plus Storage Facility**—*Solar Industry*, Oct 26, 2018: <https://solarindustrymag.com/washington-state-moves-forward-with-5-mw-solar-plus-storage-facility/>

Renewable Energy System Incentive Program Update

The WSU Energy Program announced October 9, 2018 that they have imposed a deadline by which residential or commercial solar installations must be completed and have final electrical inspection in order for their owners to receive RESIP incentive payments. Furthermore, WSU Energy Program instituted a precertification application deadline for Community Solar and Shared Commercial Solar projects. The deadlines were imposed because of the total program cost cap of \$110 million.

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

Yakima City Council Considering Partnership to Increase Access to Affordable Solar Energy

Increasingly affordable solar panels could be a reality for Yakima residents in 2019. The City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to continue to research possible partnership with Spark Northwest, a Seattle-based non-profit aiming to increase access to clean energy—*Yakima Herald*, Oct 2, 2018:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/yakima-city-council-considering-partnership-to-increase-access-to-affordable/article_1842e95a-c6ce-11e8-aec9-334f95b70239.html

Workforce and Industry News

Funding to Advance Solar Careers for Veterans

The Solar Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating solar energy growth, was selected to receive a \$2 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) to support an advanced and highly qualified solar workforce—*Solarnovus*, Oct 25, 2018:

https://www.solarnovus.com/funding-for-solar-careers-for-veterans-and-underserved-communities_N11750.html

Reports

An Unfair Share: Exploring the Disproportionate Risks From Climate Change Facing Washington State Communities

Climate impacts or hazards, stemming from events like heat waves, floods and drought pose challenges for all Washington communities, now and in the future. However, the degree to which communities will experience these climate change-related hazards, described here as exposure, is not the same. The aim of this report is to support ongoing discussions regarding the climate change-related hazards facing communities in Washington, with a special emphasis on communities of color, indigenous peoples and communities with lower incomes. <https://cig.uw.edu/our-work/applied-research/an-unfair-share-report/>

OSU Solar Panels Have Grazers Made in the Shade: Grassy Side Benefit of Solar Energy Systems Found

Oregon State University scientists have found a resource to increase agricultural production on dry, unirrigated farmland—solar panels and the shade they make. The study, [*Remarkable agrivoltaic influence on soil moisture, micrometeorology and water-use efficiency*](#), published in the journal *PLOS One*, a research team in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences found that grasses favored by sheep and cattle thrive in the shade of a solar array installed in a pasture on the OSU campus—Read more at: KTVA News Channel 21, Nov 2, 2018:

<https://www.ktvz.com/news/osu-solar-panels-have-grazers-made-in-the-shade/840241760>

Grants

Department of Energy Announces \$46 Million to Improve Resiliency of Solar Generation

The U.S. Department of Energy announced up to \$46 million in research funding to advance holistic solutions that provide grid operators the situational awareness and mitigation strategies against cyber and physical threats. With more and more solar generation coming online every day, grid operators need the tools and technologies to ensure that the electric grid is resilient and energy services are delivered to critical infrastructure. These projects will develop and validate control strategies, real-time system monitoring, robust communications and other technologies to make solar power at the bulk power and distribution levels more resilient—DOE website, Oct, 15, 2018: <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-46-million-improve-resiliency-solar-generation>

Conferences, Workshops

Utility-Scale Solar Plus Battery Storage Workshop

Solar Plus NW Partner, Oregon Department of Energy, is hosting a free *Utility-Scale Solar Plus Battery Storage Workshop*, Nov 30, in Salem, OR. This workshop will focus on how northwest utilities are enhancing local energy resiliency through the use of battery storage systems coupled to solar installations. This workshop will include presentations from four battery storage projects throughout the region, covering equipment selection, schematic design, project management, operations and maintenance. For more information and to register, contact Rob Del Mar at: <mailto:Robert.delmar@oregon.gov>

- [Utility-Scale Battery Storage Workshop Invitation](#)
- [Utility-Scale Battery Storage Workshop Agenda](#)

Solar Workforce Development Workshops

Engage with your colleagues, friends, and industry members in discussions around a pathway for a skilled and stable solar workforce in Oregon. Together with Solar Plus, OSEIA is excited to host the inaugural Solar Workforce Development Workshop series in Portland and Eugene. These daylong workshops will feature many exciting components including:

- an interactive session with Serilda Summers-McGee- Owner & Founder of [Workplace Change](#) and author of [Change the WorkGame: Building and Sustaining a Diverse Workforce](#)
- Highlights from Oregon Solar Plan v. 2
- Survey Finds from The Solar Foundation OR & WA solar workforce research
- Workforce tools and resources

Portland Workshop: Tuesday, December 4 - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lucky Lab Beer Hall - 1945 NW Quimby St., Portland.

Register here: <https://oseia.regfox.com/or-workforce-workshop-portland>

Eugene Workshop: Thursday, December 6 - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Falling Sky Pizzeria - University of Oregon EMU 1395 University St. Rm#46 Eugene, OR 97403

Register here: <https://oseia.regfox.com/or-workforce-workshop-eugene>

Clean & Affordable Energy Conference, Portland, OR, November 15, 2018

Join the NW Energy Coalition or the Clean & Affordable Energy Conference. The conference will feature two of Oregon's largest utilities describing their strategies for deep decarbonization, followed by a panel discussion of how energy storage technologies can change the Northwest electric system. Then, conference speakers will explore how we can make energy efficient buildings and their benefits available to all – and improve community outcomes related to housing stability and economic development. For more information and to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/efficiency-workshop-nov-14-and-clean-affordable-energy-conf-nov-15-registration-48453092504?ref=elink>

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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