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Welcome to this 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.

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Oregon News

After Record Year for Solar, Energy Trust Continues Support in 2018

2017 was a big year for Oregonians installing solar panels. Energy Trust received more applications than ever before, including applications for over 150 commercial projects and more than 2,000 residential projects. The number of applications went up 50 percent compared to 2016. These projects—along with 10,000 more supported by Energy Trust over the last 15 years—helped us achieve more than 100 megawatts of solar installations at Oregon homes and businesses since 2002 – Energy Trust Blog, January 30, 2018.

<https://blog.energytrust.org/record-year-solar-energy-trust-continues-support-2018/>

Energy-efficient renovations transform Clatsop Community College's historic Patriot Hall

Clatsop Community College sits atop a steep hill looking out over Astoria, Oregon, and the Columbia River. The campus has been revitalized with a series of energy-efficient renovations. The most recent is Patriot Hall, a health and fitness center so cutting edge that it uses 70 percent less energy than standard buildings of its type. Daylighting, natural ventilation, low-speed ceiling fans, solar water heating and many other features work in harmony to make the space comfortable and airy, while helping the campus reduce energy costs. Read more and view video, article by Jessica Rose Ipliki, *Portland Business Journal*, February 3, 2018.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2018/02/03/energy-efficient-renovations-transform-clatsop.html>

Washington News

Northwest Wind and Solar awarded Housing Apartment Complex

NW Wind & Solar was recently awarded a 32kW rooftop installation at the Anchor Flats affordable housing apartment complex on Dexter Ave near Lake Union. Solar installation is scheduled for March and our crew is excited about the nice views! – NW Wind and Solar Twitter post, February 20, 2018.

<https://twitter.com/NWWindandSolar>

Solar Fairness Act Passes in the State Senate: Bill Gives Solar Customers the Right to Their Own Power

A bill deemed the “Solar Fairness Act” passed in the Senate Monday would ensure solar customers are equally credited for energy they put back into the grid through net metering. Kirk Haffner, founder of South Sound Solar in Olympia, was a big supporter of Senate Bill 6081 and testified at a public hearing in support of the bill Jan. 17. Haffner, whose company serves the Yelm area, stated net metering is the number-one concern of consumers looking to install solar – *Nisqually Valley News*, By Andrew Kollar, February 15, 2018.

http://www.yelmonline.com/news/local_news/article_8f29468a-128e-11e8-b5c1-8718ad6e55eb.html

One of the Largest Solar Projects in the State Just Opened. And it’s gorgeous.

The Skokomish Tribe’s long-awaited community center features more than 400 solar panels on the roof — enough that it is expected to produce more energy than it uses. “It’s slated to potentially be the first net-zero building on tribal land in the United States,” said Daniel Glenn, principal with 7 Directions, the Seattle-based architectural firm that designed the building – Lisa Pemberton, *The Olympian*, August 23, 2017.

<http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article168100062.html>

Community Solar

What You Need to Know About Community Solar

Community solar programs are a great way to allow more people the ability to access solar energy. An increasingly feasible option for both electricity users and utilities, community solar allows multiple participants to purchase panels or subscribe to a solar project in their community and receive on-bill credits associated with their portion of the overall system’s production. Anyone with an electric bill can participate in a program, including residential, commercial, industrial and non-profit customers of the participating utility – To read more, see Clean Energy Collective, February 22, 2018.

<http://cleanenergyco.com/blog/what-you-need-to-know-about-community-solar/>

Developer Makes 10 Community Solar Predictions For 2018

From an evolving market structure to technology innovation, the U.S. community solar landscape is transforming quickly. What does this mean for 2018? Colorado-based Clean Energy Collective (CEC), a national community solar developer and solutions provider, forecasts what is on the horizon for the sector and offers 10 predictions for the coming year – Posted by Joseph Bebon in *Solar Industry*, January 5, 2018.

<https://solarindustrymag.com/developer-makes-10-community-solar-predictions-2018>

Expanding Solar Availability to the Low-Income Community: Learnings from the Denver Housing Authority

Expanding the solar market to lower-income individuals and their businesses and nonprofits that serve them remains a top priority for the solar industry. Historically, participation in the solar economy has been primarily enjoyed by homeowners and large corporations with good credit.

However, a valuable success story out of Colorado deserves to be highlighted and considered for replication – by Mike Mendelsohn, SEIA website, February 12, 2018.

<https://www.seia.org/blog/expanding-solar-availability-low-income-community-learnings-denver-housing-authority>

National News

Panels before Trump's Tariffs

Chinese suppliers flooded the U.S. solar market with panels at the end of last year, as customers sought to avoid paying President Donald Trump's 30 percent import tariff. Fourth-quarter deliveries from China were almost 11 times higher than in the first nine months of 2017, according to a report Friday by Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Manufacturers also hauled panels and cells across the border from Mexico, Canada and other countries to beat the import duties that were announced last month – By Chris Martin, *Bloomberg Markets*, February 16, 2018.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-16/china-flooded-u-s-with-solar-panels-before-trump-s-tariffs>

U.S. Cities Can Save Billions with Green, Resilient Design, Says Report: A Financial Case for Green Roofs, Solar Panels, and Permeable Pavement

Sustainability has become a buzzword for urban designers and environmental advocates. A new report released yesterday stresses that making it a de facto policy for U.S. cities would be a cost-effective design solution that could save millions, and even billions, of dollars. Co-authored by Greg Kats and Keith Glassbrook, *Delivering Urban Resilience* looked at the ecological and financial advantages that would come from promoting co-called “smart surfaces,” such as green roofs, solar panels, and permeable and porous pavement, in urban areas. See *Curbed*, February 9, 2018

<https://www.curbed.com/2018/2/8/16990390/climate-change-solar-panel-green-roof-resilient-city>

Grid Alternatives Hosts Alternative Spring Break: College Students provide Solar to Low-Income Families

Nearly 200 college students from 19 schools across the country will spend their school break installing no-cost solar for low-income families, gaining hands-on workforce training, and connecting with solar industry careers through GRID Alternatives' Solar Spring Break program. GRID Alternatives, which helps make clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs accessible to disadvantaged communities, will lead teams of students in solar installations across California, Colorado and New Mexico from February 26 through May 25 – by Kathie Zipp, *Solar Power World*, February 26, 2018.

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2018/02/grid-alternatives-hosts-alternative-spring-break-college-students-provide-solar-low-income-families/>

2018 Solar Power Rocks Report Grades Every State on Solar Friendliness

How does your state stack up against all the other states in the country when it comes to being solar friendly? Solar Power Rocks, an online solar power resource site, rates every state every year based on 11 criteria, and then translates those rankings into an interactive chart. Each state gets an overall grade based on the data. For this year, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland,

Washington, DC, New York, Oregon, and Connecticut all got an A rating – by Steve Hanley, *Clean Technica*, February 14, 2018.

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/02/14/2018-solar-power-rocks-report-grades-every-state-solar-friendliness/>

Watch the Growth of Cities Using 100% Renewable Energy

As nations drag their feet on even modest climate change commitments, cities continue to take up the slack, particularly in taking up clean energy. More than 40 cities worldwide, including several in the U.S., now get all their electricity from renewable sources, while at least 100 get at least 70% of their power from renewables. Many more have made commitments to go that way in the future... U.S. cities already over 70% include Seattle; Eugene, Oregon; and Aspen, Colorado – by Ben Schiller, *Fast Company*, February 27, 2018.

<https://www.fastcompany.com/40536335/watch-the-growth-of-cities-using-100-renewable-energy>

Technological Innovations and Recent Reports

Iris PV and NREL Work to Modernize Rooftop Solar Production with Tandem Solar Panels

Did you know there are alternatives to standard silicon solar panels? Or that someday soon, you might be able install a solar panel that is 50% more efficient than the average silicon photovoltaic solar panel? That's exactly what Iris Photovoltaics, Inc. is aiming to produce. The Berkeley, CA-based company is working to modernize how silicon solar panels are manufactured. In addition, they are attempting to increase the efficiency of PVs to a range of 25-30%. The U.S. Department of Energy Small Business Vouchers program award recipient's technology adds a crystalline metal-halide perovskite layer to coat standard silicon solar panels, which produces additional electricity from infrared light – DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy blog, February 8, 2018.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/iris-pv-and-nrel-work-modernize-rooftop-solar-production-tandem-solar-panels>

6 Promising Energy Storage Options to Tie into the Grid

Renewable energy storage solutions have shown remarkable progress in recent years, as the following list demonstrates – Cabe Atwell, *Power Electronics*, February 13, 2018.

<http://www.powerelectronics.com/alternative-energy/6-promising-energy-storage-options-tie-grid>

3 New Tools for Advancing Energy Affordability in Low Income Communities

Better Buildings' Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) is breaking down barriers that low income communities face for implementing energy efficient and renewable energy technologies... To lower energy burden and jumpstart planning for energy programs, CELICA is developing a framework and toolkit for state and local governments, utilities, and other program implementers interested in developing low income energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Read about 3 new planning tools available on DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE) website, posted, January 10, 2018

<https://energy.gov/eere/articles/3-new-tools-advancing-energy-affordability-low-income-communities>

Meetings and Conferences

Next Solar Washington General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 7.

Solar Washington General Meeting at the Phinney Center in Seattle on Wednesday, March 7 from 6-8/8:15 PM for an evening of education, information and networking with fellow solar industry professionals, homeowners and supporters. For more info, see:

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/635962/192c39d088/286201847/9e329dc5a1/>

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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