



January 11, 2018

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

Solar Plus

Solar Plus Releases Strategies for 2018

Solar Plus has released strategies for increasing deployment in Washington State and Oregon. The strategies, building on goals set earlier in the year, focus on how to maximize the social, economic and technical benefits of solar. Front and Centered joined energy advocates, utilities, solar installers, and government in forming the Solar Plus project in 2017, a Department of Energy funded forum to increase solar deployment – *Front and Centered*, December 12, 2017.

<http://frontandcentered.org/solarplus-strategies/>

State Engagement in Electric Distribution System Planning

The Oregon Department of Energy January 5, 2018 shared strategies for increasing solar installations in the state. The strategies were developed over the last year by members of Solar Plus Northwest, a collaborative of 20 regional stakeholders focused on tripling the amount of solar energy installations in Oregon and Washington by 2019 – Posted January 5, 2018 on the Oregon Department of Energy's website:

<https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/2018/01/05/oregon-department-of-energy-partners-on-solar-plus-collaboration-to-boost-solar-energy-generation-in-the-pacific-northwest/>

Oregon News

Solar Farm Powers Up North of Medford

One proposed solar farm may have run into a land-use roadblock locally, but a second north of Medford will be able to turn on the lights for up to 2,000 homes at the end of December.

The 37,000 sun-tracking panels are being positioned on 44 acres of a 68-acre property at 5842 McLoughlin Drive, along with inverters, power poles and driveways. The facility will produce 9.9 megawatts of electricity – *Mail Tribune*, November 8, 2017.

<http://www.mailtribune.com/news/20171107/solar-farm-powers-up-north-of-medford>

Rooftop Solar Installations on Way to Record Year in Oregon

With a quarter to go, Oregon had just about notched its biggest year of residential solar installations, according to the latest U.S. Solar Market Insight report. The state saw 3.6 megawatts of solar power installed on homes in the quarter ended Sept. 30, pushing the 2017 total to 12 megawatts. That's just a hair less than last year's full-year total of 12.1 megawatts, which was a record for Oregon – *Portland Business Journal*, December 14, 2017.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2017/12/14/rooftop-solar-installations-on-way-to-record-year.html>

Washington News

PSE Funds Five Solar Projects through Green Power Program Grants

Puget Sound Energy is ringing in the New Year by giving five organizations in its service area the gift of green energy. The recipients are organizations that are either food distribution centers or emergency warming shelters in their respective communities. PSE is donating \$350,000 to install solar panels at Northwest Harvest in Kent, Community Action of Skagit County, Island Senior Resources, Salvation Army Bremerton and the Upper Kittitas County Senior Center. All five projects will be installed by June. For more information, read PSE's news release at:

<https://pse.com/aboutpse/PseNewsroom/NewsReleases/Pages/PSE-funds-solar-projects.aspx>

REI Buys Warehouse Facility to Build New HQ in Bellevue for \$49.3MM

REI's vision—as articulated in the submitted project plans—is to create a hub that is accessible, sustainable and connected to the local outdoor community. The sustainable design decisions include that the building is positioned for optimal solar orientation; that windows will be strategically placed to maximize daylight in the workplace; and that the surrounding landscape will feature edible garden species and native vegetation – *The Registry*, October 3, 2017.

<https://news.theregistryps.com/rei-buys-warehouse-facility-build-new-hq-bellevue-49-3mm/>

Industry

Tesla's New York Gigafactory Kicks Off Solar Roof Production

Tesla Inc. has kicked off production of its long-awaited electricity-producing shingles that Elon Musk says will transform the rooftop solar industry. Manufacturing of the photovoltaic glass tiles began last month at a factory in Buffalo built with backing from New York State, the company said in an email Tuesday. It comes more than a year after Tesla unveiled the shingles to a mix of fanfare and skepticism. The appeal: a sleek, clean solar product, especially for homeowners seeking to replace aging roofs. The tiles – from most angles – look like ordinary shingles. They allow light to pass above and onto a standard flat solar cell – *Bloomberg Markets*, January 9, 2018.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-09/tesla-powers-up-new-york-gigafactory-solar-roof-assembly-line>

Reports

SEIA Announces Release of Two Documents to Open Commercial & Industrial Solar

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) announced the release of two documents designed to spur investment in commercial solar projects. The first document is a contract that combines the benefits of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) to provide customers with a valuable new financing option. The second document, co-authored by SolarKal, is an educational report designed to explain the value of on-site solar to commercial property owners – for more information see SEIA press release posted January 3, 2018:

<https://www.seia.org/news/seia-announces-release-two-documents-open-commercial-industrial-solar>

Technical Innovations

Solar Panels have Gotten Thinner than a Human Hair. Soon they'll be Everywhere

South Korean scientists have created solar PV cells that are 1 micrometer thick, hundreds of times thinner than most PV and half again as thin as other kinds of thin-film PV. The cells are made with gallium arsenide as the semiconductor, "cold welded" directly onto a metal substrate, with no adhesive to make them thicker. Remarkably, they produce roughly as much power as thicker PV cells, though in testing, "the cells could wrap around a radius as small as 1.4 millimeters." – Vox, January 4, 2018.

<https://www.vox.com/2016/6/23/11998908/ultra-thin-solar-cells>

Conferences and Workshops

Solar U Workshop

Solar U, a purely educational, seminar-style program presented by Sunergy Systems will be presenting four workshops in western Washington that address how solar energy is an environmentally-conscious alternative to the use of fossil fuels. Attendees will learn about solar work in the Northwest, how solar panels work, Federal and State Incentives, and more. The workshops will be held at:

Bainbridge Island Solar U Workshop

Bainbridge Island Public Library, Thursday, January 18, 2018 - 6:00- 7:30 PM

Poulsbo Solar U Workshop

Sons Of Norway, Wednesday, January 24, 2018 - 6:00 -7:30 PM

West Seattle Solar U Workshop

West Seattle Senior Center, Thursday, January 25, 2018 - 6:00-7:30 PM

Grays Harbor Solar U Workshop

Nichols Building, Saturday, January 27, 2018 – 9:00-10:30 AM

To register for all workshops and get driving directions see:

<http://www.solar-u.com/future-seminars>

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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