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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

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Oregon News

Hood River Renewable Energy Resources

Hood River County, the City of Hood River and the Ports of Hood River and Cascade Locks have adopted and begun implementing the region's new Energy Plan. The Hood River Energy Plan calls for us to significantly replace electricity-powered by fossil fuels such as coal or diesel with renewable energy like hydro, solar and wind technologies. Even before the plan was adopted by our local governments, residents and local leaders have shown a commitment to investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects—Read more at, *Hood River News*, September 25, 2018:

<http://www.hoodrivernews.com/news/2018/sep/26/another-voice-clean-energy-jobs-fits-hood-rivers-e/>

Settlement Allows Beehive Solar Project to Go Forward

A settlement deal will allow a controversial 73-acre solar project and apiary to move forward in Oregon's Clackamas County. Earlier this year, the 1,000 Friends of Oregon nonprofit challenged the project's approval before the state's Land Use Board of Appeals after Clackamas County determined the development wouldn't preclude commercial agriculture because beehives would be kept on the property—See *Capital Press*, by Mateusz Perkowski, October 5, 2018.

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Energy/20181005/settlement-allows-beehive-solar-project-to-go-forward>

Four Sites Toured on Smart Energy Green & Solar Tour

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition took about 40 people in a small caravan of buses, vans and a few personal vehicles on a tour of the Smart Energy & Solar Tour in Douglas County on Saturday. Coalition board member Stuart Liebowitz said the organization has been taking

community members to different sites featuring the latest in energy innovations for 17 years –*The News-Review*, October, 9, 2018:

https://www.nrtoday.com/news/four-sites-toured-on-smart-energy-green-solar-tour/article_be444e44-dd4d-54de-ba55-7bfabb025f0e.html

Washington News

City of Yakima will Consider Easier Way to Buy Solar Panels

It may soon get easier and cheaper to purchase and install solar panels in Yakima. The city is exploring a possible partnership with Spark Northwest, a Seattle-based nonprofit that aims to expand affordable, locally controlled clean energy. The group already partners with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments in south Yakima County and brought a proposal to the Yakima City Council because it wants to work with a municipality. The group also is working with Mercer Island and Issaquah — Read more at *The Yakima Herald*, September 29, 2018:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/city-of-yakima-will-consider-easier-way-to-buy-solar/article_ca0da93c-c475-11e8-b8ca-73ab7f73bf4d.html

Assessing Equity in State Solar Strategies

Historically, clean energy subsidies have gone predominantly to higher-income Americans. A recent University of Berkeley study found at the national level the bottom three income quintiles received only 10% of all tax credits, while the top quintile has received about 60%. Washington State has made important investments in energy efficiency in low and moderate income households through the weatherization program— Deric Gruen, *Front and Centered*, Posted September 25, 2018:

<https://frontandcentered.org/assessing-equity-in-state-solar-strategies/>

Washington Regulators Approve Tight Rules on Community Solar

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) on Wednesday adopted rules regulating community solar entities outside of the electric utilities that provide those programs— Read more at, *Utility Dive*, October 4, 2018:

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/washington-regulators-approve-tight-rules-on-community-solar/538830/>

With \$1.8 Million Monthly power Bill, UW is Asked to Make Seattle Buildings Greener

From any angle, the solar panels on the University of Washington's new Life Sciences Building are hiding in plain sight. They're contained in the glass "fins," or projections, that run vertically up the southwest side of the new biology building. It's a type of solar installation that's never been tried before — here, or anywhere — making this one of the greenest buildings on the UW campus— *The Seattle Times*, September 23, 2018:

https://tdn.com/news/state-and-regional/with-million-monthly-power-bill-uw-is-asked-to-make/article_8addbb7f-23ac-518a-830e-aac46edb5f24.html

Longview Property puts up First Commercial Solar Panels in County

On top of the Re/Max Premier Group building on Washington Way in Longview, 40 solar panels are lapping up all the sun they can get. They're not powering much of anything yet, but it won't be long before the building's tenants are the first commercial enterprise in Cowlitz County to run on solar

power. “Even though energy is cheap here, we wanted to do the right thing,” building co-owner Eric Pucci said Monday—*The Daily News*, September 18, 2018:

https://tdn.com/news/local/longview-property-puts-up-first-commercial-solar-panels-in-county/article_4f5e0c9e-e56a-5da4-be2d-15785ace737c.html

Domex Superfresh Growers Adds Solar Panels

Yakima, Wash.-based Domex Superfresh Growers is looking to the sun for sustainability, said David Roby, brand manager. “Our goal of maximizing renewable energy continues with a recent investment in our rooftop solar panels,” he said. “We enjoy 300 days of sunshine a year, so the large, elevated flat roofs of our controlled atmosphere and packing facilities are ideal for capturing the power of the sun” —*The Packer*, October 4, 2018:

<https://www.thepacker.com/article/domex-superfresh-growers-adds-solar-panels>

Industry News

SunPower’s US-Based Future Gets Underway With Acquisition Of SolarWorld Assets & Solar Tariff Exclusion

SunPower, one of the world’s largest solar manufacturers, has announced this week it has completed the acquisition of certain assets belonging to SolarWorld Americas, including its Hillsboro, Oregon, facilities and its workforce of more than 200 employees—*Clean Technica*, October 4, 2018:

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/10/04/sunpowers-us-based-future-gets-underway-with-acquisition-of-solarworld-assets-solar-tariff-exclusion/>

Reports

The Price of Large-Scale Solar Keeps Dropping

The latest annual report on large-scale solar in the U.S. shows that prices continue to drop. Solar keeps becoming more irresistible. The [report](#), from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and the US Department of Energy’s Solar Energy Technologies Office, is the sixth annual release about the progress of “utility-scale” solar. For these purposes, they generally define “utility-scale” as at least 5 megawatts (three orders of magnitude larger than a typical residential rooftop solar system). And “solar” means mostly photovoltaic (PV), not concentrating solar power (CSP), since PV is where most of the action is these days—Union of Concerned Scientists, *Blog*, September 13, 2018:

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/john-rogers/large-scale-solar-gets-cheaper>

State Solar Contract Disclosure Requirements

A rapidly growing residential solar market has created challenges for solar consumers. With so many households adopting solar and more PV systems installed, there is potential for solar consumer protection issues to emerge. Relatively few people who have invested in solar have been unhappy with their purchases, but even a small number of bad experiences deserves attention—*Clean Energy States Alliance*, posted August 2, 2018.

<https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/state-solar-contract-disclosure-requirements>

Conferences, Tours, and Career Opportunity

2018 Washington State Solar Summit, October 19, 2018, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

The Washington State Solar Summit is an important annual information gathering and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators/policy makers, educators, students, tribal members, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, engineers, financial lenders, consultants and more. For more information and to register see: https://www.solarwa.org/2018_solar_summit

Persephone Farm Tour, Lebanon, OR

There will be a tour, Monday, October 15, 2018, from 4-6 PM, of [Persephone Farm's](#) solar energy and energy efficiency equipment. Over 80% of Persephone's electricity comes from farm solar panels.

Persephone Farm is located at 30291 Bates Lane, Lebanon, OR. The tour is free, and open to all, but registration is requested at Spark NW:

<https://sparknorthwest.org/projects/rural-renewables/renewable-energy-farm-walks/register-for-a-farm-walk/>

Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA)

OSEIA is looking to fill the position of Executive Director — For more information on this position, OSEIA, and application information check this job description:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lzWzF6lpxOs9YrlgwPgy5kakehSVtYtr/view>

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