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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

New Affordable Housing Popping up in Deschutes County

One of Bend's newest affordable housing apartment complexes held its grand opening on Friday. Affordable housing can help low-income families save money and access better jobs. It can also create new tax revenues for the city it is located in. "The car (parking) lots are covered with solar panels and the roofs are covered with solar panels," Roy said. "In the end, this building will only use about 100,000 kilowatt hours, after all is said and done. As a result of that, we don't charge our tenants for utilities -- that's included in the rent" —by Jordan Williams, *News Channel 21, KTVZ.com*, Nov 1, 2019:

<https://www.ktvz.com/news/new-affordable-housing-popping-up-in-deschutes-county/1138237195>

Partnership Launches Community-Financed Solar Project for Local Schools: Solar and Batteries will Provide Emergency Power for Neah-Kah-Nie School

The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative, in partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Neah-Kah-Nie School District, is launching a new project to install solar and backup batteries at two Neah-Kah-Nie School District schools—*Tillamook County Pioneer*, Oct 14, 2019:

<https://www.tillamookcountypioneer.net/partnership-launches-community-financed-solar-project-for-local-schools-solar-and-batteries-will-provide-emergency-power-for-neh-kah-nie-school-district/>

Corvallis Schools Solarization Project Needed Investors, the Stock Offering Sold Off in Two Hours

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative are teaming up to launch a new initiative aimed at transitioning Corvallis from fossil fuel-based energy to solar energy. *Solarize Corvallis* will use community investment to finance solar and battery systems at Corvallis schools, government buildings, low-income housing, and non-profits—*The Corvallis Advocate*, Oct 25, 2019:

<https://www.corvallisadvocate.com/2019/corvallis-schools-solarization-project-needed-investors-the-stock-offering-sold-off-in-two-hours/>

PGE Renewable Development Fund Awards Nearly \$1 Million in Grants to Support Local Renewable Development Projects

Portland General Electric Company recently awarded nearly \$1 million in PGE Renewable Development Fund grants to nine local nonprofits to create clean energy projects that will generate 1.4 megawatts of clean power for the region. These grants are part of the Green FutureSM renewable energy program, which helps put more clean, local, renewable energy onto the electric grid—*Portland General Electric* Press Release, Nov 4, 2019:

<https://www.portlandgeneral.com/our-company/news-room/news-releases/2019/11-04-2019-pge-renewable-development-fund-awards>

Updated Oregon Community Solar Program Administration Webinar Scheduled

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administration team invites stakeholders to discuss updates to the program implementation manual and pre-certification launch. For an overview of the latest version of the Program Implementation Manual, and to register for an accompanying informative webinar see:

<https://orcsplaunch.wordpress.com/2019/10/31/updated-pim-webinar-scheduled/>

Three Solar Projects will Boost Clean Energy Effort

“Solar’s Got Talent” is the name given by an Oregon clean energy co-op for a collaboration with three Talent institutions that obtained \$149,656 in state grants to help construct solar arrays with battery backups—by Tony Boom, *Mail Tribune*, Oct 15, 2019:

<https://mailtribune.com/news/top-stories/three-talent-solar-projects-will-boost-clean-energy-effort>

Washington News

The Renewable Energy System Incentive Program Legislative Report

Check out *The Renewable Energy System Incentive Program Legislative Report: October 2019* by the WSU Energy Program at:

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/documents/Renewable%20Energy%20System%20Incentive%20Program%20Report-Oct2019.pdf>

Ensuring Equity in Washington’s 100% Clean Electricity Law

Washington passed 100% clean electricity into law earlier this year, and with public input government agencies are currently drafting rules to guide utilities on how to comply with the law by phasing out fossil fuel emissions and integrating equity in their service models. We have a chance now and in the coming months to shape the equity terms and objectives in how the law is administered, primarily in defining processes for energy assistance and equitable distribution of benefits. Read more: by Mariel Thuraingham, *Front and Centered*, Nov 4, 2019:

<https://frontandcentered.org/ensuring-equity-in-washingtons-100-clean-electricity-law/>

Leaving Behind Coal, PacifiCorp Plans Decades-Long Push into Renewables, with Heavy Investment in Solar in Washington

Throttling back on coal-fired electricity, utility company PacifiCorp plans massive investments in renewable energy that will include — by 2036 — a huge boost in Washington state solar energy production— by Hal Bernton, *Seattle Times*, Oct 3, 2019:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/leaving-behind-coal-pacificorp-plans-decades-long-push-into->

[renewables-with-heavy-investment-in-solar-here/](#)

Editorial: HopeWorks Station a Model for Ending Poverty Cycle

Residents for the third major supportive housing development opening in Everett this year — HopeWorks Station at 3315 Broadway — are expected to begin moving in this week as construction wraps up and programs and staff continue setting up—*The Herald Editorial Board, Herald Net*, Oct 6, 2019:

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-hopeworks-station-a-model-for-ending-poverty-cycle/>

Church Goes Solar: Solar Panels, Environmental Events Make for a Bright Future

Congregational Church on Mercer Island has new solar panels, which they recently celebrated earlier this month. The church is also hosting a series of events and activities to inspire Islanders to take action against climate change—by Natalie DeFord, *Mercer Island Reporter*, Oct 24, 2019:

<https://www.mi-reporter.com/life/church-goes-solar/>

Agrivoltaics

Solar Panels Pair Surprisingly well with Tomatoes, Peppers and Pollinators

The world already needs more solar power. It is clean, renewable energy, and it is quickly outpacing the job creation and affordability of fossil fuels. But on top of that, a growing field of research suggests it can improve agriculture, too, helping us grow more food and pollinator habitat while also conserving land and water—Russell McLendon, *Mother Nature Network*, Sept 30, 2019:

<https://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/agrivoltaics-solar-power-crops-bees>

Industry

How Solar Installers can Diversify their Workforces

The NW Energy Coalition has published a fact sheet summarizing tactics that solar installers can use to attract more people of color to the industry and to their companies. The fact sheet is derived from a study published in June by the Solar Foundation, which found that only about 10% of 7,300 solar industry jobs in Washington and Oregon are held by a person of color. To link to the fact sheet and more see: *Northwest Energy Coalition*, Oct 22, 2019:

<https://nwenergy.org/featured/how-solar-installers-can-diversify-their-workforces/>

Conferences and Events

Oregon Solar Workforce Celebration, Portland, OR, Nov 14, 2019

The Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) invites you to an event to kick-off our new workforce development programs. They will talk about the two pilot programs they did with partner organizations this year and they would like to hear from community groups about what they would like to see in a collaborative workforce development program with OSEIA. For more info see:

<https://www.oseia.org/new-events/2019/11/14/oregon-solar-workforce-celebration>

Energy Leaders Summit, Seattle, WA, Nov 19, 2019

The Energy Leadership Summit is a regional clean energy event. Presented jointly by the CleanTech

Alliance and the Northwest Environmental Business Council, this unique event connects policy with practice and addresses the industry's current challenges and future opportunities. For details and to register see: <https://www.nebc.org/event/energy-leadership-summit/>

NW Energy Coalition Clean & Affordable Energy Conference: Seattle, WA, Dec 2, 2019

Join the NW Energy Coalition for this clean energy conference on December 2, 2019 in Seattle. This fall's conference will feature keynote speaker Alison Silverstein of the North American SynchroPhasor Initiative speaking about emerging technologies for grid reliability, and attendees will hear from the leaders of some of the Northwest's largest utilities on the Bonneville Power Administration and the future of the energy system in our region. For more information and to register:

<https://www.nebc.org/event/clean-affordable-energy-conference/>

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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