December 6, 2018

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

Verde Launches New Solar Energy After School Program in Cully neighborhood!

In Response to The Living Cully Community Energy Plan Verde and Hacienda CDC's After school program *Expresiones*, have teamed up to launch a pilot solar energy afterschool program here in the Cully Neighborhood.

The Living Cully Community Energy Plan is a neighborhood-scale energy plan that identifies energy conservation and energy generation pilots for the Cully neighborhood. The Energy Plan creates a blueprint for how we can prevent displacement through increased investments in the energy sector. By investing in public education and community service, we can lift up a community-led, anti-displacement vision of climate action.

The after school program provides interactive and accessible STEM learning within the context of localized energy generation. Students learn about community-based energy projects while also working on their own solar energy project with their peers. During the seven-week curriculum, students get hands on experience in the technical aspects of building a solar panel. The after school program coincides with the current 78 kW solar installation at St. Charles Church and serves to encourage Cully youth to build excitement around future solar investments in the neighborhood. The educational program culminates with a site visit to St. Charles Church where students will interview solar professionals from the project crew. Verde expects to implement a second round of the solar curriculum in the neighborhood in the spring, with a final curriculum being produced in summer 2019. The Solar Curriculum is possible through Solar Plus funds.

For more questions or information, contact Carolina Iraheta Gonzalez at carolinairaheta@verdenw.org

Planners to Discuss Proposed Solar Power Project
The Baker County Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing December 11 to consider a California company's application to install solar power panels on private land near Baker City. The hearing will start at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. in Baker City. The solar power array would consist of 45,000 to 55,000 panels installed on 90 to 100 acres of rangeland near Sutton Creek Road, about six miles southeast of Baker City. For more information, see the *Baker City Herald*, November 26, 2018:
https://www.bakercityherald.com/home/6719262-151/planners-to-discuss-proposed-solar-power-project

Energy Trust Seeks Partners to Devise Innovative Solar Programs for Lower-Income Folks
The Energy Trust of Oregon, which was criticized during Portland's recent Clean Energy Fund campaign for failing to assist lower-income folks, is enlisting the help of community groups to develop programs that deliver solar energy to residents of modest means. Energy Trust is offering eight to 12 grants of $5,000 to $10,000 to help groups create programs to provide solar for low- and moderate-income Oregonians within PGE and Pacific Power territory—by Steve Law, *Sustainable Life*, November 13, 2018:
https://pamplinmedia.com/sl/412014-312731-energy-trust-seeks-partners-to-devise-inNovative-solar-programs-for-lower-income-folks-

Canadian Solar Delivers 10 MW Bifacial Modules to Neighborhood Power for Projects in Oregon
Canadian Solar Inc., one of the world's largest solar power companies, today announced that the company has delivered 10 MW of Canadian Solar bifacial PV modules - BiKu CS3U-PB-AG - to Neighborhood Power for four solar power projects near Portland, Oregon. This represents the first significant delivery of bifacial solar PV modules into the United States. Bifacial (literally: two faces) solar modules can generate energy not only from the front side, but from the backside as well. With Canadian Solar's Biku bifacial modules, the sunlight on the ground is reflected to the glass-covered back side of the module, producing extra solar energy in a solar system, significantly reducing the solar system's levelized cost of electricity hence higher return on investment—*PR Newswire*, November 14, 2018:
https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/canadian-solars-delivery-of-10-mw-bifacial-modules-to-neighborhood-power-for-projects-near-portland-oregon-signals-that-us-market-is-now-open-for-bifacial-pv-300750137.html

Washington News

Solarizado!
Solarize Northwest is excited to announce our first-ever Spanish language workshop in partnership with Nuestra Casa and Yakima Valley Conference of Governments on December 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at 906 E. Edison in Sunnyside WA. The workshop will cover the Solarize program, the best solar sites, costs and financing, and next steps for solar. For more information and to register see:
https://solarizenw.org/news/solarizado/

Community Solar

A Checklist for Voluntary Utility-Led Community Solar Programs

Community solar is a proven solution that expands access to solar regardless of income level or housing type, giving 75% of American households who can't access rooftop solar the opportunity to benefit from local clean energy. Developed by Vote Solar and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, this checklist highlights elements of successful voluntary community solar programs that can be used as a framework to allow community solar to scale cost-efficiently and ensure that its benefits are reaching consumers and the community. To read more and access the report see *Vote Solar*: https://votesolar.org/policy/policy-guides/shared-renewables-policy/community-solar-checklist/

How To Tell A Good Community Solar Program From A Bad One
Scores of community solar programs are already up and running in the U.S., but until recently subscribers typically had to pay a premium over the regular utility rate to get their hands on all those clean electrons. The good news is that clean power rates do not necessarily have to go up. In today's energy landscape, rates could very well go down – if the program is designed and marketed properly – Tina Casey*, Clean Technica*, November 17, 2018: https://cleantechnica.com/2018/11/17/how-to-tell-a-good-community-solar-program-from-a-bad-one/

Resilience

Maryland's New Resiliency Program Could Serve as a Model for Other States
There is a lot to like about the Maryland Energy Administration's new $5 million program to support community resiliency hubs powered by solar and battery storage. It recognizes the value of providing basic services in an emergency, prioritizes low-income communities, provides adequate levels of funding for solar and batteries as well as related electrical work and components, allows for flexible use cases, and sets realistic goal – See *Clean Energy Group*, Blog, November 8, 2018: https://www.cleanegroup.org/marylands-new-resiliency-program-could-serve-as-a-model-for-other-states/

The Case for Solar as Resilience from Economic Disasters Too
Resilience is a hot topic in solar industry conversations these days because of how it and other distributed energy strategies can protect critical infrastructure from natural disasters. Resilience can be hard to quantify, but solar industry leaders and regulators should extend the valuation of energy resilience to man-made disasters too, like what often befalls the brittle local economies of middle class and lower income communities around the country—by Chris Crowell, *Solar Builder*, November 27, 2018: https://solarbuildermag.com/news/the-case-for-solar-as-resilience-from-natural-and-economic-disasters/

National

Explaining the Plummeting Cost of Solar Power
The dramatic drop in the cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, which has fallen by 99 percent over the last four decades, is often touted as a major success story for renewable energy technology. But one question has never been fully addressed: What exactly accounts for that stunning drop? A new analysis by MIT researchers has pinpointed what caused the savings, including the policies and technology changes that mattered most. The insights can help to inform future policies and evaluate whether

similar improvements can be achieved in other technologies. The findings are being reported today in the journal *Energy Policy*, in a paper by MIT Associate Professor Jessika Trancik, postdoc Goksin Kavlak, and research scientist James McNerney. To read more and access the report, see *MIT News*, November 18, 2018:
http://news.mit.edu/2018/explaining-dropping-solar-cost-1120

Putting Solar Panels on New Homes Could Triple U.S. Solar Capacity
If builders start putting solar panels on all new American homes in 2020, the United States could more than triple its current solar power capacity by 2045, according to a nw report released today by Environment America Research & Policy Center— to read more and access the report see: *Environment America,* December 3, 2018:
https://environmentamerica.org/news/ame/putting-solar-panels-new-homes-could-triple-us-solar-capacity

Webinars

Webinar: What Does it Take to be a Successful Solar Installer?
The solar industry's growth has attracted many new businesses to local markets. With so many upstart competitors, how do you set yourself apart as a company? Prospective customers know you offer similar products and services – how do you win their business without competing solely on price? We speak to the installers who have mastered setting themselves apart from their competition, whether it is through customer experience, distinctive marketing, or unique value proposition— originally presented November 14. 2018. Watch now at *Solar Power World*:
https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2018/11/webinar-what-does-take-successful-solar-installer/

Oregon's New Energy Storage Project for Resiliency and Cost Savings
December 18, 2018, 2:00 PM—3:00 PM Eastern Time
A new energy storage project in Eugene, Oregon will provide backup power for emergency services, as well as cost savings and electricity services to the municipal utility (Eugene Water and Electric Board). This webinar will summarize the project and explore technical and economic issues that have arisen during development. The project is important because it will further understanding of how energy storage can participate in energy markets in the Pacific Northwest. The project is jointly supported by U.S. DOE Office of Electricity, Sandia National Laboratories, and Oregon Department of Energy. To register, check Clean Energy States Alliance Events & Webinars at:
https://www.cesa.org/webinars/oregons-new-energy-storage-project-for-resiliency-and-cost-savings/?date=2018-12-18

Inclusive Solar Financing for Low Income Solar
December 12, 2018, 11:00 AM Pacific Time
Making solar financing more inclusive has the potential to make participation in solar energy more expansive, by breaking down some of the more challenging barriers that have prevented low-income and low-credit customers from participating. Vote Solar recently worked with Sustainable Capital Advisors to produce the "Inclusive Solar Finance Framework". This webinar will discuss the report, which outlined a framework that policymakers, advocates, the solar industry, community groups, and financial organizations can use to think more broadly about ways to achieve greater equity as the nation

transitions to a cleaner energy economy. Register at SEIA here: https://www.seia.org/events/inclusive-solar-financing-low-income-solar

---

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

While every URL in *Solar Newsbriefs* is checked for accuracy prior to distribution, URLs may change, and servers may temporarily fail to connect to working URLs.

If any of your colleagues would like to be added to the distribution list to receive *Solar Newsbriefs*, or you would like to be omitted from this distribution list, please email your request and contact information to solarnewsbriefs@energy.wsu.edu.

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Solar Plus Strategies for Oregon and Washington award number DE-EE0007665.