



**February 22, 2018**

Welcome to this week'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>

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### **Oregon News**

#### **A Cloud Over Solar Power: In the Wake of New Tariffs on Solar Energy, Local Companies Say Now Is The Time To Buy**

Local reaction at Bend, OR's Sunlight Solar, which specializes in solar electrical systems and businesses to the recent 30 percent tariff on imported solar cells and panels – most coming from China – by Chris Miller, *The Source Weekly*, Bend, OR, February 1, 2018.

<https://www.bendsource.com/bend/a-cloud-over-solar-power/Content?oid=5083551>

#### **Solar Car Built by Oregon Students to go on Display at World of Speed**

With an average speed of just 35 miles per hour, the newest edition to the World of Speed museum in Wilsonville isn't setting any records, but garnering plenty of stares. Resembling a home-made flying saucer, Heliocentric II is plastered with solar panels on a wide, flat frame designed and built by the Pacific Northwest's only high school solar car team – By Samantha Swinder, *The Oregonian/OregonLive*, February 17, 2018.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty/index.ssf/2018/02/solar\\_car\\_built\\_by\\_oregon\\_stud.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty/index.ssf/2018/02/solar_car_built_by_oregon_stud.html)

### **Washington News**

#### **The University of Washington Addresses Sustainability in the Built Environment: A Look at the New Life Sciences Building**

The University of Washington will have a new focal point for one of its most popular academic departments in the coming months and is also making moves in its efforts towards sustainable design. The project team for the soon-to-be-completed development includes the UW Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences, Perkins+Will (architect), Skanska (contractor), AEI (electrical designer), VECA (electrical subcontractor) and Mission Glass. UW Solar, a student group at UW, was also actively involved in the analysis for the implemented solar energy system, writing grants for

funding and presenting them to the University – to read more, see article by Jack Stubbs in *The Register*, February 15, 2018.

<https://news.theregistryps.com/university-washington-addresses-sustainability-built-environment-look-new-life-sciences-building/>

### **New Report: WA Wind and Solar Could Supply All of State's Energy**

According to the new Environment Washington Research and Policy Center report, *Road to a Fossil Free Washington: How Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicles can Repower Washington State*, just 5.5 percent of Washington's wind and solar energy potential could power all the electricity our state currently needs, plus the estimated demand once all our vehicles are electric, rather than gas-powered – Bruce Speight, *Environment Washington Research and Policy Center*, February 15, 2018. To read the press release and access the report see:

<https://environmentwashington.org/reports/wac/road-fossil-free-washington>

### **Rulemaking Regarding the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's Jurisdiction and Regulation of Community Solar Companies**

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry to implement Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5939, which became effective July 7, 2017. ESSB 5939 creates a framework for Commission regulatory oversight of community solar companies. To read the notice, and the Informal Draft Rules and where to file written comments (By Thursday, March 1, 2018) and attend workshop (set for Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.) see:

<https://www.utc.wa.gov/docs/Pages/CommunitySolarRulemaking%2cDocketUE-171033.aspx>

## **Solar Finance**

### **Report Explores New Financing Options for Solar+Storage in Low-Income Communities**

Current clean energy financing models do not sufficiently serve low-income communities. As a result, solar+storage projects are vastly underrepresented in affordable housing and community facilities, meaning that low-income communities are unable to enjoy the benefits of clean, affordable and resilient power. A new paper, *Owning the Benefits of Solar+Storage*, by Clean Energy Group describes emerging finance models to address the energy equity challenge and to level the financing playing field. To download the paper and register for same topic webinar (to be held March 29, 2018) see:

<https://www.cleangroup.org/ceg-resources/resource/owning-the-benefits-of-solar-storage/>

### **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 Solar 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>

### A Solar Panel on Every Roof in the U.S.? Here are the Numbers

Estimate shows rooftop solar could produce almost 40 percent of our electricity. See article by Scott K. Johnson, *ars Technica*, February 16, 2018:

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2018/02/a-solar-panel-on-every-roof-in-the-us-here-are-the-numbers/>

### Residential Solar is Cheap, But Can It Get Cheaper? Paths to \$0.05 per kWh

The price of solar panels has fallen far and fast. But the Energy Department (DOE) wants to bring those costs down even further, especially for residential homes. In a new report from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), [\*Cost-Reduction Roadmap for Residential Solar Photovoltaics \(PV\), 2017-2030\*](#), researchers mapped out some possible pathways to that goal. Notably, the biggest barriers to cost reduction appear to be the stubborn "soft costs" of solar installation. To read article and access the report see, *ars Technica*, February 18, 2018

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2018/02/residential-solar-is-cheap-but-can-it-get-cheaper-paths-to-0-05-per-kwh/>

### Release of 2018 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook

The 2018 edition of the *Sustainable Energy in America Factbook* – produced for the Business Council for Sustainable Energy by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, provides up-to-date, accurate market information about the broad range of industries — energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy— that are contributing to the country's move towards cleaner energy production and more efficient energy usage – View the 2018 edition of the *Factbook* at the BCSE website:

<http://www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook/>

### In 2017, Solar Policy Debates Took the Industry's Future to Higher Ground

More solar contention in 2017 led to better questions and deeper insights about the renewable resource's value – by Herman K. Trabish, *Utility Dive*, February 1, 2018.

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/in-2017-solar-policy-debates-took-the-industrys-future-to-higher-ground/515716/>

## Environmental Justice

### NAACP Clean Energy Policy Advocates Speak Up

During the solar policy debates that have happened in the United States over the past several years, many conversations about what low-income utility customers want have taken place without the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) being in the room. But now that the organization has published its 2017 report, "*Just Energy Policies: Model Energy Policies Guide*," it's clear that the views of its constituent have been misrepresented in these meetings – Continue reading article and access report at *Clean Energy Finance Forum*, January 30, 2018.

<https://cleanenergyfinanceforum.com/2018/01/30/naacp-clean-energy-policy-advocates-speak-up>

### **Rosario Dawson Promotes NAACP's Solar Equity Initiative**

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) extends our deep gratitude to Rosario Dawson for her support and promotion of our Solar Equity Initiative and Go Solar in Your Community pledge. Dawson – a prolific producer, actress, singer, and political activist for women's rights and environmental justice, recorded a video to stand in her place at NAACP's Image Awards on January 15, 2018 – To read NAACP press release and link to video click here:

<http://www.naacp.org/latest/rosario-dawson-promotes-naacps-solar-equity-initiative/>

### **This Activist is Helping Low-Income People Lower Their Energy Bills**

An energy bill more than 6% of a household's income is considered unaffordable. In parts of the U.S., many of the poorest families pay as much as 20%. DeAndrea Salvador wants to change that by advocating for inclusive renewable-energy initiatives – *Builder*, January 25, 2018.

[http://www.builderonline.com/money/affordability/this-activist-is-helping-low-income-people-lower-energy-bills\\_c](http://www.builderonline.com/money/affordability/this-activist-is-helping-low-income-people-lower-energy-bills_c)

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**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](mailto:whitneya@energy.wsu.edu)

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