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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>

Solar Plus News

Solar Plus Hands on Meeting, April 18, Olympia, WA

On April 18, Solar Plus stakeholders from both OR and WA met at the WA State Dept. of Commerce in Olympia, WA for the All Hands meeting. The day's agenda was packed with networking, activities, presentations, and breakout sessions. In the morning, partners mapped their organization's activities and accomplishments to Solar Plus tasks. This activity illuminated how much is being done and how many people/organizations are working together to meet grant objectives. Show and Tell presentations followed. Listed below are the presentations delivered:

- In Washington, partner Deric Gruen (Front & Centered) presented the [Environmental Health Disparities Map](#), a collaborative effort produced by Front & Centered, the UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and others.
- Jill Eikenhorst (Spark Northwest) updated partners on the [Heritage Land Trust group purchase](#), which will provide 10 low-income households with solar.
- Suzy Oversee gave an update on [the Snohomish PUD's Community Solar](#) and [Microgrid project](#).
- Oregon partner Rob Del Mar (ODOE) presented an overview of the [Oregon Solar Dashboard](#).
- Meghan Craig (OSEIA) presented a new industry recruitment flyer for the upcoming Career Fair at the [OSEIA Conference](#), May 7-9 in Portland.
- Tim Horan (Spokane Indian Housing Authority) gave a special presentation on the Spokane Children of the Sun Initiative, a solar project that will eventually lead the Spokane Indian Tribe to energy independence.

In the afternoon, partners broke out into small groups to engage in a variety of discussions on current concerns. Some of the topics discussed were: the WA Community Solar Bill, data collection

in a post-incentive era, integrating solar into low-income energy assistance, and – new to Solar Plus’s third year statement of work objectives – the publication of a paper on the issues involved in the co-location of solar and agriculture. Solar Plus partners plan to hold another Hands On meeting in the fall.

Oregon News

City of Bend Installing Solar at Water Filtration Facility

The water filtration facility of Bend, OR is going solar thanks to funding from Pacific Power’s Blue Sky participants. The \$60,341 grant will help support the installation of 360 solar base-mounted modules at the water facility, located on Skyliners Rd. west of Bend. The funding covers about 25 percent of the total expected project cost of \$266,000 – Betsy Lillian, *Solar Industry*, April 12, 2019: <https://solarindustrymag.com/city-of-bend-installing-solar-at-water-filtration-facility/>

Homeowner Avoided ‘Energy Guzzlers’ for more Efficient Options and it’s Paying Off

When Bruce Sullivan set out to build his dream retirement home in 2015, his goal was to get his utilities costs as low as possible. Today the 900-square-foot, Bend, OR home that he shares with his wife has more than accomplished that, he said. The one-bedroom, one-bathroom house is what Sullivan calls a “zero energy” home. To read more, see Lori Konish, CNBC, April 23, 2019: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/04/22/this-homeowner-avoided-energy-guzzlers-for-more-efficient-options.html>

Central Oregon Site Eyed for 320-Acre Solar Farm

While many renewable energy sources have drawn attention locally, solar remains the hottest option in Crook County, an area known for its "300 days of sunshine." The county already boasts the largest plant in the state, and five other solar projects have received land use approval locally. Most of the approved sites are southwest of town along Millican Road. Another project might join that list in the future as the Crook County Planning Commission is holding a hearing March 27 for a new application. The proposed West Prineville Solar Farm would occupy 320 acres – Jason Chaney, *Portland Tribune*, March 29, 2019: <https://pamplinmedia.com/pt/9-news/423827-329401-central-oregon-site-eyed-for-320-acre-solar-farm->

Washington News

A Closer Look at Washington’s Superb New 100 percent Clean Electricity Bill

The bill contains groundbreaking changes to the way the state’s utilities do business. Last month, New Mexico targeted 100 percent clean by 2045. The Maryland legislature recently passed a bill targeting 50 percent renewable by 2030 and looking into the viability of 100 percent by 2040. Illinois might pass a 100 percent target soon. Of course California and Hawaii already have, to say nothing of more than 100 US cities (most recently Chicago). – David Vox, *VOX*, April 18, 2019: <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/4/18/18363292/washington-clean-energy-bill>

Commerce Awards \$1.6 million for Solar Energy Projects

One Energy Development, Peninsula Light Company and TUUSSO Energy win latest round of state Clean Energy Fund grants targeting expansion of solar energy around the state.

The Washington State Department of Commerce announced over \$1.6 million in grants from the state's Clean Energy Fund to three projects that will advance the development of solar energy in Washington. To read more and learn of other Clean Energy Fund grant opportunities see:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/news-releases/community-grants/commerce-awards-1-6-million-for-solar-energy-projects/>

Avista Says it will Produce Completely Clean Electricity by 2045

Avista Corp. began as the Washington Water Power Co., generating its power from the Spokane Falls. The company, the primary energy provider in Eastern Washington, plans to return to those green roots, and said this week it would produce 100 percent clean electricity by 2045 –Nicholas Deshais, *The Spokesman-Review*, April 19, 2019:

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/apr/19/avista-says-it-will-produce-completely-clean-elect/>

Clallam County PUD: Community Solar Participation Agreements to be Accepted Beginning April 15, 2019

PUD #1 of Clallam County (Clallam PUD) will begin accepting paid participation agreements for the purchase of units of its community solar installation, expected to begin production in late 2019.

The project, to be sited at 410 E. Washington St. in Sequim, WA, will be a 30kW project consisting of approximately 96 panels and estimated to produce up to 32,000 kWh annually over 25 years.

Read more here: <https://www.clallampud.net/community-solar-participation-agreements-to-be-accepted-beginning-april-15-2019/>

Snohomish PUD Starts Selling Solar

Snohomish PUD is selling solar power to the people. The utility's "community solar" program went live Monday, April 22 – Earth Day – offering PUD customers the opportunity to buy into a nearly finished 2-acre 500-kilowatt solar energy project in Arlington. "People can now have ownership of solar power," said Scott Gibson, Snohomish PUD project manager. "Maybe you can't put solar on your roof because you live in an apartment or because of HOA rules or you want to be more environmentally sustainable. Whatever the reason, you can now buy into this project." – *Stanwood Camano News*, by Evan Caldwell, April 22, 2019.

https://www.goskagit.com/scnews/news/snohomish-pud-starts-selling-solar/article_3e56cb78-651d-11e9-b29b-17b4a8247f07.html

Snohomish PUD Solar Project Includes Low-Income Set Aside

The Snohomish County Public Utility District began signing up subscribers April 22 for its community solar program in Arlington, WA and is already close to selling out units. So far, customers have reserved 5,613 solar energy units. Each unit represents one-fifth of a solar panel and costs \$120. A single customer cannot buy more than 130 solar energy units. There is a total of 8,100 solar energy units in the 500-kW solar farm, which has 1,620 solar panels – Peter Maloney, *American Public Power Association*, April 26, 2019:

<https://www.publicpower.org/index.php/periodical/article/snohomish-pud-solar-project-includes-low-income-set-aside>

How a Seattle Solar Entrepreneur First saw the Light in Rural Kenya

Edwin Ngugi Wanji first came across solar panels while dissecting calculators as a kid. Now he's teaching the power of solar to kids in Seattle and across the world – Read more at: *Crosscut*, April 9, 2019: <https://crosscut.com/2019/04/how-seattle-solar-entrepreneur-first-saw-light-rural-kenya>

National

Energy Equity: Bringing Solar Power to Low-Income Communities

Millions of Americans lack access to solar energy because they cannot afford the steep upfront costs. Now, more than a dozen states are adopting “community solar” programs that are bringing solar power and lower energy bills to low-income households from New York to California – Read more at: Maria Gallucci, *Yale Environment 360*, April 4, 2019:

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/energy-equity-bringing-solar-power-to-low-income-communities>

Conferences, Events, and Webinars

Oregon Solar Energy Conference, May 7-9, 2019, Portland, OR

The Oregon Solar Energy Conference features three days of well-curated content including keynote presentations from industry leaders. The conference blends the best networking opportunities with training, panel discussions and new technology. Take advantage of interacting with over 30 solar, storage and smart energy exhibitors. To register and view the course schedule see:

<http://oregonsolarenergyconference.com/schedule/>

Oregon's First Solar Career Fair, May 7, 2019, Portland, OR

Expand your network. Meet qualified and interested job candidates, learn where you can find more resources when you are hiring or job seeking, and hear others' solar stories. This is a career fair but not a traditional one. The fair will be organized by job function rather than by business so you can hear from industry professionals about their roles in solar. The goal is to make it easy to network with new people whether you're recruiting, looking for a new job, or expanding your network. This is free to attend, but registration is required. For more information and to register:

<https://www.oseia.org/latest-news/careerfair1>

Oregon's Energy Future Conference: The Business of Clean Energy & Efficiency

Oregon's Energy Future is the State's signature clean energy event. Now in its 13th year, Oregon's Energy Future connects policy with practice and addresses the industry's current challenges and opportunities. To see the agenda and to register, go to: <http://www.oregonenergyfuture.com/>

7th Annual Solar Winery Tour

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, Solar Oregon will be combining two member passions – solar and wine. This daylong event, the 7th annual Solar Winery Tour, will include transportation, lunch and wine tasting at 3 of Oregon's leading solar powered wineries. Winery Hosts this year are Ruby Vineyard, Alloro Vineyards and Vidon Vineyard. For more information and to register see:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-solar-winery-tour-2019-tickets-56388469430>

2019 Central Oregon Spring Energy Tour: Making Energy Work for Rural Oregon

On May 16-17 join a clean energy and resilience tour around Central Oregon. Sustainable Northwest, in partnership with Wy'East RC&D, Energy Trust of Oregon, and Oregon Department of Energy, is pleased to announce the 2019 Central Oregon Spring Energy Tour. This 2-day event will bring together local and regional experts in clean energy, sustainable farming, and local resiliency. To read more and register:

<http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/blog/posts/2019-spring-energy-tour>

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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