



July 18, 2019

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 Partners' News

Oregon, Washington Report Finds Solar Companies Eager to Add Diversity but Don't Know Where to Start

Solar companies in Oregon and Washington understand the importance of workforce diversity, but they often do not know where to start or lack resources needed to diversify their employees, according to a new study released by The Solar Foundation. The "Oregon and Washington Solar Workforce Diversity Report" evaluates the workforce pipeline for the solar industry in Oregon and Washington, and specifically the practices surrounding diversity and inclusion, hiring, and training—by Kelsey Misbrener, *Solar Power World*, June 6, 2019:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2019/06/oregon-washington-solar-foundation-diversity-report/>

"Solarize Yakima" Campaign will Encourage Residents to Adopt Solar-Powered Energy

A new campaign encouraging adoption of solar-powered energy could soon be coming to Yakima. A resolution on the Yakima City Council's Tuesday agenda authorizes an agreement with Spark Northwest, a Seattle-based nonprofit founded in 2001 that supports local efforts for residents in Washington and Oregon to invest in solar energy—by Les Talamo, *Yakima Herald*, June 17, 2019:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/solarize-yakima-campaign-will-encourage-residents-to-adopt-solar-powered/article_a3909603-9594-5d35-8c43-b31a436d3e73.html

SnoPUD's Planet Power to Fund Five Local Solar Projects

Snohomish County PUD's Planet Power program recently awarded five local organizations funds for the construction of solar energy projects. Planet Power has focused on supporting organizations that provide community services and/or renewable energy education. The program was funded

through voluntary contributions from PUD customers—Press Release, Snohomish County PUD, July 9, 2019:

https://www.snopud.com/newsroom.ashx?p=1102&173_na=390

Oregon News

Oregon House Backs \$5,000 Home Solar Rebates

Oregon could be getting a residential solar incentive program again. The House overwhelmingly passed a bill Tuesday that would provide rebates of up to \$5,000 for home systems and \$30,000 for providers of social services to people with low incomes—by Pete Danko, *Portland Business Journal*, June 26, 2019:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2019/06/26/oregonhouse-backs-5-000-home-solar-rebates.html>

Oregon Restricts Solar Development on Prime Farmland

As Oregon's climate policies steer the state toward renewable energy like solar, its land use laws are putting up roadblocks. In May, the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission approved new rules that restrict commercial solar development on millions of acres of high-value farmland across the state. The rule-making process pitted two of Oregon's most treasured values — protection of agricultural land and environmental stewardship — against each other—by Cassandra Profita, *The Columbian*, July 6, 2019:

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2019/jul/06/oregon-restricts-solar-development-on-prime-farmland/>

Oregon's Largest Multifamily Solar Project Installed In Milwaukie

On Friday, the owners of the Waverly Greens apartment complex in Milwaukie unveiled Oregon's largest solar array to be installed on multifamily housing. The 400-kilowatt solar project is mounted on 13 different apartment buildings and will generate enough renewable electricity to power about 38 homes—by Cassandra Profita, OPB, June 14, 2019:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/solar-panels-milwaukie-apartment-waverly-greens/>

Washington News

Grant-Funded Solar Panels Installed on Low-Income Housing Complex in Cle Elum

A local low-income housing complex just received some help with making costs even more affordable. Representatives of Puget Sound Energy and HopeSource held a ribbon cutting Friday to celebrate the completion of an 82-kilowatt solar array that was recently installed on the rooftops of the Westview Villas apartment complex in Cle Elum. The 273-panel array, installed by Ellensburg Solar will be capable of powering approximately nine average households a year, reducing overall energy usage by 39 percent—by Karl Holappa, *Daily Record*, June 15, 2019:

https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/news/grant-funded-solar-panels-installed-on-low-income-housing-complex/article_3fd98ace-e43a-5eff-b6ad-706bc7bc04c4.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Appeals court: Kittitas County must Reconsider Ellensburg Solar Farm

Kittitas County's commissioners wrongly turned down a permit application for a major solar farm they worried would "take away from our agricultural lands and really take away from the character of our community," the state Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday. The county must reexamine the conditional use permit sought by One Energy Development of Seattle and Iron Horse Solar LLC, which applied to build a 47-acre solar farm on a 68 agricultural acres outside Ellensburg—by Jefferson Robbins, *Columbia Basin News*, July 9, 2019:

http://www.ifiberone.com/columbia_basin/appeals-court-kittitas-county-must-reconsider-ellensburg-solar-farm/article_6d83d160-a263-11e9-b641-7f15818dc506.html

How Solar could make WA Tribes Energy Independent

After a 2016 fire left the Spokane Tribe without water or power, the community turned to solar for back up. Will other tribes follow suit? —by Manola Secaira, *Crosscut*, June 24, 2109:

<https://crosscut.com/2019/06/how-solar-could-make-wa-tribes-energy-independent>

Could This New Approach Unlock Gigawatts Of Native American Solar Energy Potential?

Native American lands across the lower 48 states are home to an estimated 17.6 terawatt-hours (TWh) of solar energy potential – a staggering amount considering total U.S. utility-scale electricity generation in 2018 was 4.2 TWh. Funding for solar projects on tribal lands has largely come from government sources, but rarely covers full project costs, and poor management has hindered development. As of 2000, 14.2% of all Native American households have no access to electricity – more than ten times the national average—by Silvio Marcacci, *Forbes*, June 24, 2019:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2019/06/24/could-this-new-approach-unlock-gigawatts-of-native-american-solar-energy-potential/#3e1f0d062509>

Plans for a Solar Microgrid at Capitol Hill Community Center will Power Building, through Rain, Shine or Disaster

Seattle's community centers provide a lot of simple but important things to their neighborhoods including recreation and meeting space. But they could also help the city develop strength and resilience in a future of extreme weather and in emergencies like a giant earthquake. Seattle City Light is partnering with Seattle Parks and Recreation to implement a first of its kind solar microgrid at Capitol Hill's Miller Community Center—by Emily Piette, *Capitol Hill Seattle Blog*, July 9, 2019:

<http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2019/07/plans-for-a-solar-microgrid-at-capitol-hill-community-center-will-power-the-building-through-rain-shine-or-disaster/>

Co-location of Solar and Agriculture

Why Solar Parks Should Replace Agricultural Land

At first glance, solar parks are technical installations that devalue the surrounding landscape and nature. At second glance, solar parks offer enormous potential for nature and biodiversity conservation. Particularly when solar parks are built where intensive farming has been practiced, areas of arable land with few species are transformed into high-quality, species-rich plant communities for nature conservation purposes—by Ralf Schnitzler, *pV magazine*, June 13 2019:

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2019/06/13/why-solar-parks-should-replace-agricultural-land/>

Is Your Wine Bottle Lighter? That's One Way Wineries are Cutting their Energy Use

Making and marketing wine requires lots of energy. Producing and transporting glass bottles (empty and full), cooling wineries and warehouses, running tractors in vineyards, and sanitizing fermentation tanks and barrels all consume considerable amounts of electricity, fuel and water. Some wineries are taking substantial measures to reduce the environmental impact of all that energy use—by Dave McIntyre, *Washington Post*, July 5, 2019:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/food/is-your-wine-bottle-lighter-thats-one-way-wineries-are-cutting-their-energy-use/2019/07/03/4d91bc4a-9ddc-11e9-9ed4-c9089972ad5a_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3decb80405e1

Study Identifies 20 Overlooked Benefits of Distributed Solar Energy

A study released today provides the most complete list yet of the advantages of solar energy — from carbon sequestration to improvements for pollinator habitat — and offers an important new framework for analyzing solar projects to better understand the full suite of benefits. The peer-reviewed study in *Nature Sustainability* was conducted by researchers from the Center for Biological Diversity, the University of California, Davis, and 11 other organizations—See the July 9, 2019 press release:

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/study-identifies-20-overlooked-benefits-distributed-solar-energy-2019-07-09/>

Conferences, Webinars

NW SolarFest Sustainable Living Fair, Shoreline Community College, July 27, 2019, 10 AM to 5 PM

Since its inception in 2004, SSP has provided expertise to educate, inform, and inspire the community. Two public schools sport photovoltaic (PV) systems as a direct result of our efforts. For more information see: <https://shorelinesolar.org/>

Maycroft Apartments: A Low-Income Solar+Storage Resiliency Center in DC Webinar

July 31, 2019 1:00pm – 2:00pm ET

In April 2019, Maycroft Apartments became the first resiliency center in the District of Columbia fully powered by solar+storage. With a rooftop community solar array and a battery storage system, the residents of Jubilee Housing's Maycroft Apartments will have access to an on-site resiliency center and community space in the event of a power outage. The resiliency center at the affordable housing complex can be powered for up to three day. This webinar is presented by Clean Energy Group's Resilient Power Project. To learn more and register:

<https://www.cesa.org/webinars/maycroft-apartments-a-low-income-solar-storage-resiliency-center-in-dc/?date=2019-07-31>

Reports

20 Overlooked Benefits of Distributed Solar Energy: Study Outlines Advantages of Solar on Rooftops, Other Developed Areas

A study released today provides the most complete list yet of the advantages of solar energy -- from carbon sequestration to improvements for pollinator habitat. The paper offers a new

framework for analyzing solar projects to better understand the full suite of benefits—*Science Daily*, July 10, 2019:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190710103219.htm>

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.

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.