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Oregon News

Spark Northwest Partners with Community Land Trust to Launch Free Rooftop Solar Program in Portland

In a new partnership with Spark Northwest, Solar For All and All Points North Foundation, eligible Proud Ground homeowners can install solar at no cost, cutting utility bills to save hundreds of dollars each year. In the past year, the partnership has provided over \$90,000 in funding and worked with ten families across Portland in expanding solar to additional affordable housing as the need for clean energy increases with climate change impacts—Kelsey Misbrener, *Solar Power World*, July 8, 2021:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2021/07/spark-northwest-partners-free-solar-installations-portland-affordable-housing/>

Eugene Mission, Friends of Trees to Receive EWEB Greenpower Grants

The Eugene Water & Electric Board will award \$50,000 grants to the Eugene Mission and Friends of Trees Eugene Metro as part of the utility's Greenpower Grants Program. EWEB opened the grant applications to eligible organizations in May and received one of the highest number of proposals since the program began in 2007. The Eugene Mission plans to use the grant to install a solar energy system for a new Learning Center on its campus to assist unhoused families and community members, according to an EWEB news release—Adam Duvernay, *Register-Guard*, July 15, 2021:

<https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2021/07/15/eweb-greenpower-grants-eugene-mission-friends-trees-green-energy-tree-planting-event/7972673002/>

Oregon's Community Solar Program

In 2016, Oregon passed SB 1547, the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Act, which raised the

Renewable Portfolio Standard and made solar accessible to homeowners, renters, schools, businesses, and governments through community net metering. The community solar program's maximum capacity is set at two and a half percent of each utility's 2016 system peak, enabling an estimated 160 megawatts of community solar. At least ten percent of the total capacity must be allocated to low-income electricity customers—Aiden Checkett, *Red, Green and Blue*, July 18, 2021:

<http://redgreenandblue.org/2021/07/18/oregons-community-solar-program/>

Ranchers, Farmers Make Case Against Obsidian Solar

Several people involved in ranching and farming in the Fort Rock area have filed an appeal against the Obsidian Solar Project in Lake County, with Obsidian expected to respond to the issues they have raised. The petitioners have often spoken against the proposed solar project, which would build a 400 megawatt solar park on approximately 3,900 acres in the Fort Rock area. The petitioners have repeatedly said the project will impact agricultural land, does not fit near agricultural land, would create dust issues for neighbors, and would disturb big game winter range habitat—Kevin Winter, *Lake County Examiner*, July 21, 2021: https://www.lakecountyexam.com/ranchers-farmers-make-case-against-obsidian-solar/article_83cfc12b-2454-59ba-ac21-0165afd1694b.html

Washington News

Puget Sound Energy Seeks Proposals for More than 1,500 MW of Wind, Solar and Energy Storage Resources

Puget Sound Energy wants new energy resources for its Washington customers and has accordingly issued a new request for proposals (RFP) for new energy and capacity of up to 1,669 GW hours and 1,506 MW of capacity resources. The first all-source RFP issued since the passage of Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), this effort will see qualified parties bid to meet Puget's long-range electricity needs. Any electric or energy storage resources that can meet all or part of these needs will be considered, so long as their bids arrive by Sept. 1, 2021. An additional draft targeted Distributed Energy Resources RFP is planned for November—Chris Galford, *Daily Energy Insider*, July 15, 2021:

<https://dailyenergyinsider.com/news/31099-puget-sound-energy-seeks-proposals-for-more-than-1500-mw-of-wind-solar-and-energy-storage-resources/?amp>

Redmond Launches 'Solar Champion' Community Investment Campaign

The city of Redmond has launched its "Solar Champions" campaign, looking for neighbors and business owners interested in helping to pay for 500 solar panels to power the new Redmond Senior & Community Center. According to the city, donations are tax-deductible and panels can be sponsored by individuals, families, groups or businesses. A few city officials have already pitched in, including Redmond Mayor Ange—Lucas Combos, *Patch*, July 13, 2021: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/redmond-launches-solar-champion-community-investment-campaign/ar-AAM4jAt?ocid=BingNewsSearch>

Tacoma's Shiloh Baptist Church Leads the Charge to Bring More Renewable Energy to Our Community

On Friday, Shiloh Baptist Church in Tacoma unveiled a 19.78 kW solar system funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from Tacoma Power. The solar system, installed by Sphere Solar Energy, the only minority-owned solar firm in the region, will generate more than half of the church building's electricity use—Press release from Tacoma Public Utilities, *The Suburban Times*, July 18, 2021:

<https://thesubtimes.com/2021/07/18/tacomashilohbaptistchurchleads-the-charge-to-bring-more-renewable-energy-to-our-community/>

See the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Shiloh Baptist Church installation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL3uU2909T8>

U.S. Department of Energy Awards Quinault Indian Nation Project Funding

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$12 million in funding to help 13 American Indian and Alaska Native communities finish projects that will reduce energy costs and increase energy security and resiliency. The Quinault Indian Nation on the Washington state coast received \$201,044 to install a 99-kW solar system, battery storage, and a back-up diesel generator for a new 30,000 sq. ft. community facility. With tsunamis and climate change presenting more safety risks, the Quinault Indian Nation has had to move Taholah Village to higher ground—Aaron Kunkler, *Washington State Wire*, July 19, 2021: <https://washingtonstatewire.com/quinault-indian-nation-receives-energy-funding-from-dept-of-energy/>

PUD 's Experimental Solar Power Microgrid is Ready to Go Live

Solar power, batteries, cars that can charge buildings, a self-sustaining energy grid. Snohomish County PUD's \$12 million microgrid is a clean energy experimenter's dream. And, it is a tool that could one day become useful in the face of natural disasters, predicted to become more common as climate change persists—Zachariah Bryan, *Herald Net*, July 25, 2021: <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/puds-experimental-solar-power-microgrid-is-ready-to-go-live/>

REC Eyes Reopening, Upgrading in Moses Lake

REC Silicon remains committed to reopening its Moses Lake production plant by the end of 2023 and is even considering making a major upgrade to the facility, according to REC Silicon President and CEO Tore Torvund. Speaking during a quarterly earnings presentation held late Wednesday – early Thursday morning Oslo time – Torvund said restarting the Moses Lake facility would depend, however, on securing customers for the company's solar-grade silicon, either to make solar panels or as components for the next generation of rechargeable batteries—Charles Featherstone, *Columbia Basin Herald*, July 23, 2021: <https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2021/jul/23/rec-eyes-reopening-upgrading-moses-lake/>

City of Walla Walla, Washington Orders Beam Global EV ARC™ Off-Grid EV Charging System

Beam Global, the leading provider of innovative sustainable technology for electric vehicle (EV) charging, outdoor media and energy security, announced that the City of Walla Walla in Washington State has ordered its first EV ARC™ solar-powered EV charging system to power two fully electric city fleet vehicles. The system also serves the City's emergency preparedness and energy resiliency programs. Walla Walla's EV ARC™ is equipped with a ChargePoint Dual Port charger and an emergency power panel. The EV ARC™ generates and stores its own electricity and delivers that electricity to power City fleet EVs and first responders, day or night, and during inclement weather and power outages—BEENW, *Stockhouse*, July 27, 2021: <https://stockhouse.com/news/press-releases/2021/07/27/city-of-walla-walla-washington-orders-beam-global-ev-arc-tm-off-grid-ev-charging>

While Central Washington is Known for its Hops, Apples and Cherries, it is also Becoming a Producer of Renewable Energy

While Central Washington is known for its hops, apples and cherries, it is also becoming a producer of renewable energy. Wind turbines are already familiar landmarks in Kittitas and Klickitat counties, and there are at least seven pending projects that utilize solar or wind power to generate electricity, as well as one that would use the same principles behind a hydroelectric plant to “store” electricity from Klickitat County’s wind farms. Such projects are in line with the state’s efforts to wean itself from fossil-fuel generated electricity by 2050. But some of the pending projects have faced strong community opposition—Evan Abell, *Yakima Herald-Republic*, July 29, 2021 updated July 30, 2021:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/while-central-washington-is-known-for-its-hops-apples-and-cherries-it-is-also-becoming/article_40ffb72d-1e77-5f0a-ac3d-a3f931aa9605.html

BIA Awards Over \$6.5 Million in Energy and Mineral Grants to 34 Tribes and ANCs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has awarded more than \$6.5 million in Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) grants to 27 federally recognized tribes and seven Alaska Native corporations in 15 states. The funding will aid tribal efforts to identify, study, design and develop projects using energy, mineral and natural resources, [Awardees include] **Lummi Indian Tribe**, Washington (\$105,000.00) – To conduct a feasibility study in order to assess the financial and technical requirements of a microgrid designed to: 1) improve economic and energy self-sufficiency and 2) reduce emissions from energy production and use to contribute to global climate change, air quality degradation, and other adverse environmental and human health impacts—*Native News Online*, July 6, 2021: <https://nativenewsonline.net/business/bia-awards-over-6-5-million-in-energy-and-mineral-grants-to-34-tribes-and-ancs>

Deeply Rooted. Season 1, Episode 6, Toward Energy Independence

Rural and tribal communities across the nation have been looking to renewable energy sources to achieve energy sovereignty. Here in Washington, the Lummi Nation has long held a goal of becoming self-sufficient in energy production. Now, a program at Northwest Indian College is training students in solar and wind energy production, with the aim of creating a microgrid so both campus and reservation can be energy independent—Beatriz Costa Lima, *Crosscut*, July 30, 2021:

<https://crosscut.com/video/deeply-rooted/toward-energy-independence>

Apply for Washington State Solar Grants

The Washington State Department of Commerce is now accepting applications for the 2021 Solar Grants with up to \$3,465,810 available. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m., August 19, 2021: For more information see: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/solar-grants/>

Equitable Solar

The NAACP Publishes Set of Equitable Solar Policy Principles for Advocates, Lawmakers

Today, the NAACP’s Solar Equity Initiative released a set of Equitable Solar Policy Principles to ensure internal alignment and develop a shared understanding of equitable solar policy. These principles can assist advocates and policymakers at the local, state and federal level to craft policy solutions that are holistic in nature, and ensure benefits flow to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and other frontline communities—Kelsey Misbrener, *Solar Power World*, July 20, 2021:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2021/07/the-naacp-publishes-set-of-equitable-solar-policy-principles-for-advocates-lawmakers/#:~:text=The%20NAACP%20publishes%20set%20of%20Equitable%20Solar%20Policy,development%20a%20shared%20understanding%20of%20equitable%20solar%20policy.>

A Clean Energy Transition Won't be Equitable Unless we Make it That Way

Climate change is the kind of problem that requires a massive, coordinated effort from everyone. No one person, group or country can solve it on their own because our collective actions perpetuate the problem. So, we need to work together, come up with a game plan, get on the same page about what we're going to do and make the necessary changes to those collective actions—Andreas Karelas, *The Hill*, August 2, 2021: <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/565951-a-clean-energy-transition-wont-be-equitable-unless-we-make-it-that>

Netmetering

Leading Solar Companies Unite with State Solar Advocates to Advance a New Automated Permitting Process to Cut the Cost of Solar

Today, the U.S. Department of Energy announced the launch of a new online permitting platform to accelerate the approval of solar projects while maintaining the integrity of the permitting process. SolarAPP+ was developed and built by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in consultation with a broad range of experts from businesses, trade groups, local governments, researchers, and code and safety organizations. It will cut the time and expense of going solar in the U.S., where the cost of installation is 2-3 times greater than in countries like Germany, the United Kingdom, and Australia—SolarAPP Campaign, *Cision PR Newswire*, July 15, 2021: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/leading-solar-companies-unite-with-state-solar-advocates-to-advance-a-new-automated-permitting-process-to-cut-the-cost-of-solar-301334703.html>

Solar Recycling

Emerging Solar Panel Recycling Market Ripe with Opportunity, but Barriers Remain

The U.S. is likely to see significant volumes of end-of-life panels, creating opportunities for safe, sustainable recycling or reuse. Some states are looking at product stewardship to avoid disposal—Katie Pzyvk, *Waste Dive*, July 28, 2021: <https://www.wastedive.com/news/nascent-solar-panel-recycling-reuse-crt/602892/>

Upcoming Conferences, Webinars

Behind-the-Meter Solar+Storage Market Data and Trends Webinar

Thursday, August 19, 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. PDT

More than 50,000 customer-sited, behind-the-meter solar+storage systems have been installed in the U.S., with the market expanding every year. Despite the growing demand for solar+storage at homes and businesses across the country, little information has been publicly available about the state of the market. To fill that void, Berkeley Lab released an in-depth analysis of this emerging market, Behind-the-Meter Solar+Storage Market Data and Trends. For more information and to register:

<https://www.cesa.org/event/behind-the-meter-solarstorage-market-data-and-trends/>

The Washington State Solar Summit: Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA, October 22, 2021
In-person event with a livestream option

This is an important annual information gathering and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators/policy makers, educators, students, tribal members, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, engineers, financial lenders, consultants and more. The Solar Summit attempts to tackle the most timely issues and most talked about conversations surrounding solar energy and solar adoption in Washington. The Washington State Solar Summit is the must-attend business conference for anyone engaged in solar deployment, education and advocacy in Washington state. Presented by Solar Washington. For more information: https://www.solarwa.org/solar_summit

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