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Oregon News

Solarize Rogue Prepares to Power Up Community Solar

The first small community solar project approved in Oregon is also the only participant-owned project so far under a new state program that helps more people benefit from solar energy. The project was organized by the grassroots group Solarize Rogue, a nonprofit created in 2017 to help promote solar energy in the Rogue Valley following adoption of the City of Talent's clean energy action plan—Energy Trust of Oregon, *Blog*, Oct. 27, 2021: https://blog.energytrust.org/solarize-rogue-prepares-to-power-up-community-solar/

Passive Solar could Furnish a Third of Home Heating Needs

Skylights are an aesthetically pleasing design choice, but they are also an underappreciated source of sustainable heat energy for buildings, according to a new study from UO researchers. Passive solar heating systems collect natural light via skylights or windows and use it to directly heat spaces, without converting it to electricity. Based on a detailed analysis of heating needs and solar energy availability around the United States, such installations could supply a third of residential space heating needs nationwide, researchers found—Laurel Hamers, *Techxplore*, Nov. 4, 2021: https://techxplore.com/news/2021-11-passive-solar-furnish-home.html

Bend Solar Electric Firm Completes Net Zero Energy Headquarters in Central District

Long-time Bend-based solar electric company Sunlight Solar Energy has laid down a marker with the completion of their new net zero energy headquarters at 150 NE Hawthorne Avenue in the Bend Central District. The 14,000 square foot, two-story building will serve as the company's home, and also houses Bend Central Co-Working. A co-working space that is primarily for Green and Progressive

Businesses. New tenants are Kôr Community Land Trust, which builds affordable homes to net zero energy, Oregon Wild, which works to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife and waters, and the Great Basin Institute, a field studies organization that promotes environmental research, education, and conservation—ktvz news channel 21, Nov. 15, 2021: https://ktvz.com/news/environment/2021/11/15/bend-solar-electric-firm-completes-net-zero-energy-headquarters-in-central-district/

Oregon Court of Appeals Overturns Ruling that Blocked Solar Facility Expansion
The Oregon Court of Appeals has overturned a ruling that blocked a solar facility's expansion in Crook County because its legal reasoning was flawed. The county approved increasing the solar project's size last year from 320 to 654 acres, which was challenged by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife—Mateusz Perkowski, *The Bend Bulletin*, Nov. 17, 2021: https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/oregon-court-of-appeals-overturns-ruling-that-blocked-crook-county-solar-facility-expansion/article_3de25919-ad72-554c-8c65-c022d362bfde.html

Washington News

New Solar Project Planned At Issaquah's Pine Lake Middle School
The Issaquah School District will add solar panels to the roof of Pine Lake Middle School, which will contribute electricity to Puget Sound Energy's Community Solar program. The district announced the new partnership with PSE on Tuesday, making Pine Lake the second site selected to host solar panels since the renewable energy program launched earlier this year—Lucas Combos, *Patch*, Nov. 9, 2021: https://patch.com/washington/sammamish/new-solar-project-planned-issaquahs-pine-lake-middle-school

PSE Launches Community Solar at Olympia High School
Puget Sound Energy (PSE) partnered with Olympia School District to launch Community Solar, a new voluntary renewable energy program now available for customer subscription. Located at Olympia High School, the first solar installation in the program features more than 500 solar panels installed on the roof of the school gymnasium building. The installation provides 200 kilowatts of AC power (kWac), which equates to approximately 135 "shares" available for subscription to PSE electric customers—Puget Sound Energy, *Thurston Talk*, Nov. 11, 2021: https://www.thurstontalk.com/2021/11/10/pse-launches-community-solar-at-olympia-high-school/

GSE Partners with RE-volv to Bring Solar Power to Local Nonprofit
Gonzaga Sustainable Energy (GSE) has partnered with RE-volv, a climate justice nonprofit, to bring solar power to nonprofits in Spokane. Around 1.5 million nonprofits in the U.S. face significant barriers to getting solar projects financed because nonprofits cannot access traditional solar financing, according to the RE-volv website. "The reason why RE-volv focuses on nonprofits is that nonprofits don't get that tax incentive for having solar on their buildings that normal people do," said GSE President Theo Labay. "If you install solar on your home, you get a certain tax deduction by having solar and also get certain benefits from utility for that too, and nonprofits don't get that."—Claire Tollan, *Gonzaga Bulletin*, Nov. 17, 2021: https://www.gonzagabulletin.com/news/gse-partners-with-re-volv-to-bring-solar-power-to-local-nonprofit/article_2a091b6e-465a-11ec-9421-87a9044422e2.html

Case Study: Landmark Net-Zero Building
An inside look at Seattle's 303 Battery development. The address of what is said to be the world's most sustainable, net zero high-rise apartment property seems particularly fitting. Seattle's 303 Battery will be solar powered, of course. But when need be, it also will be run on batteries—Lew Sichelman, *Multi-Housing News*, Nov. 18, 2021: https://www.multihousingnews.com/case-study-tallest-net-zero-building/

Hanwha Buys Large Stake in REC Silicon, Looks to Restart US Polysilicon Production
Hanwha Solutions Corporation has agreed to buy a 16.67% stake in Norwegian polysilicon manufacturer REC Silicon in a deal worth around U.S. $160 million, with the South Korean chemical company looking to reopen REC Silicon's 20,000MT polysilicon factory in the U.S. The transaction is expected to provide REC Silicon with enough capital to restart its operations at the 20,000MT Moses Lake polysilicon facility in Washington during 2023, which employs fluidized bed reactor (FBR) technology to produce granular polysilicon, which REC Silicon said uses 90% less power than the traditional Siemens process—Sean Rai-Roche, *PV Tech*, Nov. 18, 2021: https://www.pv-tech.org/hanwha-buys-large-stake-in-rec-silicon-looks-to-restart-us-polysilicon-production/

Regional and National News

Congress Poised to Dramatically Alter Clean Energy Subsidies
The tax credits that underwrote America's renewable energy revolution are set for a makeover as part of the $1.75 trillion reconciliation bill. As written, the Democratic proposal would dramatically revamp the subsidies available to wind and solar projects, requiring developers to use union labor and American-made products to receive the full value of the subsidy. The bill also includes a bonus for projects built in former coal communities—Benjamin Storrow, *E&E News*, Nov. 11, 2021: https://www.eenews.net/articles/congress-poised-to-dramatically-alter-clean-energy-subsidies/

Why Putting Solar Canopies on Parking Lots is a Smart Green Move
Solar farms are proliferating on undeveloped land, often harming ecosystems. But placing solar canopies on large parking lots offers a host of advantages — making use of land that is already cleared, producing electricity close to those who need it, and even shading cars—Richard Conniff, *Yale Environment 360*, Nov. 22, 2021: https://e360.yale.edu/features/putting-solar-panels-atop-parking-lots-a-green-energy-solution

Greenest States in the U.S.: The Evergreen State Lives Up to its Name in 2021
The majority of Americans see global climate change as a major threat, right up there with infectious diseases, terrorism and nuclear weapons, according to Pew Research Center. The U.S. has a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Still, about two-thirds of adults in the U.S. do not think the federal government is doing enough to protect the environment. To find out which states are doing the most to combat the climate crisis, the Consumer Affairs Research Team aggregated the latest available public data to analyze each state's carbon emissions, waste, recycling, composting and energy generation from renewable and nuclear sources—Kathryn Parkman, *Consumer Affairs*, Nov. 19, 2021: https://www.consumeraffairs.com/solar-energy/greenest-states-in-us.html?preview=true

Agrivoltaics

Bees, Sheep, Crops: Solar Developers Tout Multiple Benefits

Silflower was among native plants that blanketed the vast North American prairie until settlers developed farms and cities. Nowadays confined largely to roadsides and ditches, the long-stemmed cousin of the sunflower may be poised for a comeback, thanks to solar energy—Heather Ainsworth, John Flesher and Tammy Webber, *GoSkagit*, Nov. 4, 2021: https://www.goskagit.com/news/ap_business/bees-sheep-crops-solar-developers-tout-multiple-benefits/article_e18cfc6b-cb79-505a-a9ed-5d963b05ce41.html/

Which Crops Pair Well with Solar?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded the University of Illinois a $10 million grant for an agrivoltaics project called Sustainably Colocating Agricultural and Photovoltaic Electricity Systems (SCAPES). The project seeks to provide interdisciplinary scientific knowledge, along with extension and education programs, to study sustainable agrivoltaic designs in various combinations of crop species. Row crops, foraging crops (for livestock), and specialty crops all will be studied across three biophysically diverse regions of the United States.: Illinois, Colorado, and Arizona—John Fitzgerald Weaver, *pv magazine*, Nov. 9, 2021: https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/11/09/which-crops-pair-well-with-solar

Agrivoltaic Pilot Program on Maine Blueberry Farm Set to Provide Critical Dual-Use Insights

From increasing crop production and solar panel efficiency, to providing new land prospects in the face of dwindling solar project sites, to creating a sustainable, long-term food supply, there are myriad reasons why agrivoltaics, or the colocation of solar generating facilities with productive agricultural land, has grown rapidly from about 5 MW of installed solar capacity in 2012 to nearly 3 GW in 2020—Lisa DeMarco, *Solar Power World*, Nov. 15, 2021: https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2021/11/agrivoltaic-pilot-program-set-to-provide-critical-insights/

Agrivoltaics Clearinghouse Launches to Share Info on Matching Solar with Farming

Solar installations may cover more than 3 million acres of the United States over the next decade, opening the door for PV to be paired with agricultural land to produce food, conserve ecosystems, and maximize income for farmers. This opportunity led the National Center for Appropriate Technology to launch what it said is the nation's first AgriSolar Clearinghouse to connect farmers, ranchers, land managers, solar developers, and researchers with information about co-locating solar and agriculture—Ryan Kennedy, *PV Magazine*, Nov. 19, 2021: https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2021/11/19/agrivoltaics-clearinghouse-launches-to-share-info-on-matching-solar-with-farming/

Beneath Solar Panels, the Seeds of Opportunity Sprout: *Low-Impact Development of Solar Installations Could Be Win-Win-Win for Food, Water, and Renewable Energy*

On a humid, overcast day in central Minnesota, a dozen researchers crouch in the grass between rows of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels. Only their bright yellow hard hats are clearly visible above the tall, nearly overgrown prairie grasses—which are growing exactly as expected—Harrison Dreves, *Renewable Energy World*, Nov. 22, 2021: https://www.nrel.gov/news/features/2019/beneath-solar-panels-the-seeds-of-opportunity-sprout.html

Solar Panel Recycling

Used Solar Panels are Powering the Developing World

A few years ago, I visited a dusty warehouse selling second-hand clothes in Cotonou, Benin. In the back, behind bundles of used Canadian T-shirts, were two pallets of unboxed solar panels. I assumed they were destined for the roof. One of the employees told me otherwise. 'Our boss sells them to his customers across the border,' she said, referring to Nigeria. 'They use them for water pumps on the farms.' A few minutes later, the boss showed up and told me that he expected second-hand solar would soon be a bigger business than the centuries-old, multibillion-dollar used-clothing trade—Adam Minter, *Recycling International,* Nov. 19, 2021: https://recyclinginternational.com/e-scrap/used-solar-panels-are-powering-the-developing-world/47066/

Workforce Development & Training

Nonprofit Grid Alternatives Trains Women for Careers in Solar

A growing number of women work in the solar industry, but they still account for less than a third of solar jobs. To prepare more women for employment in the industry, the national nonprofit Grid Alternatives runs free training programs and, before the pandemic, partnered on annual women-only solar builds—YCC Team, *Yale Climate Connections*, Nov. 9, 2021: https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/11/nonprofit-grid-alternatives-trains-women-for-careers-in-solar/

From Service to Solar: Advancing Solar Career Pathways for Military Talent

Rob Riley studied geology as an undergraduate before he went on to serve in the Army, where he led a 270-person training organization at the U.S. Infantry School and managed Army facilities worth $4 million. When it came time to transition to civilian life, the IREC-led Solar Ready Vets Fellowship led him to an opportunity at Silicon Ranch, a solar developer based in Nashville, Tennessee—Megan Howes, IREC*, Blog*, Nov. 11,2021: https://irecusa.org/blog/workforce-development-training/from-service-to-solar-advancing-solar-career-pathways-for-military-talent/

Conferences and Webinars

Technical Assistance Available for Clean Energy Transition Plans

U.S. DOE announced up to $16 million for the Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP), which will provide technical assistance services to support 24-36 communities as they develop community-driven clean energy transition plans. This new pilot program supports communities currently experiencing either direct environmental justice impacts or direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels. Register for an informational webinar on **Dec. 7** here: https://www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP/events/office-hours-2 and for the LEAP program by **Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. ET** to apply by **Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. ET** here: https://www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP/communities-leap

A Train-The-Trainers REAP Workshop (Webinar): Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021 12:00 p.m. PT

There have been some recent updates to Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) policies and regulations, and expected changes to the grant package and materials, too, within the next few months. It can be difficult for contractors, especially newer to the REAP application process, to keep track of all

of the requirements and information they and their clients need to submit to complete a successful REAP grant application, and to understand who amongst their clients would "qualify" for the REAP grant. In a "train-the-trainers" workshop, we would provide basic, outlined instructions as a "101" resource for these contractors—Read more and register at Solar Washington: https://www.solarwa.org/a_train_the_trainers_reap_workshop

Solar Power and Storage Mountain West: (Conference) Denver, CO Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2022
COSSA's annual conference is the premier Mountain West conference that attracts professionals from across the country. The conference features knowledgeable industry speakers, interactive panel discussions, training sessions, special networking opportunities with solar and energy storage leaders, and an extensive expo hall featuring leading companies and the latest technologies. For more information and to register: http://solarstoragemountainwest.com/

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