



**December 28, 2017**

Welcome to the 5th and last issue of ***Solar Newsbriefs*** for 2017, 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://energy.wsu.edu/solarnewsbriefs>.

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## **Washington News**

### **Washington's Renewable Energy System Incentive Application Now Available Online**

Washington State's Renewable Energy System Incentive application is now available online through the Washington State University Energy Program's website. The WSU Energy Program is using the PowerClerk system from Clean Power Research to collect and process online applications. PowerClerk is used in many states to facilitate renewable energy incentive programs. For more information or to apply see:

<https://wsuenergyincentives.powerclerk.com/MvcAccount/Login>

### **Henbart LLC wins MFE Green Project of the Year and NAIOP Mixed-Use Development of the Year for The Commons at Ballard**

Henbart LLC, a Seattle-based real estate development and management firm, announced on November 15, 2017 that The Commons at Ballard, a mixed-use 84 unit apartment residence, won the Multi Family Executive (MFE) Award for best Green Project of the Year and was named best Mixed-Use Development of the Year by the Washington state chapter of commercial real estate industry trade group NAIOP. The Commons is also Ballard's first LEED platinum community. Sustainable elements include green roofs, electric charging stations and the incorporation of recycled materials. To reduce the demand on utility-provided electricity, photovoltaic panels were installed to cover 3.4% of the yearly electrical costs – *The Registry*, November 16, 2017.

<https://news.theregistryps.com/henbart-llc-wins-mfe-green-project-year-naiop-mixed-use-development-year-commons-ballard/>

## National News

### The Energy 202: Solar Power is Forging Ahead, even if President Trump Doesn't Talk About It

You may have missed the fact that on December 11, 2017 two major solar power plants, with a combined generating capacity of 179 megawatts, shifted into commercial operation on Bureau of Land Management property in southern Nevada. It's totally understandable, since the Interior Department didn't even issue a news release (although its Nevada state director did show up for the formal opening ceremony, and provide a quote for a solar firm's publicity package) – See *The Washington Post*, December 18, 2017:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/12/18/the-energy-202-solar-power-is-forging-ahead-even-if-trump-doesn-t-talk-about-it/5a36f67730fb0469e883fc31/?utm\\_term=.0bfc0902b6a1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/12/18/the-energy-202-solar-power-is-forging-ahead-even-if-trump-doesn-t-talk-about-it/5a36f67730fb0469e883fc31/?utm_term=.0bfc0902b6a1)

### Energy Department Awards \$12M to Boost Solar

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced \$12 million in new funding for eight projects to advance predictive modeling capabilities for solar generation. The DOE says these models will lead to more accurate forecasts of solar generation levels, enabling utilities to better manage the variability and uncertainty of solar power and improve grid reliability – see *Solar Industry*, December 20, 2017:

<https://solarindustrymag.com/energy-department-awards-12m-boost-solar-forecasting>

## Legislation

### President Trump Signs Tax Bill with Solar ITC Intact

On Friday, President Donald Trump signed into law the comprehensive GOP tax reform bill, an overhaul of the federal tax code that left the U.S. solar industry largely unscathed. Congress approved the legislation along party lines earlier last week, and President Trump signed the bill in the Oval Office after citing pressure from the media to meet a self-imposed Christmas deadline. To read more see *Solar Industry Magazine* for December 26, 2017:

[https://solarindustrymag.com/president-trump-signs-tax-bill-solar-itc-intact?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=LNH+12-27-2017&utm\\_campaign=SI+Latest+News+Headlines](https://solarindustrymag.com/president-trump-signs-tax-bill-solar-itc-intact?utm_medium=email&utm_source=LNH+12-27-2017&utm_campaign=SI+Latest+News+Headlines)

## Residential Solar Improvements

### Looking to cut energy costs? Let the sun heat your water

Solar water heaters are a cost-effective and energy-efficient way to generate hot water for your home. To learn more about heating your water with solar see the following article published in the *Seattle Times*, *NW Homes* section for December 22, 2017:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nwshowcase/nwhomes/looking-to-cut-energy-costs-let-the-sun-heat-your-water/>

## Solar Attic Fans Can Reduce Your Energy Bill

A simple way to reduce your energy bills when the sun shines and keep cool your home naturally. For more information see the: *Latest Solar News*, December 28, 2017

<https://latestsolarnews.com/solar-attic-fans-can-reduce-your-energy-bill/>

## Technological Innovations

### 5 Solar Innovations That Will Make Engineers Giddy

There's no question that the solar industry has gained the solid standing it now enjoys by employing certain winning technologies, but there also is always room for improvement. *Renewable Energy World* writes of a few intriguing innovations in solar crop up that aren't on the commercial starting line, but that you may want to watch in 2018 – *Renewable Energy World*, November 30, 2017.

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/articles/2017/11/5-solar-innovations-to-watch-in-2018.html>

## Conferences, Workshops

Businesses will come together for actionable, take-home knowledge on sustainability reporting and better business performance. The half-day summit will host inspiring speakers and powerful panelists including Kevin Wilhelm, who has more than 20 years of experience helping companies set and execute sustainability goals and has authored three acclaimed books in this field, Stephanie Ryan from B-Lab, one of the most celebrated sustainable business organizations, and Melissa Elkins the sustainability powerhouse from our local Bellingham Community Food Co-op. All business leaders, sustainability professionals, and community-minded entrepreneurs looking to make the most of their efforts for people, planet, and profit are invited to attend. For more information see:

<http://sustainableconnections.org/events/smart-business-summit/>

**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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