



December 5, 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>

Oregon News

Readers Respond: Swan Lake Needs PGE's Support

For years, urban Oregonians and policy makers have pursued clean-energy and greenhouse-gas reduction policies to address climate change. Rural communities are ill equipped to absorb the financial impact of these policies. Mutually beneficial energy projects can help bridge that divide.

by Derrick DeBroot, *Oregonlive*, *The Oregonian*, November 24, 2019:

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2019/11/readers-respond-swan-lake-needs-pges-support.html>

Oregon Clean Energy Jobs Growth Slows, Report

A clean energy jobs report released this week applauded Oregon's expansion of a sustainable workforce but ended its praise when it began talking about the future, pointing specifically to a legislative failure on implementing a cap-and-trade law this year. The [report](#) released by national nonpartisan business group Environmental Entrepreneurs, says Oregon is running in about the middle of the pack when it comes to states' clean energy job numbers, but those numbers are flagging – Adam Duvernay, *The Register-Guard*, November 22, 2019:

<https://www.registerguard.com/news/20191121/oregon-clean-energy-jobs-growth-slows-report-finds>

Thanks to a Grant, Local Houses of Worship will turn to the Sun for Electricity

A group of Methodist churches and a synagogue plan to use solar energy to power some their buildings and to have it serve as backup electricity in case of emergency – Saphara Harrell, *Salem Reporter*,

November 5, 2019: <https://www.salemreporter.com/posts/1472/thanks-to-a-grant-local-houses-of-worship-will-turn-to-the-sun-for-electricity>

New 'Planet-Friendly' Senior Living Homes in Milwaukie have Green Roofs and Solar Panels

Willamette View, a senior living community in Milwaukie by North Point Homes, has green roofs and

rooftop solar. North Pointe was designed by Ankrom Mosian Architects and built by Walsh Construction to be eco friendly. – By Janet Eastman, the *Oregonian/OregonLive*, November 26, 2019:
<https://www.oregonlive.com/living/2019/11/new-planet-friendly-senior-living-homes-in-milwaukie-have-green-roofs-and-solar-panels.html>

Washington News

2019 Residential Solar Builder Project of the Year: City Cabins at Abbott's Alley

Solar power connotes ideals like freedom, efficiency, conservation and innovation. The 2019 Solar Builder Residential Project of the Year is perhaps the most complete expression of them all – a collection of six live/work residences built so efficiently that they pencil out to be net positive – Chris Crowell, *Solar Builder*, November 12, 2019:

<https://solarbuildermag.com/featured/2019-solar-builder-residential-project-of-the-year-city-cabins-at-abbotts-alley/>

Snohomish PUD Recognized as a Smart Energy Provider

Snohomish County PUD recently earned the Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation from the American Public Power Association for demonstrating commitment and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support a goal of providing low-cost quality, safe and reliable electric service – *My Edmonds News*, November 14, 2019:

<https://myedmondsnews.com/2019/11/snohomish-pud-recognized-as-a-smart-energy-provider/>

Secretive Energy Startup Backed by Bill Gates Achieves Solar Breakthrough

A secretive startup backed by Bill Gates has achieved a solar breakthrough aimed at saving the planet. Heliogen, a clean energy company that emerged from stealth mode on Tuesday, said it has discovered a way to use artificial intelligence and a field of mirrors to reflect so much sunlight that it generates extreme heat above 1,000 degrees Celsius – Q13 Fox, November 19, 2019:

<https://q13fox.com/2019/11/19/secretive-energy-startup-backed-by-bill-gates-achieves-solar-breakthrough/?fbclid=IwAR2a8bBft2XXuv4llvbKfy8QP-qOX7YD7yWn7u3vKO8U5OvWGDynQoMpSml>

See also: This Company Wants to Make Steel and Cement with Solar Power. Here's How

Many of the industrial processes underpinning modern civilization rely on dirty energy for the simple reason that it's a great source of heat. To make steel, you need to smelt iron ore at 1,100 degrees Celsius (2,012 degrees Fahrenheit); to cook cement, your kiln needs to reach 1,450 degrees C (2,642 degrees F). To form molten glass from silica, the heat must be cranked even higher. Whatever the application, the most efficient way to reach these temperatures is to burn fossil fuels – Maddie Stone, *Grist*, November 26, 2019:

<https://grist.org/article/this-company-wants-to-make-steel-and-cement-with-solar-power-heres-how/>

A Solar-Charged Electric Robot Built in Seattle Packs a Unique and Powerful Punch for Life on the Farm

In a chilly, no-frills warehouse space just south of downtown Seattle, a small startup is at work, like many, on the next big thing. But there's no fancy artwork on the walls or ping-pong table near the non-existent onsite cafe. There's Georgios Chrysanthakopoulos, the blunt-talking and hard-working founder and CEO of Directed Machines, formerly known as dCentralized Systems, and his four-person team. And

there's a new machine – Kurt Schlosser, *GeekWire*, November 21, 2019:

<https://www.geekwire.com/2019/solar-charged-electric-robot-built-seattle-packs-unique-powerful-punch-life-farm/>

Affordable and Sustainable? New Homes Prove it's Possible

The first of its kind, a town home project in Renton's Sunset neighborhood is trying to prove that affordability and sustainability can be interconnected. "For too long, people have framed affordability and sustainability as competing priorities. We simply don't have time for that kind of thinking anymore. We don't have time to wait for either," Homestead Community Land Trust Executive Director Kathleen Hosfeld said – Haley Ausburn, *Renton Reporter*, December 2, 2019:

<http://www.rentonreporter.com/news/affordable-and-sustainable-new-homes-prove-its-possible/>

Reports and Case Studies

Resilient Power Project Case Study – Maycroft Apartments Pepco Resiliency Center

Jubilee Housing, a leading affordable housing and supportive services provider in Washington D.C., recognized the value resilience would bring to their residents and worked with partners to install solar and battery storage at the Maycroft Apartments complex. The resulting project, "The Resiliency Center powered by Pepco," is the first of its kind in D.C. and demonstrates how solar paired with battery storage can reliably power critical services for affordable housing residents in the event of an outage, while also delivering economic benefits to low-income household – by Marriele Mango, *Clean Energy Group*, November 21, 2019. Download the report and view associated webinar here:

<https://www.cleangroup.org/ceg-resources/resource/maycroft-apartments/>

Conferences and Events

Oregon Community Solar Program Project Implementation Manual: Webinar, December 19 at noon

Join OSEIA and Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) in a conversation about the most recent updates of Oregon's Community Solar Program. For more information and to register, see:

<https://oseia.regfox.com/webinar-oregon-community-solar-program-update-121919>

Public Hearing: Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program

The Oregon Department of Energy will hold a public hearing on administrative rules for ODOE's new solar and energy storage rebate program on December 3, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at ODOE's office (550 Capitol St. NE in Salem). More information, including the draft rules, is available on our website, and you can sign up to receive email notices about how to get involved. The new rebate program will be up and running in early 2020. For more information: [https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-](https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Pages/Solar-Rebate-Program-Rulemaking.aspx)

[Involved/Pages/Solar-Rebate-Program-Rulemaking.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Pages/Solar-Rebate-Program-Rulemaking.aspx)

Community Solar Policy in Washington: a Discussion on Access to Clean Energy, December 18, at 6:00 p.m.

Join Solar Washington in the Community Hall (Brick Building) at the Phinney Center in Seattle for a forum on community solar policy in Washington: a discussion on access to clean energy. Featuring a legislative proposal from Olympia Community Solar. (The Washington State Legislature will convene for a Regular Session on January 13, 2020.) Additional speakers to be announced. This forum is presented

by Solar Washington in partnership with Olympia Community Solar. For more information see:
<https://www.solarwa.org/calendar>

**Unlocking Solar Benefits for Underserved Communities Through On-Bill Financing Webinar
December 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. PST**

This SEIA webinar will provide information about how on-bill financing programs are helping customers access financing for solar energy and how two utilities in Hawaii and in Arkansas are providing this financing to their customers. The speakers will highlight the ways their on-bill financing programs are allowing customers in underserved markets to go solar. For more information see SEIA's events page:
<https://www.seia.org/events/unlocking-solar-benefits-underserved-communities-through-bill-financing>

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.