



**December 7, 2017**

Welcome to the second issue of **Solar Newsbriefs**, brought to you by the Washington State University Energy Program.

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<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/documents/Solar%20Newsbriefs%2011.30.17.pdf>

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## **Oregon News**

### **Oregon Hazelnut Farm 1st to Fully Operate Under Solar Energy**

Northwest Hazelnut Company, located in Hubbard, OR, installed a 1,000 panel solar grid for hazelnut processing. According to the owners, Larry George and Shaun George, the project took 3 months to complete. The panels come from Earthlight Technologies, which produces solar panels from recycled material. The hazelnut farm is now operating entirely on solar panels. The solar panels produce upwards of 549,200 kilowatts per hour or \$60,000 of power per year – *KOIN6 News*, December 5, 2017. For further information see:

<http://koin.com/2017/12/05/or-hazelnut-farm-is-1st-to-fully-operate-under-solar-energy/>

### **Buying or Selling a Home in Oregon?**

Coldwell Banker Bain real estate broker Ron “Mac” McDowell, a lifetime member of Solar Oregon, has formed a unique partnership with the Solar Oregon, a 501© 3 non-profit organization. Coldwell Banker Bain makes donations to support the work of their brokers and in support their broker causes, so in support of Mac and his affiliation with Solar Oregon Coldwell Banker Bain will make a donation each and every time a Solar Oregon member, or a friend or relative of a Solar Oregon member, buys or sells a home in Oregon in an effort to help raise money for the group – *Solar Oregon* website, November 17, 2017.

<http://solaroregon.org/buying-or-selling-a-home-in-oregon/>

## **Elemental Energy Completes 36-kW Solar Project for Mazama Community in Oregon**

Established on the summit of Mt. Hood in 1894, the Mazamas was founded on the principles of protecting and enjoying our beloved native environments. Continuing to live out these values over 100 years later, the Mazama community recently solarized its Mountaineering Center (MMC) in Southeast Portland, Oregon. Outfitted with 39.6 kW worth of Canadian Solar modules on top of the widely recognizable bright blue roof, the new solar PV system will offset 29.5 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually – *Solar Power World*, July 7, 2017.

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/07/elemental-energy-completes-36-kw-solar-project-mazama-community-oregon/>

## **Washington News**

### **Tacoma Zoo Wins \$50K Solar Grant**

Tacoma Power awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium to help fund a solar project. The zoo plans to install 86 solar panels on the roof of a building in its Asian Forest Sanctuary area. The panels are expected to produce more than 26,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in the first year and more than \$200,000 over their 30-year lifespan – *Daily Journal of Commerce*, December 6, 2017.

<http://www.djc.com/news/ae/12106530.html?cgi=yes>

### **Harborview Medical Center Installs Largest Solar Array on a Hospital in Washington State**

Harborview is installing a nearly 100-kilowatt solar array on the roof of the West Hospital building. The solar array will be the largest on any hospital in the state of Washington and will help offset the energy costs of the medical center — *The Registry*, November 28, 2017. For more information on this project see:

<https://news.theregistryps.com/harborview-medical-center-installs-largest-solar-array-hospital-washington-state/>

## **Technological Innovations**

### **NREL Develops Switchable Solar Window**

Scientists at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have developed thermochromic windows capable of converting sunlight into electricity at a high efficiency. Relying on such advanced materials as perovskites and single-walled carbon nanotubes, the new technology responds to heat by transforming from transparent to tinted. As the window darkens, it generates electricity. The color change is driven by molecules (methylamine) that are reversibly absorbed into the device. When solar energy heats up the device, the molecules are driven out, and the device is darkened. When the sun is not shining, the device is cooled back down, and the molecules re-absorb into the window device, which then appears transparent – *NREL* website, **November 27, 2017.**

<https://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2017/nrel-develops-switchable-solar-window.html>

## National News

### New Solar Opportunities for a New Decade

Since the SunShot Initiative began in 2011, solar has made great strides in the United States. At the time, solar power comprised less than 0.1% of the U.S. electricity supply with an installed capacity of just 1.2 gigawatts. Solar now supplies more than 1% of U.S. electricity demand with an installed capacity of more than 30 gigawatts. In August 2017, the solar industry achieved SunShot's original 2020 target of \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour for utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar power three years ahead of schedule, dropping from about \$0.28 to \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Cost targets for residential- and commercial-scale solar have dropped from \$0.52 to \$0.16 and from \$0.40 to \$0.11 per kWh respectively – For more information see: *The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office website*:

<https://energy.gov/eere/solar/sunshot-2030>

### Rise in Solar Schools Unlocks More Local Funding for Education

With installation costs plummeting, American schools are switching to solar energy at a rapid pace, reducing their electricity bills and freeing up resources to invest in education. There are now 5,489 K-12 schools in the United States that use solar energy, nearly double the total solar capacity that was installed at schools in 2014, according to a major new report by The Solar Foundation, Generation 180, and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) – posted *Solar Norus* website, November 29, 2017. For more information and to access the report see:

[http://www.solarnovus.com/rise-in-solar-schools-unlocks-more-local-funding-for-education\\_N11298.html](http://www.solarnovus.com/rise-in-solar-schools-unlocks-more-local-funding-for-education_N11298.html)

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**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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