



June 4, 2020

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<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/solarnewsbriefs.aspx>

Oregon News

Soltage and Basalt Enter Oregon Market with 40MW Solar Portfolio for Portland General Electric
Soltage LLC, a leading independent power producer, and Basalt managed funds announce their entrance into the Oregon power market with a 40 megawatt (MW AC) solar portfolio.

The first 10 MW solar facility was energized in December and the remaining 30 MW are under construction and planned to be placed in service prior to Summer 2020. The portfolio was acquired from NewSun Energy, a leading Pacific Northwest energy developer—*New Kerala*, June 4, 2020:

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/2020/26513.htm>

Two Solar Projects in Oregon's Lake County Blocked

The Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals has overturned Lake County's permits for two solar projects on 640 acres and ordered the county to reconsider those approvals. Meanwhile, the project's developer, Obsidian Renewables, is seeking permission from state regulators to move forward with plans for a 3,921-acre solar project that encompasses the two smaller sites—Maateusz Perkowski (Capital Press), Bend Bulletin, May 4, 2020:

https://www.bendbulletin.com/business/two-solar-projects-in-oregons-lake-county-blocked/article_70d48fc4-aa1d-520e-a93e-d6b7d918fa7d.html

PacifiCorp Readies Huge Solicitation for Renewables, Energy Storage

Utility group PacifiCorp is about to open a gusher of opportunity for wind, solar and energy storage developers in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. Last year PacifiCorp finalized a landmark integrated resource plan (IRP) that for the first time envisions it relying on large amounts of wind farms and solar backed by energy storage to meet its long-range energy needs –

Jeff St. John, *GTM*, May 11, 2020: <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/pacificcorp-prepares-gigawatt-scale-solar-plus-storage-wind-power-solicitation>

Oregon Is a Renewables Leader But Needs Congress' Help in Wake of Pandemic

Oregon is a national leader in wind and solar development, with strong state policy backing. Oregon's renewable portfolio standard requires that electric utilities get at least half of their power from renewable energy by 2040. Oregon is the 10th-ranked state for installed wind capacity, according to the American Wind Energy Association, or AWEA, and 19th for installed solar capacity, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, or SEIA—Grant Smith, *EWG*, May 26, 2020:

<https://www.ewg.org/energy/23186/oregon-renewables-leader-needs-congress-help-wake-pandemic>

Washington News

Vision for Washington's Solar Decade: 2020-2030

A Solar Plus publication illustrating the Washington's solar vision and goals for the next decade: 2020-2030. Researched and written by Joan Schrammeck with input from Spark Northwest and Solar Installers of Washington, May 31, 2020:

http://www.energy.wsu.edu/documents/WASolarDecade_20200531.pdf

The CleanTech Alliance's Final Report for the Washington State Department of Commerce

This report was commissioned by the Washington Department of Commerce and was created by the CleanTech Alliance and its consultants. It is an endeavor to better understand the roadblocks and challenges to creating a more robust cleantech economy. The report presents invaluable lessons about the CleanTech Ecosystem, Green Jobs, and the needs of our members in light of the COVID-19 pandemic—*Clean Tech Alliance*, May 13, 2020:

<https://www.cleantechalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CTA-Final-Report-for-Commerce-003-1.pdf>

Olympia Community Solar Announces Unit Availability in First Community Solar Project

Enrollment is now open in Thurston County for one of Washington's largest community solar projects. The 100-kW Hummingbird Project will be located atop the Hands on Children's Museum in downtown Olympia and installed in November 2020. The project features 297 SunPower solar panels and a 100-kW SolarEdge inverter—Kelly Pickerel, *Solar Power World*, April 29, 2020:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2020/04/olympia-community-solar-announces-unit-availability-in-first-community-solar-project/>

Solar Panel Project to be Activated this Week

Next week the Town of Friday Harbor will activate its first solar power project on the Island. The solar panel array, which is a 100 kW (DC) Solar Photovoltaic System, is located on a quarter acre of Town property behind the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project is guaranteed to produce 95,000+ kW hours of electricity per year using solar panels and electrical inverters made in Washington State. Apollo Solution Group, through a Washington State Department of Commerce grant, installed the array—*San Juan Islander*, May 23, 2020:

<https://sanjuanislander.com/news-articles/government-news/town-of-friday-harbor/31170/town-s-solar-panel-project-to-be-activated-this-week>

Solar Born of Fire

As Development Manager of the Spokane Indian Housing Authority, Clyde Abrahamson never thought his job would involve solar energy. But after the Cayuse Mountain Fire in 2016 destroyed 14 homes and

tens of thousands of acres of Tribal land, the Spokane Tribe decided to invest in energy sovereignty and climate resilience – with solar power. Through the Spokane Tribe’s Children of the Sun Solar Initiative (COSSI), eight community buildings, 23 tribal homes, and a fish hatchery are now powered by the sun—*Grid Alternatives*, February 21, 2020: <https://gridalternatives.org/headquarters/news/solar-born-fire>

Green and LEED Certified: A Ferry Terminal that's Green, LEED-Certified, and Light on the Earth

Most recently, the site of the new Mukilteo ferry terminal was home to a U.S. Air Force fueling station, abandoned after the Cold War. Soon it will be a bustling ferry terminal connecting Whidbey Island to the Seattle-Everett metro areas.

- Radiant floor heating warms the passenger building interior using less energy.
- Rainwater harvesting funnels the water to storage tanks where it is reused in the restrooms.
- Minimal overwater coverage allows marine plants to thrive in their native waters.
- Passive cooling via mechanical windows that open to let in cool marine air and large ceiling fans to circulate it.
- South-facing shed roof covered in solar panels generates energy to power operations with extra energy going to the power grid.

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/mukilteoterminal/multimodal/green-and-leed-certified>

Dual Land Use: Co-Location of Solar and Farm Land

Is it a Good Time to Develop Commercial Photovoltaic Systems on Farmland? An American-Style Option with Crop Price Risk

This paper evaluates the economic value of maintaining farm operations prior to developing a lot into a photovoltaic system. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, June 2020:

- A real options framework is presented to model crop prices to support decision-making processes in farmland development.
- A case study is conducted to examine the timing of farmland development for photovoltaic systems in South Korea.
- Farmers should defer farmland development until a sufficient drop in crop prices.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364032120301222>

SC Solar Farms could Create more Habitat for Native Plants and Animals

A coalition of environmentalists, state employees and agricultural researchers in South Carolina are creating a roadmap for companies to transform the land surrounding new solar farms into habitat for native plants, insects and birds. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources is leading the new effort to help utilities and independent solar developers utilize the hundreds of acres around large solar arrays to grow native grasses and flowers—Andrew Brown, *The Post and Courier*, June 1, 2020:

https://www.postandcourier.com/business/sc-solar-farms-could-create-more-habitat-for-native-plants-and-animals/article_71c7067c-5ca1-11ea-a2c5-07d1ae8af144.html

Kentucky Residents and Businesses help Build Pollinator-Friendly Community Solar Array

Louisville Gas and Electric (LG&E) and KU Energy, alongside customers, are expanding renewable energy generation in Kentucky by adding more locally grown solar energy to the grid. The company recently

completed the second 500-kW section at its Solar Share facility in Simpsonville. With the addition of the new 1,300-panel array, participating customers are now able to use the solar energy generated from the 1-MW solar array—*Renewable Energy World*, June 2, 2020:

https://www.renewableenergyworld.com/2020/06/02/kentucky-residents-and-businesses-help-build-pollinator-friendly-community-solar-array/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-06-03&utm_source=renewable_weekly_newsletter

National News

Landfills Emerge as Promising Battery Storage Sites to back up Renewable Energy

Solar panel installations have been one of the fastest-growing types of energy infrastructure in recent years and landfills have become fitting sites due to the sheer amount of land required. Now, for many of the same reasons, energy project developers are looking to landfills for a technology growing even faster than solar: battery storage. Matthew Bandyk, *Waste Dive*, May 26, 2020:

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/landfills-promising-sites-battery-storage-solar-renewable-energy/577898/>

Coronavirus Impact on Solar Industry

Clean Energy Has Taken a Hit. Will It Rebound?

Late in April, Warren Leon convened a meeting of leaders from around the country who are overseeing their states' transitions to clean energy. He feared the group – 14 states plus the District of Columbia that have committed to 100 percent clean power goals — would have had its ambitions set back by the ongoing pandemic—Alex Brown, *Pew*, May 19, 2020: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/05/19/clean-energy-has-taken-a-hit-will-it-rebound>

Clean Energy Could Get Americans Back To Work Post-Pandemic *If it gets a piece of the stimulus pie*

Transforming America into a country that runs on clean energy is one way experts hope to alleviate the devastating economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With unemployment soaring and oil prices in a free fall, it is looking highly unlikely that the US will simply step back into “business as usual.” Even though the pandemic is still raging, policy experts, climate action advocates, and scientists have all started drawing up plans that could save Americans from both the ravages of climate change and the economic fallout of COVID-19 — Justine Calma, *The Verge*, April 30, 2020:

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/30/21243011/clean-energy-renewables-coronavirus-recession-stimulus-unemployment>

Reports and other Related Articles of Interest

How to Write a Business Plan for a Solar Farm

Writing a business plan forces solar farm operators to focus on the details of the business, understand the risks, and establish a roadmap for future growth. It can also be used to attract and secure funding. The document should include the usual elements found in a business plan (detailed below), along with some information that is unique to a renewable/alternative energy business, such as a feasibility study and environmental mission statement—Hugo Britt, *Thomas*, May 1, 2020:

<https://www.thomasnet.com/insights/solar-farms-business-plan/>

Upcoming Conferences, Webinars, etc.

Grad Student ‘Ambassadors’ offer Free Clean-Energy Lessons and DIY Solar Kits to K-12 Students

In a normal spring, dozens of University of Washington graduate students in science would be ramping up their visits to Seattle-area schools to teach K-12 kids all about energy, including solar power, batteries and smart grids. But as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced education out of classrooms and onto the internet, the UW clean energy ambassadors are likewise making the shift to remote teaching. In response, a program out of the UW’s Clean Energy Institute (CEI) has bolstered its at-home, K-12 curriculum, which is available for free to teachers, parents and students—Lisa Stiffler, *Geek Wire*, May, 28, 2020: <https://www.geekwire.com/2020/grad-student-ambassadors-offer-free-clean-energy-instruction-diy-solar-kits-k-12-students/>

SOLAR 20/20: Renewable Energy Vision Goes Virtual: June 24-25, 2020 (Online)

The ASES SOLAR 20/20 National Organizing Committee (NOC) has been monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely. After much deliberation, the NOC has ultimately decided to convert the live event in Washington D.C. into a virtual event to ensure the safety and health of our attendees and speakers. We have found an interactive platform where important discussions, networking, and community building can take place. For more information and to register: <https://www.ases.org/conference/>

The CleanTech Innovation Showcase: June 24, July 1, July 8 & July 15, 2020 (Online)

The CleanTech Innovation Showcase brings the industry together to discuss the latest cleantech innovations, ideas and initiatives every June. The CleanTech Innovation Showcase attracts cleantech industry leaders from across the U.S., Canada and beyond to see technology innovations and featured presentations from industry notables. The event truly is a who’s who of the Northwest region’s cleantech industry. No other event gives you unprecedented access to industry leaders, decision makers, researchers, investors, policymakers, foreign business leaders, and the media. For more information and to register: <https://www.cleantechalliance.org/cleantech-showcase/>

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