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Oregon News

Oregon Bakery Blends Pastry and PV with Dual-Axis Solar Project

Ashland, Oregon-based Stracker Solar was chosen to design and build a state-of-the-art solar installation for Franz Bakery's new Outlet Store and Depot in Medford. The six dual-axis tracker installations in the parking lot will make the new location net-zero electric while accommodating possible future EV charging stations—Billy Ludt, *Solar Power World*, May 12, 2022:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2022/05/oregon-bakery-blends-pastry-and-pv-with-dual-axis-solar-project/>

Ruling Requires Revisions for Central Oregon Solar Project Expansion

To pass legal muster, a Central Oregon solar facility expansion plan must provide more specifics about mitigating impacts on wildlife habitat, according to a state land use ruling. However, the West Prineville Solar Farm's developer, NewSun Energy, is optimistic the project can now proceed with "only limited refinements to the plan criteria," said Jake Stephens, its CEO—Mateusz Perkowski, *Capital Press* reprinted in *The Bulletin*, May 12, 2022: https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/ruling-requires-revisions-for-central-oregon-solar-project-expansion/article_ef850773-599a-5685-9236-064b8a5fa96e.html

Ruling Requires Revisions for Central Oregon Solar Project Expansion

To pass legal muster, a Central Oregon solar facility expansion plan must provide more specifics about mitigating impacts on wildlife habitat, according to a state land use ruling. The state's Land Use Board of Appeals said Crook County approved doubling the solar facility's size, from 320 acres to 654 acres, without "substantial evidence" its wildlife plan will ensure quality habitat mitigation that's reliable and

durable—Mateusz Perkowski, *Capital Press*, May 12, 2022:

https://www.capitalpress.com/state/oregon/ruling-requires-revisions-for-oregon-solar-project-expansion/article_f5d83884-d191-11ec-83d2-93ccf6584eab.html

ODOE opens Community Renewable Energy Grant Program. Grant Deadline for the First Round of Grants is July 8, 2022

The Community Renewable Energy Grant Program is open to Oregon Tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities. Public bodies include counties, municipalities, and special government bodies such as ports and irrigation districts. Public bodies include counties, municipalities, and special government bodies such as ports and irrigation districts. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and priority will be given to projects that support program equity goals, demonstrate community energy resilience, and include energy efficiency and demand response. For more information and application materials, see ODOE Community Renewable Energy Grant Program:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/CREP.aspx?cldee=SLu7qmw3QjUXm1nyVi05UXme6qimlMBdbznkijy7Alxb9S4k2UFKx95OgIIAumOg&recipientid=contact-568efccfc428e911a96c001dd800b582-bb192ddecee84dabbe2a13810ab35177&esid=79631b72-2cd5-ec11-a7b4-001dd8035197>

Common Energy Announces \$16.5M Capital Raise from S2G Ventures to Expand Access to Community Solar

Common Energy, one of the country's leading community solar providers, today announced a \$16.5 million investment by S2G Ventures, the direct investment team of Builders Vision, an impact platform dedicated to building a humane and healthy planet. The new round of capital will be used to expand consumer access to local, community solar projects across the country, scale Common Energy's industry-leading energy management platform, and grow the company's management and operating teams—*Energy Central*, May 10, 2022: <https://energycentral.com/news/common-energy-announces-165m-capital-raise-s2g-ventures-expand-access-community-solar>

Federal Investigation Slows Solar Projects in Oregon

After several years of work, Ryan Sheehy's company was ready to put money down this spring on the nearly 9,600 solar panels it needs for a community solar project in Ontario, Oregon. The Verde Light Power Project is a new type of solar development in Oregon that will allow residents to purchase locally generated solar power from the utility company, rather than installing panels directly on their homes or offices—Bradley W. Parks, *Oregon Public Broadcasting*, May 25, 2022: https://www.ijpr.org/environment-energy-and-transportation/2022-05-25/federal-investigation-slows-solar-projects-in-oregon?utm_medium=email

Washington News

Business Spotlight: Sunbridge Solar

Sunbridge Solar, founded and headquartered in Washougal by Jordan Weisman in 2010, has since grown from a one-man operation to a 25-employee business that installs residential and commercial solar energy systems that generate electricity and offset electric bills—Brooke Strickland, *Vancouver SW Washington Business Journal*, May 10, 2022: <https://www.vbjusa.com/news/top-stories/business-spotlight-sunbridge-solar/>

Electric Workboat to be Christened

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for Clean Bay, a zero emission, all-electric workboat that will provide free pump out services in Ludlow Bay, on the opening day of the Port Ludlow Yacht Club's boating season on Saturday. "The launching of Clean Bay is a dream come true," said Alice Anda and Jim Ward of The Institute for Law and Systems Research in the release. "In our experience, it marks a first in the use of e-propulsion, solar and battery technology for a logical class of boats," they continued—*Peninsula Daily News*, May 11, 2022:

<https://usapp01.newsmemory.com/peninsuladailynews/news/2022/05/11/electric-workboat-to-be-christened/>

3,000+ Acre Solar Farm Wants WA Permit to Build in Benton County

A renewable energy company based in Canada has applied for a Washington state permit to develop a 470-megawatt solar project in Benton County. When operating, it would be large enough to power about 70,000 households. Innergex Renewable Energy plans the Wautoma Solar Energy Project for a remote northwest corner of the county about one mile south of the Highways 241 and 24 intersection—

Annette Cary, *Tri-City Herald*, May 18, 2022: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/3-000-acre-solar-farm-wants-wa-permit-to-build-in-benton-county/ar-AAxrO7c?ocid=BingNewsSearch>

A Bellingham-Based Company is Building a Large Solar Project on this Non-Traditional Site

Bellingham-based company Western Solar continues to expand its reach beyond Whatcom County and is currently completing what will be Vashon Island's largest solar project. The grant-funded, 404-panel project is unique because it is located on open space surrounding the island's landfill, rather than on existing rooftops. This is land that would otherwise be unbuildable but will now be used to generate renewable energy to power the Vashon Recycling and Transfer Station—Ysabelle Kempe, *The Bellingham Herald*, May 24, 2022: <https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article260873152.html>

Big Changes are coming to this Pierce County Food Bank, including Solar Power

The Sumer community Food Bank has been a local resource for almost four decades, and they are looking to make some upgrades. In June, the food bank at 15625 Main St. E. will get solar panels on its roof to reduce the amount of energy it uses. The solar panels are funded through a Puget Sound Energy grant, totally about \$125,000—Angelica Relente, *Puyallup Herald*, May 22, 2022:

https://www.mdjonline.com/tribune/regional/big-changes-are-coming-to-this-pierce-county-food-bank-including-solar-power/article_3a2522b4-7af9-5683-af6d-8b53bd60bf2c.html

Benton County Celebrates New Solar Project

A new renewable energy project is complete in Corvallis, generating clean, renewable energy, and supporting a good cause. Benton County held a ribbon-cutting event today with Board Chair Nancy Wyse, County Administrator Joe Kerby, Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall and Corvallis Police Department's Captain Joel Goodwin in attendance, along with representatives from Pacific Power, which helped fund the installation through a Blue Sky funding award. The event featured the unveiling of a permanent sign with a quick response (QR) code that allows the public to access real-time information from the solar array on the roof of the Law Enforcement Building—Pacific Power [Press release], Apr. 22, 2022:

<https://www.pacificpower.net/about/newsroom/news-releases/Community-embraces-renewable->

[project.html](#)

Black Rock Solar Facility Approved in Eastern Yakima County

Plentiful sunshine, a nudge from the state of Washington, and even a few sheep will help a large solar power farm in eastern Yakima County begin operation sometime in 2024. Late last week, Yakima County Hearing Examiner Gary Cuillier has approved a conditional use permit for the Black Rock Solar Energy Project, a photovoltaic solar power facility to be located 20 miles east of Moxee on both sides of State Route 24, the Yakima Herald-Republic reported. The project will feature 264,000 solar panels spread over a 1,060-acre site north of the Rattlesnake Hills and roughly 8 miles south of the Columbia River as it flows into Benton County and past the former Hanford nuclear reactor site—Joel Donofrio, *Yakima Herald-Republic*, May 25, 2022: https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/black-rock-solar-facility-approved-in-eastern-yakima-county/article_dfc6094b-0f88-5a75-a853-16562e617fb2.html

REC Silicon to Restart Poly Production at Moses Lake in 2023

REC Silicon has confirmed it will restart solar polysilicon production at Moses Lake in the U.S. state of Washington in 2023, following Hanwha's decision to acquire a 16.67% stake in the Norwegian manufacturer. "The restart of production [at Moses Lake] is a direct result of Hanwha's commitment to REC Silicon," said REC, which has all of its wholly owned poly factories on U.S. soil—Max Hall, *pv magazine*, June 1, 2022: <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2022/06/01/rec-silicon-to-restart-poly-production-at-moses-lake-in-2023/>

Community Solar

Incentives Drive Solar Adoption among Low- to Middle-Income Residents

Many U.S. states offer incentives to promote residential rooftop solar adoption; however, as prices of solar have declined, the incentives have phased down or out. The truth remains, though, that for low- to moderate-income (LMI) households, the relatively high up-front costs of going solar are often a deterrent. Eric O'Shaughnessy, a researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, studied the importance of subsidies in driving solar adoption among LMI households. His report, "[Rooftop Solar Incentives Remain Effective for Low- and Moderate Income Adoption](#)," indicates that incentives drove adoption for about 80% of LMI households that otherwise would not have gone solar – implying that ongoing incentive support will be rewarded by strong solar policies—Anne Fischer, *pv magazine*, May 24, 2022: <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2022/05/24/incentives-drive-solar-adoption-among-low-to-middle-income-residents/>

Solar Industry News and Innovations

Lack of Trained Workers, ITC Uncertainty, Supply Chain Woes Cited as Challenges for U.S. Solar Installers

EnergySage and NABCEP released the results of the seventh annual [Solar Installer Survey](#). Over 500 residential and commercial installers across the country participated in this year's survey, and it captures key observations about the current state of the U.S. solar industry, offering the perspective of local, regional, and national solar installers. Some of the key challenges noted include supply chain constraints, a lack of trained workers, and uncertainty around the investment tax credit (ITC)—Anne

Fischer, *pv magazine*, May 2, 2022: <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2022/05/02/lack-of-trained-workers-itc-uncertainty-supply-chain-woes-cited-as-challenges-for-us-solar-installers-2/>

Eight Steps to Streamline Energy Storage Interconnection

Perhaps the greatest threat to achieving ambitious renewable energy goals in the U.S. is the costly and time-consuming process of tying projects to the grid. The Biden administration wants 5 million homes to be powered by community solar projects by 2025, a 700% increase in capacity compared to 2021—John Engle, *Renewable Energy World*, May 11, 2022:

<https://www.renewableenergyworld.com/storage/8-steps-to-streamline-energy-storage-interconnection/> or <https://www.world-energy.org/article/24801.html>

Solar Jobs: 80,000 Trained in the Last Three Decades, over the Next Three Years... Double That

Solar has gone on an impressive journey, rising from a fledgling technology to a relevant part of the overall power generation mix, and the dominant technology in newly deployed projects. In 2012, about 2.7 GW of solar was reported to be active by the Energy Information Administration, and now, as of the end of 2021, 92.5 GW are installed. That is an increase of over 3000% in nine short years—Ryan Kenney, *pv magazine*, May 20, 2022: <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2022/05/20/solar-jobs-80000-trained-in-the-last-three-decades-over-the-next-three-years-double-that/>

Meet the Power Plant of the Future: Solar + Battery Hybrids Poised for Explosive Growth

America's electric power system is undergoing radical change as it transitions from fossil fuels to renewable energy. While the first decade of the 2000s saw huge growth in natural gas generation, and the 2010s were the decade of wind and solar, early signs suggest the innovation of the 2020s may be a boom in "hybrid" power plants. A typical hybrid power plant combines electricity generation with battery storage at the same location. That often means a solar or wind farm paired with large-scale batteries—Joachim Steel, Bentham Paulos, and Will Gorman, *Freethink*, May 21, 2022:

<https://www.freethink.com/environment/solar-battery-hybrids>

Putting the Farming in Solar Farms

The grounds maintenance crew at the Brighter Future Solar project in western North Carolina will be plentiful, inexpensive and ecologically appealing, but not very talkative. Between 100 and 200 sheep will keep the grounds neatly trimmed, build the health of the soil and help ensure proper drainage—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, *Forbes*, May 25, 2022:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mitsubishiheavyindustries/2022/05/25/putting-the-farming-in-solar-farms/?sh=32e463f98119>

Solar Siting

Report: Industrial Solar Disrupts Big-Game Movements

Stretching across a piece of prairie in southwest Wyoming is the state's first industrial solar field, an effort to move away from fossil fuels and toward renewable resources. It is one part of the solution to a warming world that is wreaking havoc with historic floods, droughts, tornadoes and wildfires. It is also interrupting critical big game movements and eating up habitat, according to a new paper co-authored by long-time Wyoming big-game researcher Hall Sawyer. The paper, titled "[Trade-offs](#)

[between utility-scale solar development and ungulates on western rangelands](https://www.thesheridanpress.com/business/local-business/report-industrial-solar-disrupts-big-game-movements/article_66bcd0ae-e0d9-11ec-bf62-93ae7b228f8e.html)” is the first in the country to examine and quantify the impact of solar fields on big game. It isn’t anti-solar, Sawyer is quick to say, but it does ask land managers and solar companies to think about siting and design—Christine Peterson, *The Sheridan Press*, May 31, 2022:
https://www.thesheridanpress.com/business/local-business/report-industrial-solar-disrupts-big-game-movements/article_66bcd0ae-e0d9-11ec-bf62-93ae7b228f8e.html

Upcoming Conferences, Webinars

Attracting Veteran Leadership with Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program: Webinar June 11:00 a.m. PDT

Join Solar Ready Vets to celebrate military veterans who have transitioned into solar careers and discuss how solar companies can attract top military talent through the Solar Ready Vets / Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program. For more information and to register:

<https://seia.org/events/attracting-veteran-leadership-hiring-our-heroes-corporate-fellowship-program>

ASES SOLAR 2022: Energy Transition with Economic Justice June 21-24, 2022 Albuquerque, NM, University of New Mexico + Online

On June 21-24, 2022, join the 51st Annual National Solar Conference with the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. This year’s theme, Energy Transition with Economic Justice, will bring in key stakeholders to the conversation in order to explore interests of shared values, identifying issues in the energy transition towards 100% renewables and finding solutions to make a positive difference in communities around the world—For more information and to register: <https://ases.org/conference/>

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