October 7, 2021

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Oregon News

Solar Developer Completes Multi-Site Project Portfolio that was Anything but Easy

Developing utility-scale solar requires a plethora of preparations, from land easements and county permitting to coordinating interconnection and establishing renewable energy credits. Adapture Renewables, a developer based in Oakland, California, is no stranger to large-scale solar, as it has worked on solar projects across the country. But the experienced contractor learned first-hand how important preparation is after it acquired an under-development portfolio of Western Oregon solar projects in 2019—Billy Ludt, *Solar Power World*, Sept. 2, 2021: https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2021/09/solar-developer-completes-multi-site-project-portfolio-that-was-anything-but-easy/

Oregon Department of Energy Re-Launching Solar + Storage Rebate Program with Additional $10 Million in Funding

The Oregon Department of Energy announced today its re-launch of the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program, which offers rebates to residential customers and low-income service providers who install solar or solar and paired energy storage systems (batteries)—ODOE Blog, Sept. 13, 2021: https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/blog/2021/9/13/oregon-department-of-energy-re-launching-solar-storage-rebate-program-with-additional-10-million-in-funding

During Earthquakes and Fires, Oregon Military Microgrid Can Serve the Community for 14 Days

In Oregon, earthquakes and fires are the biggest disaster worry, and the Oregon Military Department (OMD) wants to be ready with a newly deployed military microgrid in the city of Dallas that can provide power to the Colonel Nesmith Readiness Center and community members for up to 14 days during

outages. The readiness center will be powered during outages by a microgrid that includes 225 kW of solar, a 128-kWh Blue Planet Energy battery, an Ageto Energy controller and an existing 150-kW diesel generator—Lisa Cohn, *Microgrid Knowledge*, Sept. 15, 2021: https://microgridknowledge.com/military-microgrid-oregon/

Oregon PUC Revises Community Solar Program to Encourage more Participation

The Oregon Public Utility Commission has approved policy changes to the Community Solar Program intended to increase residential and low-income customer enrollments in the program. In a public meeting this week, the PUC approved the release of the remaining 79 MW of capacity for Pacific Power and PGE. To increase the participation of residential customers, the PUC approved the requirement that 50 percent of each project's capacity be subscribed by residential customers. The PUC also increased the discount for low-income subscribers from 20 percent to 40 percent—KTVZ News, Channel 21, Sept. 23, 2021: https://ktvz.com/community/community-billboard/2021/09/23/oregon-puc-revises-community-solar-program-to-encourage-more-participation/

Bend Residents Warming Up to the Idea of Rooftop Solar Panels: Solar Panels Join the COVID-Era Business Boom

When professional snowboarder Austin Smith decided he was going to build a home on Bend's west side, one of the first design elements he employed was a south-facing roof. With solar panels on top, he would be able to maximize the amount of energy he could harness from the sun—Michael Kohn, *The Bulletin*, Sept. 24, 2021: https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/environment/bend-residents-warming-up-to-the-idea-of-rooftop-solar-panels/article_5f9d2cc2-1cbe-11ec-993e-b3a382e38951.html

Oregon PUC Approves Policy Changes to Community Solar Program to Spur Enrollment

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) last week made changes to its Community Solar Program, approving the release of 79 MW of capacity for Pacific Power and PGE and making moves aimed at increasing residential and low-income customer enrollments. The Community Solar Program Encompasses Customers of PGE (Portland General Electric), Pacific Power and Idaho Power, offering options for those who lack access to other solar generation programs due to status as renters, having a shaded roof, high costs of solar installation and more. These customers can use the program to subscribe to a qualified solar project and receive credits on their electric utility bills for their portion of any energy generated—Chris Galford, *Daily Energy Insider*, Sept. 26, 2021: https://dailyenergyinsider.com/news/32043-regon-puc-approves-policy-changes-to-community-solar-program-to-spur-enrollment/?amp

Students Fund Solar Expansion at SOU Farm

A student-funded solar project at Southern Oregon University will generate an additional 15.48 kilowatts, adding to the university's nine other solar arrays and 450-kilowatt clean energy capacity. A solar array installed on a storage building at The Farm at SOU in mid-September leveraged an Oregon Department of Energy grant of about $15,000 combined with $30,000 from the SOU Green Fund, which is replenished with a "Green Tag" fee of $13 per student each term and energy agreements embedded in other student-funded sustainability projects, said Rebecca Walker, SOU sustainability and recycling manager—Allayana Darrow, *Mail Tribune*, Sept. 28, 2021: https://www.ashlandtidings.com/top-stories/news/2021/09/26/students-fund-solar-expansion-at-sou-farm/

STracker Solar Installs Dual-Axis Trackers at Southern Oregon University for Agrivoltaic Research
STracker Solar of Ashland, Oregon, has installed three new proprietary STrackers in the north end of Southern Oregon University's Sustainability Farm adjacent to the ScienceWorks Museum parking lot. The new elevated PV dual-axis trackers are in line with the three existing STrackers that have been producing clean local solar energy since August 2019. They will serve as a platform for "agrivoltaic" and other student research at SOU—Billy Ludt, *Solar Power World*, Sept. 30, 2021: https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2021/09/stracker-solar-installs-dual-axis-trackers-at-southern-oregon-university-for-agrivoltaic-research/

Washington News

Washington State Provides Funds for Nine Microgrids
Washington State announced $3.9 million in grants from the state's Clean Energy Fund on Aug. 25, to design and build 18 electric grid modernization projects, including microgrids. Nine of the projects include microgrids and all help Washington's utilities move the state closer to its 2045 goal of having 100% of its electricity supply free of greenhouse gas emissions—Sharon Bennett, *Microgrid Knowledge*, August 30, 2021: https://microgridknowledge.com/washington-state-microgrids/

Pandemic Created Slowdown but Didn't Stop Completion of Snohomish County PUD's Microgrid
Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD), the second largest public utility in Washington state, started construction on its long-planned airport microgrid in Arlington, Washington, just a few weeks before the first case of COVID-19 in the U.S. was identified. The airport is just a few miles from the PUD's Everett, Washington, headquarters, about 40 miles north of Seattle. That was nearly two years ago — in February 2020—Sharon Bennett, *Microgrid Knowledge*, Sept. 9, 2021: https://microgridknowledge.com/airport-microgrid-snohomish/

Engineering Professor Receives NSF Grant for Off-Grid Solar Electricity
Professor Henry Louie, PhD, of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is a recent recipient of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. As principal investigator representing Seattle University, Dr. Louie will collaborate with research partner Navajo Technical University, located in New Mexico.

The three-year award, totaling $540,000, will be divided between the two universities to address the issue of energy poverty and assess how "off-grid systems on Native American reservations perform and to develop a novel method to improve their design, resulting in lower costs and enhanced performance"—Seattle University, *The Newsroom*, Sept. 13, 2021: https://www.seattleu.edu/newsroom/stories/2021/engineering-professor-receives-nsf-grant-for-off-grid-solar-electricity.html

Silfab Solar Secures Investment to Support U.S. Module Manufacturing Expansion
North American module manufacturer Silfab Solar has received investment led by private equity firm ARC Financial Corp to help scale up its U.S. PV production footprint. The funding comes weeks after Silfab began shipping products from a new plant in Burlington, Washington, that has doubled the manufacturer's annual production capacity to around 800MW. That expansion followed Silfab securing a U.S. distribution deal for its modules with BayWa r.e. earlier in the year—Jules Scully, *PVTech*, Sept.

16, 2021: https://www.pv-tech.org/silfab-solar-secures-investment-to-support-us-module-manufacturing-expansion/

PUD's Arlington Microgrid Project Now Operational
One of the most experimental clean energy sites in the country is now operational in Smokey Point at the Snohomish PUD's Arlington Microgrid Project. PUD staff and scientists are now looking at how various energy projects can interact with each other at the site. "We have arguably created the most complicated microgrid in the country because we wanted to demonstrate everything that energy storage could do," said Scott Gibson, the project manager at Snohomish PUD—Christopher Andersson, *North County Outlook*, Sept. 21, 2021: https://www.northcountyoutlook.com/news/puds-arlington-microgrid-project-now-operational/article_dc8b3446-1af6-11ec-ac89-5bec01ef2cfe.html

Puget Sound Energy Awarded Clean Energy Grant
Puget Sound Energy was recently awarded a Washington State Department of Commerce grant from the state's Clean Energy fund. The grant worth $150,000 will help PSE with analysis and preliminary design to add a renewable hydrogen and/or renewable natural gas-powered generator to a planned solar plus storage microgrid at Tenino High School—Submitted by Puget Sound Energy, *Thurston Talk*, Sept. 28, 2021: https://www.thurstontalk.com/2021/09/28/puget-sound-energy-awarded-clean-energy-grant/

Puget Sound Energy Provides Solar Grant to Lummi Nation School
Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has provided a Green Power Solar Grant to a partnership between the Lummi Education Division, Lhaq'temish Foundation, Lummi Indian Business Council and Northwest Indian College. The grant will be used to install a 50.4 kilowatt (kW) solar array at the Lummi Nation School as part of an ongoing effort to provide assistance to our communities, an effort that is heightened by the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic—Submitted by Puget Sound Energy, *Whatcom Talk*, Sept. 29, 2021: https://www.whatcomtalk.com/2021/09/29/puget-sound-energy-provides-solar-grant-to-lummi-nation-school/

State Panel Reviews Goose Prairie Solar Project Planned Near Moxee
Speakers at a hearing Monday supported a solar energy project east of Moxee, saying it would bring jobs to the area, though others raised concerns about the effect on agriculture. OneEnergy's plans call for building an 80-megawatt solar energy collection system with battery storage on 625 acres about eight miles east of Moxee. The site is near State Route 24, Den Beste Road and Desmarais Road. The system will deliver power through the Bonneville Power Administration's lines at the site—Kate Smith, *Yakima Herald-Republic*, Sept. 29, 2021: https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/state-panel-reviews-goose-prairie-solar-project-planned-near-moxee/article_e4260cd7-0e41-5d06-b509-13afe9f33a60.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

National News

DOE Releases Solar Futures Study Providing the Blueprint for a Zero-Carbon Grid
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has released the Solar Futures Study detailing the significant role solar will play in decarbonizing the nation's power grid. The study shows that by 2035, solar energy has the potential to power 40% of the nation's electricity, drive deep decarbonization of the grid, and

employ as much as 1.5 million people — without raising electricity prices. The study's findings call for massive and equitable deployment of clean energy sources, underscoring the Biden Administration's efforts to tackle the climate crisis and rapidly increase access to renewable power throughout the country—*T&D World*, Sept. 10, 2021: https://www.tdworld.com/renewables/article/21174948/doe-releases-solar-futures-study-providing-the-blueprint-for-a-zerocarbon-grid

Solar Futures Study
The Solar Futures Study explores solar energy's role in transitioning to a carbon-free electric grid. Produced by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and released on September 8, 2021, the study finds that with aggressive cost reductions, supportive policies, and large-scale electrification, solar could account for as much as 40% of the nation's electricity supply by 2035 and 45% by 2050. To read more and access the report—U.S. DOE, Solar Energy Technologies Office, Sept. 13, 2021: https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-futures-study

Conferences and Webinars

The Washington State Solar Summit: Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA, October 22, 2021
Early Bird Discounted Registration Rates Ends October 8.
In-person event with a livestream option. This is an annual information gathering and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators/policy makers, educators, students, tribal members, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, engineers, financial lenders, consultants and more. The Solar Summit attempts to tackle the most timely issues and most talked about conversations surrounding solar energy and solar adoption in Washington. The Washington State Solar Summit is for anyone engaged in solar deployment, education and advocacy in Washington state. Presented by Solar Washington. For more information and to register: https://www.solarwa.org/2021_solar_summit_register

2021 U.S. C3E Women in Clean Energy Symposium & Awards presents Justice and Equity in Clean Energy: Webinar: November 3 & 4, 2021
Clean energy, environmental justice, and social equity are at a critical juncture in the United States. All Americans should share in the benefits of the energy transition regardless of income, race, ethnicity, gender and geographic location. These benefits include sustainable energy technologies, new job opportunities, healthier people and a healthier planet. At this year's 10th U.S. C3E Women in Clean Energy Symposium & Awards, thought leaders will discuss the latest advances in the energy transition, this year's U.N. Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), what lessons the United States can learn from other countries, and what U.S. successes are replicable in other countries, especially those with developing economies. For more information and to register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-us-c3e-women-in-clean-energy-symposium-awards-tickets-166980171187

NW Energy Coalition Presents *Utility Planning in a Changing Landscape*: Lunch & Learn Series

- Session 1: Introduction to Utility Integrated System Planning, Oct. 20, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- Session 2: Planning for the Future and the Changing Clean Energy Policy Landscape in the Northwest, Oct. 27, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Session 3: Getting the Most Value out of Customer-Side Resources and Distribution System Planning, Nov. 3, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Session 4: Electricity Reliability and the Clean Energy Future, Nov. 10, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For session descriptions and to register: https://nwenergy.org/news/fall-lunch-learn-series/

Oregon Solar + Storage Conference, In-Person at Portland Crowne Plaza, November 2-4, 2021
The Oregon Solar + Storage Conference - OSSC - is taking place November 2 - 4, 2021. Earn NABCEP CEUs, visit engaging exhibits, hear from industry leaders about solar policy, storage, business development, land use, large-scale development, and more. Join OSSIA for one of the most comprehensive solar + storage conferences in the nation. For more information and to register: https://www.orssia.org/osec

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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

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