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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>

Solar Plus Northwest

Todd Currier Appointed Interim Director of the WSU Energy Program

Todd Currier assumed the role of Interim Director of the WSU Energy Program on January 1, 2019. Currier served as Assistant Director of the organization since 2002, and he has considerable experience with project and program leadership, strategic planning, and business development. The WSU Energy Program will benefit from his leadership skills and his regional and national reputation as he provides oversight, leadership and management of all functions of the organization. Read more on the WSU Energy Program website:

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/AboutUs/MeetOurNewDirector.aspx>

Solar Workforce Development Workshops

In 2018, OSEIA organized two workforce workshops dedicated to discussing diversity and inclusion. The goal for these workshops is for business owners and managers to begin creating plans to be more intentional about engaging, recruiting, and retaining their talent differently. The workshops presented a number of resources that will allow the attendees to begin building a plan. OSEIA's goal is to put tools and resources into the solar industry decision makers hands now so when they move through the hiring process they can do so in a thoughtful and informed way that engages with a more diverse audience. The workshops were hosted in Portland and Eugene and drew business owners and industry members from solar installers, insurance firms, electrical distributors, labor unions, advocacy and non-profit stakeholders, and state agencies.

Utility-Scale Solar Plus Battery Storage Workshop

In November, Solar Plus Partner Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) presented three Battery Storage Workshops, the first in Bend Oregon, the second in Sequim, WA and the third in Salem, OR. The workshops in Sequim and Salem targeted utility engineers and included primarily

technical content. Attendees learned, from utility representatives, how northwest utilities are enhancing local energy resiliency through the use of battery storage systems coupled to solar installations. Utility representatives from Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Portland General Electric (PGE), and the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EW&EB) gave presentations on their respective energy storage projects: PSE's Glacier Battery Storage Project and other PSE demonstration projects, PGE's Salem Smart Energy Center, and the EW&EB's Grid Edge Project at the Howard Elementary School in Eugene. In addition to the utility presentations, Dan Borneo of Sandia National Laboratories and Vince Sprengle of Pacific Northwest National Labs presented an overview of the DOE Office of Electricity Energy Storage Program, the Current State of Battery Technology, and Commissioning, Safety and Deployment of Energy Storage. Rob Del Mar would like to replicate these workshops in 2019 now the content is refined. If interested, please contact Rob at Robert.delmar@state.or.us

Oregon News

Solar Fields of Green: Researchers Find Symbiosis at the Food-Water-Energy Nexus

Researchers at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis discovered some surprising benefits associated with installation of solar PV panels installed in a field on the OSU campus. "The major concern of farmers for installing solar panels in their farms is that panels occupy vast areas, which is true. [However,] our research shows that by having solar farms we can have more food, water and energy," Elnaz Hassanpour Akeh, a PhD researcher at OSU's Nexus of Energy, Water and Agriculture Lab. by Andrew Berger at *Solar Magazine*, December 28, 2018:

<https://solarmagazine.com/solar-fields-of-green-researchers-find-symbiosis-food-water-energy-nexus/>

Lakeview Library Nears Zero Energy Goal

A new power source for Lake County's main library in Lakeview is up and running, according to a news release. Newly installed solar panels on the building's roof — 78 altogether — are expected to annually produce about one-third of the power needed for the library and save more than \$25,000 in energy costs over the first 10 years. The 22.6 kilowatt rooftop solar system was funded by a \$65,000 grant through customers in Pacific Power's Blue Sky program — Holly Owens, *Herald and News*, December 23, 2018: https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/lakeview-library-nears-zero-energy-goal/article_47fc6f66-c545-5e12-916f-6aa0afa0795a.html

Report Details Clean Energy Employment in Lane County

A new report by E2 highlights the economic impact of renewable energy on Lane County and across Oregon. The Clean Jobs Oregon report details more than 55,000 "clean" jobs recorded across the state's energy sector this year, in fields including solar, wind, clean vehicles, energy efficiency and others, according to E2, a clean energy advocacy group that lobbies for carbon emission reductions in Congress and individual states. To access the report: <https://www.e2.org/cleanjobsor/>

Commissioners to Vote on 94-Acre Farm-Land Solar Project

A proposed solar project could be developed on 94 acres of high-value farmland east of Klamath Community College and south of Olene. Klamath County commissioners plan to vote in early January on whether or not to grant Santa Monica, Calif. company Cypress Creek Renewables a permit to build the solar farm, which is called the Merrill Solar project. The project would generate about 10 megawatts

of energy, said county planning director Mark Gallagher, powering roughly 2,000 homes annually – Read more at *Herald and News*, January 1, 2019:

https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/community/commissioners-to-vote-on--acre-farm-land-solar-project/article_8009d701-81e4-541f-8bce-a63f691c66c1.html

Oregon National Guard Secures an All-Natural Defense

Solar Panels attached on top of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., helped boost the energy savings of the building. Over the previous summer, panels were added to the building. Even on overcast days, the panels continue to produce power for the building, helping save on energy cost for the Oregon National Guard Read the article at: *DVIDS*, December 27, 2018:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/305710/oregon-national-guard-secures-all-natural-defense>

Washington News

The Clean Energy Fund Solar Deployment

The CEF 3 Solar Deployment applications are currently under review. Additional applications are being accepted, with a review timeframe pending. For more information see the Clean Energy Fund Solar Program here: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/clean-energy-fund/clean-energy-fund-solar-program/>

In addition, the Washington State Department of Commerce has received 60 applications for the Energy Efficiency and Solar grant program, half of which are for solar projects. The program is currently closed to new applications. The Governor's budget has a \$35 million request for this program (up from \$10 million this year). Details for the program can be found here: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/energy-efficiency-and-solar-grants/>

Gov. Jay Inslee's New Clean-Energy Plan

Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced a package of clean-energy legislation and investments at a press conference today. The package includes \$268 million in investments and several policy initiatives that, in combination, Inslee said would reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035 — a target set by the Legislature in 2008. For further information, see article by Sara Gentzler, December 10, 2018, *Washington State Wire*:

<https://washingtonstatewire.com/gov-inslees-climate-action-priorities-in-2019/>

Avista Commissions Largest Solar Array in Washington

Official commissioning of the Adams Nielson solar array located in Lind, WA occurred today. The 28 Megawatt DC array is comprised of 81,700 panels that span 200 acres and generates enough electricity to supply the equivalent of approximately 4,000 homes annually. Read full press release on the Avista website, December 11, 2018:

<http://mediaroom.avistacorp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/avista-commissions-largest-solar-array-washington>

Reports

Directory of State Clean Energy Programs and Policies for Low- and Moderate-Income Residents.

This document surveys current and planned state activities that seek to bring the benefits of clean energy to low-income residents and communities. It focuses primarily on clean energy generation, but also covers some energy-efficiency initiatives. It does not include low-income weatherization programs – December 7, 2018, *Clean Energy States Alliance*:

<https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/directory-of-state-clean-energy-programs-and-policies-for-low-and-moderate-income-residents>

National

How To Go Solar If You Cannot Put Panels On Your Roof

Renewable energy has become a viable part of the energy portfolio of many modern delivery services. Options for renewable energy now include solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, wind, biomass, and geothermal. The concept of solar energy is familiar to many people in the public, yet many people still cannot afford to or have the capacity to install solar energy capturing technologies on their homes. Community solar programs offer a way to go solar without altering the place of residence – Marshall Shepher, *Forbes*, January 2, 2019:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/marshallshepherd/2019/01/02/how-to-go-solar-if-you-cannot-put-panels-on-your-roof/>

Jobs

OSIEA is looking for a Training & Event Coordinator

The Oregon Solar Energy Industry Association (OSEIA) is seeking a highly organized individual with a professional demeanor and excellent organizational skills to help Meghan, Angela and Craig deliver an amazing Solar Energy Conference in May 2019. To view this part-time position click here to read the job announcement:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wTyEVFDdHlqxi1hONQC14UY7s3wJIOP/view>

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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