



January 18, 2018

Welcome to the January 18, 2018 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>

Oregon News

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Shares Accomplishments and Goals

Solar house parties, bike valets, an affordable housing tour and a pledge to eat local were just a few initiatives of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition in 2017. The nonprofit group shared information about these programs and more during its annual meeting Friday at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library – *Corvallis Gazette Times*, January 12, 2018.

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/corvallis-sustainability-coalition-shares-accomplishments-and-goals/article_8b53a7c7-29cb-55ed-bbf0-7af47256f304.html

Washington News

County Extends Solar Moratorium Six Months or Until New Rules in Place

Kittitas County commissioners on Wednesday unanimously extended a moratorium on new commercial solar facilities for another six months. Commissioners originally implemented the moratorium on commercial solar farms a year ago after turning down a proposed solar project near Kittitas. The goal of the moratorium was to give the county time to work out new rules – *Daily Record*, January 4, 2018.

https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/news/county-extends-solar-moratorium-six-months-or-until-new-rules/article_2148f4ca-65b7-5691-a9fe-f98a16779459.html

Snohomish PUD Planning a Microgrid and Clean Energy Technology Center near Airport

Snohomish County PUD is designing and building a Microgrid and Clean Energy Technology Center, located east of the Arlington Airport. A microgrid is a group of interconnected components and energy resources which can be connected to the grid or operate independently. In addition, the

PUD is planning a Community Solar program at the site. For more information see *City of Arlington, E-Newsletter Edition*, January 12, 2018.

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/City-of-Arlington-E-News-for-January-12--2018.html?soid=1109942844595&aid=uHgWl2QcgTw>

Issaquah Achieves SolSmart Gold Designation

The City of Issaquah received SolSmart Gold Designation for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar. Jennifer Grove, Executive Director of Spark Northwest, presented the SolSmart Gold plaque to Mayor Fred Butler at the December 4th City Council Meeting. SolSmart is led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative. The SolSmart designation recognizes cities for taking bold steps to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development – *City of Issaquah, Washington New Flash*, December 7, 2017.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=3368&ARC=9071>

Hillsboro, Oregon and Beaverton, Oregon also achieved SolSmart designation in May, 2017.

For more information on becoming a SolSmart City see:

<https://www.solsmart.org/>

Community Solar

Coalition for Community Solar Access Releases Tools for Policymakers

Momentum for development of community solar programs nationwide is growing, aided by the release of new resources from the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA), a national coalition of businesses and non-profits working to expand access to solar for all. With programs in 17 states and hundreds of local utilities, community solar can play a critical role in the national transition to a cleaner, more resilient, job-creating distributed energy system. CCSA is today releasing new model state legislation for community solar and an updated Policy Decision Matrix to guide policymakers in designing community solar programs tailored to their state – *Solar Novus Today*, December 15, 2017.

http://www.solarnovus.com/coalition-for-community-solar-access-releases-tools-for-policymakers_N11325.html

Path to Solar Financing at Community-Based Nonprofits

Nonprofit community-based organizations, such as affordable housing developers and faith-based institutions, face many obstacles to funding solar projects, but innovative financing tools can help them overcome these hurdles. A new discussion paper, *Civic Power: A Primer on PACE-Secured Solar Power Purchase Agreements* released by The Solar Foundation, Urban Ingenuity, and Clean Energy Solutions outlines a path forward for nonprofits using a combination of power purchase agreements (PPAs) and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) – *Solar Novus Today*, January 10, 2018. To read more and access the paper click here:

https://www.solarnovus.com/path-to-solar-financing-at-community-based-nonprofits_N11347.html

Environmental Justice

NAACP Launches National Solar Equity Initiative

In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and National Day of Service, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) marked the launch of a Solar Equity Initiative in partnership with various solar groups this past weekend. According to the NAACP, the new economic and environmental justice initiative aims to connect over 30 communities of color and low-income communities across the nation with solar energy infrastructure for homes and community centers, as well as skills training for solar jobs, all supported by strengthened solar equity policies – *Solar Industry News*, January 16, 2018.

<https://solarindustrymag.com/naacp-launches-national-solar-equity-initiative>

Technological Innovations

Solar Trackers find a New Home on the Roof

Some big solar headlines of early October 2017 read that the world's largest rooftop solar tracking system had reached completion. "World's largest" seems impressive but could easily have been replaced with "world's only." Trackers don't go on roofs; the wind would rip them off, right? And now there's a 1-MW rooftop tracking system online in California? It seems crazy, but new technology shows otherwise – To read more click to *Solar Power World*, January 15, 2018.

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2018/01/solar-trackers-find-new-home-roof/>

Conferences and Workshops

Free Solar Workshop in Seattle

Northwest Wind and Solar is hosting a free solar workshop, Wednesday, January 31, 2017, at 6:30 PM-7:30 PM at the Leif Erikson Hall. Learn how solar works, record-low pricing, federal and state incentives, and how to determine if your roof qualifies for solar. To register, click here:

<http://www.nwwindandsolar.com/registration/>

Learn More about Solar Energy for your Home at Solarize Seattle Northwest

Solarize Seattle Northwest is hosting a free solar energy workshop at the Phinney Neighborhood Association on January, 26. Solarize Seattle is a bulk-buying program that provides discounts, low-interest loans, and vetted contractors to program participants. For more information see:

<https://phinneywood.com/2013/01/17/learn-more-about-solar-energy-for-your-home-at-solarize-seattle-northwest-workshop-on-jan-2/>

Save the Date - GoGreen Conference is Wednesday, April 4, 2018

The GoGreen Conference is a sustainability learning experience for business and public sector decision-makers. Featuring regionally targeted content and recognized leaders from the community, GoGreen works across industry silos to foster peer-to-peer learning and collaborative solutions. We believe sustainability in the business setting is a powerful and indispensable tool for navigating the tumultuous waters of today's global economy and solving our climate woes. Our

mission is to empower attendees with the strategies, tools and connections to green their organizations with profitability in mind. For more information see:

<http://seattle.gogreenconference.net/>

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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