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Oregon News

Avangrid Celebrates Grand Opening of National Training Center in Oregon

Avangrid, Inc. (NYSE: AGR), a leading sustainable energy company and member of the Iberdrola Group, today celebrated the grand opening of its National Training Center (NTC) in Oregon. The NTC is a world-class facility located in Sherman County near many of Avangrid's operating wind and solar farms, and will serve as a centralized location to train and upskill technicians working across Avangrid's onshore renewable energy portfolio—Avangrid, [Press Release], June 25, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Subscribe to Verde's PDX Community Solar Project at the Goodling Annex

Are you or someone you know a resident of the Cully Neighborhood with the zip code 97218? Subscribe to [PDX Community Solar](#)! Now, anyone can get the benefits of solar power—even without a sunny roof of your own. Whether you own your home or rent, by subscribing to PDX Community Solar, you'll get credits on your utility bill for the energy produced, and you'll be supporting clean, renewable energy. Join Verde on **July 8th** at the [Las Adelitas Community Event Space](#) to learn more about the project and get assistance subscribing. For more information contact Verde [here](#).

Washington State News

Washington Solar Consumer Protection Act

Washington homeowners scored a legislative victory with the passage of the Washington Solar Consumer Protection Act, a robust piece of legislation meant to shield them from [solar scams](#) and deceptive solar industry practices... Signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee and set to take effect on June 7, 2024, the act responds to an onslaught of misleading online ads, and aggressive door-to-door solicitations, offering "free" rooftop solar installations—a tactic widely discredited by local utilities and solar professionals—Dylan Burke, *A&R Solar Blog*, May 13, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Senator Joe Nguyen's List of 2024 Washington Clean Energy Legislation

The transition to carbon-free energy requires significant investments in new energy facilities and

extensive new transmission lines. Senator Joe Nguyễn spearheaded this effort during the 2024 legislative session by leveraging his roles as chair of the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee and vice chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Despite the session being short, the legislature successfully passed several bills to improve the process for siting new energy facilities and transmission lines—Schwabe, William & Wyatt, *JD Supra*, June 4, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Public Power Officials: Horse Heaven won't Make Grid more Reliable

Public power officials dispute Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's claim that the Horse Heaven wind and solar project would make the electric grid more reliable, calling it "utter nonsense" and "fanciful." Northwest Public Power Association executive director Kurt Miller said simply increasing intermittent wind and solar power won't meet the region's pressing need for energy that can be ramped up on demand—Don Jenkins, *Capital Press*, June 5, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Yakama Nation: Inslee Dismissed Horse Heaven Objections

The Yakama Nation has protested Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's support for the Horse Heaven wind and solar project, saying the governor dismissed evidence about the tribe's sacred ties to the area. The tribe accused Inslee of viewing the proposal as "too big to fail," responding to Inslee ordering the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to reconsider constraints on where turbines and solar panels could be placed—Don Jenkins, *Capital Press*, June 5, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Washington Wants to Hear Rural Communities' Thoughts on Renewable Energy

Washington officials want to know what rural residents think about renewable energy development. At an online public meeting Wednesday, people from across the state raised questions about tax rates, farm and forest land use, and views they said could be obstructed by wind and solar farms—Courtney Flatt, *NW News Network*, June 7, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Climate Commitment Act Dollars at Work: Commerce Awards \$72.6 Million for Community Decarbonization Work in 24 Counties

The Washington State Department of Commerce today announced \$72.6 million for 71 grants for community clean energy projects across Washington that advance environmental justice and equity. The funding will benefit communities in 24 of Washington's 39 counties through solar projects, hydrogen fueling, electricity microgrids and more. Funded by Washington's [Climate Commitment Act](#), these clean energy grants are part of a more than \$117 million opportunity, which included \$7.5 million for a [tribal clean energy fund](#) announced in May... "These awards get money into the hands of people who can immediately put it to use fighting climate change," said Commerce Director Mike Fong. "These communities were empowered to use their own discretion to create projects that meet their needs, which will improve outcomes for everyone in Washington." [See the full list of projects](#). Washington State Dept. of Commerce, [Press Release], June 17, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Whatcom Educational Institutions Receive Millions in Solar Energy Grant Money

Bellingham schools and Western Washington University (WWU) are among the recipients of over \$3 million in solar energy grants coming to Whatcom County. The state Department of Commerce announced a round of grants earlier this week that will fund 71 clean energy projects across the state. Bellingham Public Schools was a big winner, netting just over \$2.7 million – the second-highest total

awarded—Jason Upton, *My Bellingham Now*, June 22, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

EFSEC Resists Rolling Over on Horse Heaven Energy Project

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council has indicated it won't automatically bow to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and approve the Horse Heaven wind and solar project as proposed by Scout Clean Energy... EFSEC met for the first time since Inslee directed members to loosen restrictions on where Scout could place turbines and solar panels on hills and farmland near the Tri-Cities in southeast Washington—Don Jenkins, *Capital Press*, June 24, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Spokane Tribe Members have Died of Cancer Near Uranium Projects. A Proposal would Turn a Former Cleanup Site into a Solar Farm

Uranium mines were an economic driver for the Spokane Tribe of Indians. Decades later, an onslaught of cancer cases has left a complicated legacy surrounding the mines. A new Climate Commitment Act (CCA) study could turn one of those former mines into a solar farm... Spokane Tribal Council Chairman Greg Abrahamson is looking forward to the \$90,000 CCA viability study, which will determine whether the tribe's historic uranium mine could be converted into a solar project—Andru Zodrow, *NonStop Local*, May 30, 2024 updated June 24, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Arlington Municipal Airport and Veregy Collaborate on State's Largest General Aviation Solar Array

Arlington Municipal Airport has recently partnered with Veregy, marking a significant step forward in sustainable energy initiatives. This project, priced roughly at \$668,000, will feature a solar array totaling 87.5kW of DC power, which will be installed through a combination of solar-covered car canopies and rooftop solar arrays on the airport's terminal building. This state-of-the-art solar installation is designed to significantly offset the airport's annual electric consumption, providing savings against rising utility costs by generating nearly 145,000 kWh of renewable energy annually—GlobeNewswire, [Press Release], *Markets Insider*, June 26, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Solar Array Planned for Former Purdy Landfill

Pierce County plans to build a large solar power array at the old Purdy landfill, paid for by a \$2.3 million grant from the state Department of Commerce... A preliminary analysis of the old landfill indicates it can host a 1 megawatt solar array. According to the [Solar Energy Industries Association](#), 1 megawatt is enough to power about 100 homes in cloudy Washington state—Vince Dice, *Gig Harbor NOW*, June 27, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Twisp gets Grant for Civic Building Solar Installation

The Town of Twisp has won a \$1.1 million state grant to place solar panels with paired battery storage on the Twisp Civic Building/Emergency Operations Center. The grant, which does not require a local match, was awarded by the Washington State Department of Commerce and funded by the state's Climate Commitment Act. The act addresses grid integration and innovation, community resilience, and renewable energy and storage—*Methow Valley News*, June 27, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

National News and Beyond

DOE-Led Projects to Investigate how Large-Scale Solar Siting Affects Public Perception

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has invested \$9.5 million in four new projects supporting social science research examining how siting practices can influence public attitudes toward and permitting of large-scale solar facilities... DOE says the research will generate actionable insights that improve outcomes for host communities —particularly those that are underserved — and the solar industry— Sean Wolfe, *Renewable Energy World*, June 5, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

FERC Weighs Landmark Plan to Link Eastern and Western Grids

Southwest Power Pool, the grid operator for much of the central U.S., is seeking federal approval to become the first organization to provide transmission services bridging two of the country's three electric grids. If approved, the plan would bring seven Western electricity providers into SPP's existing regional transmission organization, or RTO, footprint—Jason Plautz, *E&E News*, June 7, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

American Solar Panel Manufacturing Capacity Increases 71% in Q1 2024 as Industry Reaches 200-Gigawatt Milestone

A record-setting 11 gigawatts (GW) of new solar module manufacturing capacity came online in the United States during Q1 2024, the largest quarter of solar manufacturing growth in American history... According to the [U.S. Solar Market Insight Q2 2024 report](#) released today by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and Wood Mackenzie, total U.S. solar module manufacturing capacity now exceeds 26 GW annually—SEIA, [Press Release], June 6, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Safe and Fast Permitting Using NREL's SolarAPP+ Continued To Grow Throughout 2023

Across the United States, rooftop photovoltaic (PV) installations continue to grow, with over [671,000 installs in 2022](#)—and final numbers are expected to be even higher in 2023. Local governments must permit each installation, checking the initial design and final installation for safety in a timely manner so residents can enjoy the advantages of clean rooftop solar energy... The free [Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus](#) (SolarAPP+) automated online permitting platform instantly issues a permit for residential solar PV or PV-plus-storage systems if they pass an automated code compliance check, saving valuable time for local governments and solar contractors—Harrison Dreves, NREL, June 12, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Pope Launches Project to Get Vatican to Run Solely on Solar Power

Pope Francis appointed two special commissioners to start work on building an agrivoltaic system on a Vatican property outside of Rome that could supply the whole of Vatican City's energy needs. "There is a need to make a transition to a model of sustainable development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, establishing the goal of climate neutrality," he said in an apostolic letter issued "motu proprio," on his own initiative—Carol Glatz, *Earthbeat*, June 26, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Agrivoltaics

Sol Systems Introducing Solar + Crop Cultivation Expansion Phase to Eldorado Project in Illinois

Sol Systems, a national renewable energy company, has announced its latest project in Saline County, Illinois - Eldorado Phase II. Once completed, this phase will increase the overall project's capacity to

more than 300 MW, making it one of the largest [combined solar and crop cultivation projects](#) in the US—*EnergyTech*, June 7, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Agrivoltaic Solar Arrays will Win the Rural Solar War, with Insects

The war against solar power is erupting in rural counties across the US, but the solar industry has a new weapon in hand. A mounting pile of evidence has emerged to support agrivoltaic solar arrays as an effective way to benefit crops and preserve insect populations, too. New York State, for one, has seen enough to make the case for a new \$5 million program to kickstart the agrivoltaic revolution all over the US—Tina Casey, *Clean Technica*, June 8, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Agrivoltaics Hitches a Ride On the Community Solar Train

The US solar industry has suffered a spate of delayed or outright canceled projects in recent years, but that doesn't mean the end of the line. The community solar movement is still going strong, providing local ratepayers with access to solar power and the potential for reducing their utility bills, too. A new agrivoltaics project in Iowa also illustrates how community solar projects can provide additional benefits to local businesses and the environment—Tina Casey, *Clean Technica*, June 9, 2024:

[Click here to read more](#).

Community Solar

Ampion Enrolls 130+ Wendy's Restaurants to Community Solar Projects

Community solar provider [Ampion Renewable Energy](#) is partnering with The Wendy's Company to help Wendy's restaurants source renewable energy. Nearly 100 company-operated restaurants and nearly 40 franchise restaurants in New York, Illinois and Massachusetts are now enrolled in Ampion+, a service that helps organizations reduce energy costs and secure renewable energy certificates (RECs) that substantiate the use of renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reductions—Billy Ludt, *Solar Power World*, June 27, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Roadmap to Designing an Efficient Community Solar Program

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) released its [Policy Roadmap](#) that includes a guidebook, model legislation, inclusive solar access solutions for low-to-moderate income subscribers and consumer protection best practices. It's intended to serve as a blueprint for states without competitive community solar programs to pass legislation that supports programs. It also provides insight into how to maximize federal funding—Anne Fischer, *pV magazine*, June 28, 2024: [Click here to read more](#).

Community Solar Expands Access to Clean Energy, New Study Shows

The sun showers us all with energy, but not everyone can put solar panels on their roofs to harness it for themselves. Enter community solar, an increasingly popular way to expand access to solar and help fix its equity issues. For the first time, evidence shows that it's working... A [June study](#) [*Evaluating community Solar as a Measure to Promote Equitable Clean Energy Access*] by researchers from the [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#) and the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) that analyzed data from 11 states found that people who adopt community solar are 6.1 times more likely to live in multifamily buildings, are 4.4 times more likely to rent, and earn 23 percent less annual income

than rooftop solar adopters, who skew wealthy—Allison F. Takemura, *Canary Media*, July 1, 2024: [Click here to read more.](#)

Upcoming Conferences, Events and Webinars

GirlsBuild Solar Summer Camps!

[GirlsBuild](#) is a construction summer camp for girls to give them the experience of seeing female professionals in the trades as their instructors and learn first-hand that they have the ability to go solar by making a solar take-home gadget.

- Portland, OR / Ages 8-15 July 8-July 26
- Willamina, OR / Ages 8-15 Aug 5 – 9
- Tillamook, OR / Ages 8-15 Aug 12-16, 1024
- Warrenton Summer Camp Aug 19-23, 2024

This project came from a partnership between BEF, Verde, Port of Portland, Imagine Energy, Leaders Become Legends, Dignity Village, and Twende Solar. This organization is operating under the Oregon Community Solar Program. The Oregon Community Solar Program is a state-enabled initiative overseen by the Oregon Public Utility Commission and implemented by Energy Solutions, Energy Trust of Oregon, and Community Energy Project. The program provides resources and certification for its Project Managers (PMs) but does not promote any individual PM or PM affiliated organization. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

2024 Solar Farm Summit : Rosemont IL, July 8-10, 2024

Dig into all things agrivoltaics at the 2nd annual Solar Farm Summit landing once again next to O'Hare International Airport in the heart of North America's heartland for 3 difference-making days of instructive, illuminating and inspiring dual-use development programming July 8-10, 2024! For more information and to register: [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

International Conference on Energy Conversion & Storage: Bainbridge Island, August 5-7, 2024

The University of Washington's Clean Energy Institute 2024 International Conference on Energy Conversion & Storage (ORCAS) featuring leaders in clean energy research and technology to present conference sessions, seminars, workshops and career panels. Deadline to register is June 30. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Burien Solar Punk Festival : Burien, WA : August 10, 2024

"Solar Punk" is the festival theme, which envisions a future where community and technology are integrated to create a self-sustaining system. In this event, attendees will learn about alternative self-sustaining ways to work and power their daily lives... The proceeds from The Burien Solar Punk Festival will be utilized to support: Key Tech Labs Green Jobs Expo, Mini Jobs Fair, Small Business Expo, funds for a new micro solar system, and stipends for the youth Green Pre-Apprenticeship Program participants. [Click here for more information.](#)

Agrivoltaic Development Workshop : Longmont, CO : August 15 & 16, 2024

Two days of interactive presentations and hands-on activities at Jack's Solar Garden. There will be

presentations from Byron Kominek, owner and operator of Jack's Solar Garden, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Colorado State University (CSU), CALC staff, solar grazing professionals and other individuals and businesses within the industries. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

2024 Washington State Solar Summit : Shoreline Community College : Oct 4, 2024

Hosted by Solar Washington since 2015 the Washington State Solar Summit is an important annual information gathering and networking event for solar industry stakeholders including manufacturers, distributors, engineers, consultants and installers, representatives from utilities, municipalities and tribes, legislators/policy makers, educators, students, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, financial lenders, and more. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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