



July 5, 2018

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<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/solarnewsbriefs.aspx>

Oregon News

Irish Solar Company BNRG Breaks Ground in U.S.

Irish solar company BNRG Renewables has begun construction of a portfolio of 10 solar photovoltaic projects totaling 35 Megawatts (MW) in Oregon. It represents the delivery of the first batch of U.S. projects the company has been developing since 2016, *The Irish Times*, July, 1, 2018:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/energy-and-resources/irish-solar-company-bnrg-breaks-ground-in-us-1.3550179>

Solar Developer David Brown, Investor Allen Alley Launching “Opportunity Zone” Fund

Two noted Oregon entrepreneurs are launching an investment fund that will use new federal tax provisions intended to drive long-term capital to economically disadvantaged areas. Headed by David Brown and Allen Alley, the Obsidian Opportunity Funds could support a range of investments, but solar power will be one certain focus. “If you have a renewable energy project in a rural zone, we’ll bring our fund to you and make it available to secure the advantages the program offers,” Brown said. — Pete Danko, *Portland Business Journal*, June 25, 2018:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2018/06/25/solar-developer-david-brown-investorallen-alley.html?s=print>

Solar Forward: Funding Portland’s Local Energy Future

Portland City Council voted recently to accept funds from the Oregon Community Foundation's (OCF) Penstemon Fund in the amount of \$100,000. The acceptance of these grant funds will enable the installation of a solar electric system at Portland Parks & Recreation’s Southwest Community Center and will provide an opportunity for a wider range of Portlanders to engage in the expansion of clean local energy production through a new pay-it-forward effort called “Solar Forward.” “This \$100,000 grant from the Penstemon Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation will allow us to install our first

'community solar' system, which will give an opportunity to renters and others who want to do their part to promote renewable energy, but can't install a system on their own homes or apartments," said Susan Anderson, director, City of Portland Planning and Sustainability – See City of Portland Sustainability and Sustainability website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/453780>

Increasing Access to Solar for Oregonians with Low and Moderate Incomes

Solar power can offer Oregonians a range of benefits, such as long-term bill savings, resiliency and more green jobs. Despite recent growth in Oregon's residential solar market, low- to moderate-income communities in Oregon still face significant barriers to accessing solar energy. Energy Trust of Oregon Blog, July 2, 2018:

<https://blog.energytrust.org/increasing-access-to-solar-for-oregonians-with-low-and-moderate-incomes/>

Washington News

Carbon Fee Initiative Likely on Fall Ballot

Washington state voters will likely decide in November whether to charge industrial emitters a fee for their carbon pollution, the latest effort yet to pass a carbon-pricing measure to fight climate change – Phuong Le, Kitsap Sun, July, 2, 2018:

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/2018/07/02/carbon-fee-initiative-likely-fall-ballot/753340002/>

Community Solar Rulemaking, Docket UE-171033

On June 28, 2018, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WU&TC) issued a notice of opportunity to comment on revised draft community solar rules. Also on June 28, the commission issued a notice of opportunity to respond to a small business economic impact statement questionnaire. All comments and responses are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2018. For more information see WU&TC's website:

<https://www.utc.wa.gov/docs/Pages/CommunitySolarRulemaking,DocketUE-171033.aspx>

Mercer Island Launches Second 'Solarize' Campaign

Due to popular demand, the City of Mercer Island has launched its second Solarize Mercer Island campaign in four years. Solarize is an innovative group purchase program that helps residents and businesses tap into more affordable solar energy – Neal McNamara, *Mercer Island Patch*, June 19, 2018:

<https://patch.com/washington/mercerisland/mercer-island-launches-second-solarize-campaign>

Small Town Silicon Smelter Plan Tees up Big Questions: Northeast Washington Faces the Tradeoffs of Climate Action

Northwest communities have been fighting an onslaught of dirty energy proposals for nearly a decade, from [coal terminals](#) and [oil pipelines](#) to [petrochemical refineries](#) and [natural gas facilities](#). But what to make of a big industrial project proposal – one that uses coal and creates pollution – that would manufacture a key component of the region's clean energy future? – Eric de Place and Ahren Stroming, *Sightline Institute*, June 25, 2018:

<http://www.sightline.org/2018/06/25/small-town-silicon-smelter-plan-tees-up-big-questions/>

National News

The Energy 202: New Trump Administration Policy a Bright Spot for Solar

Solar energy companies in United States have gotten used to seeing the Trump administration set policy that's unfavorable to the industry. But the Internal Revenue Service just gave solar developers a rare reason to be sunny. On Friday, the IRS issued guidance giving solar developers more opportunities to secure tax breaks, which have already helped boost solar generation nationwide. – *The Washington Post*, June 26, 2018:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/06/26/the-energy-202-new-trump-administration-policy-a-bright-spot-for-solar-developers/5b312a161b326b3967989c4f/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a428a5752811

SEIA Releases Updated 'SEIA Residential Consumer Guide to Solar Power'

To advance efforts to educate residential solar consumers across America and pave the way to a positive solar buying experience, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) launched an updated [SEIA Residential Consumer Guide to Solar Power](#). The free guide offers those interested in going solar a one-stop shop to better understand the basics of solar energy and ownership options. Click here to read SEIA's June 28 Press Release and to access the Guide:

<https://www.seia.org/news/seia-releases-updated-seia-residential-consumer-guide-solar-power>

New Reports

States Drive Clean Energy Progress and Innovation

The Clean Energy States Alliance, a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies working together to advance clean energy, has released a report profiling the six winners of the [2018 State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards](#). Since 2009, the biennial Leadership Awards have recognized outstanding state programs and projects that have accelerated the adoption of clean energy technologies and strengthened clean energy markets. To read more on the winners, one of which is Oregon Department of Energy for their *Renewable Energy Development Grant Program*, see the June 28, 2018 CESA Press Release: http://www.icontact-archive.com/Wl8Nti6_rrTLiBSy-iZkzViUE325yD6c?w=4

Resilient Power Project Case Study – McKnight Lane Redevelopment Project

A defunct mobile home park in rural Vermont was transformed into the first resilient, zero-energy, affordable modular housing development in the country with solar and battery storage systems. This case study includes technical and financial details, as well as lessons learned over the course of the project. To access the report and related resources see: <https://www.cleangroup.org/ceg-resources/resource/resilient-power-project-case-study-mcknight-lane-redevelopment-project/>

Conferences and Events

SOLAR 2018: Pathways to the Renewable Energy Transformation University of Colorado, Boulder

The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) returns to Colorado, August 5-8, 2018, moving north to Boulder, a city with a progressive sustainable energy vision, to continue the conversation on maximizing renewable energy, and to forge pathways for communities in every state to follow, in

achieving renewables-driven electrification, climate resilience, and clean-energy driven opportunities for all. For more information see ASES conference website:

<https://www.ases.org/conference/>

Simplifying Resilient Power Design with REopt Lite: A Look at New Features Added to NREL's Solar+Storage Tool, July 25 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT

With the latest updates to NREL's solar+storage optimization tool, REopt Lite, building owners and energy managers can now easily compare the costs and benefits of solar+storage systems designed to meet resiliency goals. Nick Laws, an engineer in energy systems modeling at NREL, will be on-hand to answer questions about REopt Lite and help explain the new features Clean Energy Group's website:

<https://www.cleanegroup.org/webinar/simplifying-resilient-power-design-with-reopt-lite/>

Go Clean Energy Conference – Bend, OR, July 13

The second annual Central Oregon Energy Conference where business, government, organizations and individuals will connect on the new issues and opportunities about energy and efficiency. Join the innovators in Central Oregon and be a part of it.—NW Energy Coalition website:

<https://nwenergy.org/resources-publications/activist/go-clean-energy-conference-bend-or-july-13/>

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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