



**August 8, 2019**

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

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## **Oregon News**

### **Oregon Department of Energy Launches Guidebook for Local Energy Resilience**

The Oregon Department of Energy today announced a new resilience resource for small and medium electric utilities. The [\*Oregon Guidebook for Local Energy Resilience\*](#) identifies incremental actions electric utilities can take today so they are better prepared in the event of a major emergency, and provides additional guidance to improve overall community energy resilience – ODOE Blog, July 16, 2019:

<https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/blog/2019/7/16/oregon-department-of-energy-launches-guidebook-for-local-energy-resilience>

### **Counties Expected to Speed up Oregon Solar Projects**

County governments would expand their authority over Oregon's solar facilities under a recently approved bill that's expected to speed up the approval process for such projects. "That presumably will allow more development to come in, in a quicker time frame," said Mary Kyle McCurdy, deputy director of the 1,000 Friends of Oregon conservation group – By Mateusz Perkowski, *Capital Press*, July 30, 2019:

[https://www.capitalpress.com/state/oregon/counties-expected-to-speed-up-oregon-solar-projects/article\\_86348c56-b31e-11e9-9f36-e33584e085e5.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/state/oregon/counties-expected-to-speed-up-oregon-solar-projects/article_86348c56-b31e-11e9-9f36-e33584e085e5.html)

### **Oregon Department of Energy Announces \$1.25 Million in Grants for Renewable Energy Projects across the State**

The Oregon Department of Energy announced today six recipients of \$1.25 million in Renewable Energy Development Grant funds. The RED Grant program supports Oregon businesses, nonprofits, and organizations investing in renewable energy systems that use biomass, solar, geothermal,

hydroelectric, wind, landfill gas, biogas, wave, tidal, or ocean energy to produce electricity – July 25, 2019, ODOE Blog:

<https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/blog/2019/7/25/oregon-department-of-energy-announces-125-million-in-grants-for-renewable-energy-projects-across-the-state>

### **Making Solar Power Real**

Solar installation for buildings lived in by lower-income families, older adults and people with disabilities is now a possibility in La Grande, thanks to a \$90,000 grant awarded by the Oregon Department of Energy. A grant for \$250,000 will cover the cost for a similar project in Wallowa – By Sabrina Thompson and Ellen Morris Bishop, the *Observer*, August 5, 2019:

<https://www.lagrandeobserver.com/home/7344910-151/making-solar-power-real>

### **Wallowa Solar Project Awarded \$250,000 Grant**

LA GRANDE — Two Northeast Oregon solar power projects, one in Wallowa and the other in La Grande, have been awarded a total of \$340,000 in grants to bring solar power to affordable housing. The projects were among only six recipients statewide of Oregon Department of Energy awards totaling \$1.25 million. Fleet Development was the awardee of both local grants, which fund solar power for affordable housing. Funds are part of ODOE’s Renewable Energy Development Grant (RED) fund. The program was launched in 2012, and this year marks the eighth and final round of funding – Ellen Morris Bishop and Sabrina Thompson, *East Oregonian*, August 6, 2019:

[https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/wallowa-solar-project-awarded-grant/article\\_705c2504-f4b2-5dd7-a8bd-e871f8acdad8.html](https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/wallowa-solar-project-awarded-grant/article_705c2504-f4b2-5dd7-a8bd-e871f8acdad8.html)

### **Solar Advocates Launch ‘Hang Dry Your Clothes’ for Climate Change Week**

Oregon solar advocates have calculated just how much energy goes into drying a load of laundry in a clothes dryer. On average it’s three kilowatt hours per load, according to Joe Wachunas with Solar Oregon. “What does three kilowatt hours mean? Well, it takes about a pound of coal to create one kilowatt hour of electricity, and coal is a big provider of our electricity across the country,” he said. By Cassandra Profita, OPB, August 4, 2019:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/solar-advocates-oregon-hang-dry-clothes-climate-change-energy/>

## **Washington News**

### **Bellingham Solar Panel Companies Begin to Unlock Commercial Market**

Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee, visited Silfab Solar Inc. in Bellingham on July 17, 2019. During his speech, he highlighted the advancement of clean energy jobs in the state and the celebrated expansion of Silfab Solar. The governor’s visit comes just months after the Washington State Senate approved SB 5116, requiring all electric utilities to meet 100 percent of its retail electric load with renewable sources by 2045 – By Mathew Roland, *Bellingham Business Journal*, July 30, 2019:

<http://bbjtoday.com/blog/37112/37112/>

### **Clark Public Utilities Renewable Energy Project sets Production Record**

Participants in the Clark Public Utilities Community Solar program will see the largest state incentive returns to date, thanks to a record-setting solar energy production year. “The Community Solar photovoltaic arrays produced more electricity during the 2019 solar year than any other year since they were installed four years ago,” said Matt Babbitts, energy services project manager at Clark Public Utilities. “As a result, our customers who have purchased Community Solar units will receive nearly a dollar per unit more this year than they did in 2018” – *Clark County Today*, August 5, 2019: [https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/local\\_news/clark-public-utilities-renewable-energy-project-sets-production-record/#.XUkNFXmTHVk.email](https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/local_news/clark-public-utilities-renewable-energy-project-sets-production-record/#.XUkNFXmTHVk.email)

### **PSE’s Battery Storage Project Could Help the Clean Energy Rollout: Tiny Pilot Project in Glacier could eventually be expanded to Puget Sound Region**

On a rainy day in the foothills of Mount Baker, engineers from Puget Sound Energy gathered at a pilot project located just outside of the tiny town of Glacier. As rain pattered against the exterior of four large shipping containers, inside Paul Jusak, a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) controls engineer, pushed a few buttons and a built-in computer and the thousands of battery cells inside the containers hummed to life. The batteries are charging, and within a few minutes the four containers have charged from 38 to 40 percent. In a matter of seconds, the intake of energy from the power grid can be reversed and sent out to power the town center of Glacier during outages – by Aaron Kunkler, *Seattle Weekly*, July 24, 2019: <https://www.seattleweekly.com/news/pses-battery-storage-project-could-help-the-clean-energy-rollout/>

### **SnoPUD’s Planet Power to Fund Five Local Solar Projects**

Snohomish County PUD’s Planet Power program recently awarded five local organizations funds for the construction of solar energy projects. Planet Power has focused on supporting organizations that provide community services and/or renewable energy education. The program was funded through voluntary contributions from PUD customers. In this final round of grants, Planet Power awarded \$260,000 to build five photovoltaic (PV) systems with more than 112 kilowatts of installed capacity – SnoPud Press release, July 9, 2019:

[https://www.snopud.com/newsroom.ashx?p=1102&173\\_na=390](https://www.snopud.com/newsroom.ashx?p=1102&173_na=390)

### **Appeals Court Sends Kittitas Solar Project Back for More Review**

A state Court of Appeals ruled this week that a decision by Kittitas County to reject a solar project near Kittitas was improper and based on an erroneous legal determination. The Court of Appeals for Division III said the county commissioners took a view that was too narrow in concluding the OneEnergy solar project near Kittitas did not align with the state’s Growth Management Act. The ruling sends the project back to the county for further review. Joanna Markett, *Yakima Herald-Republic*, July 12, 2019: [https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/appeals-court-sends-kittitas-solar-project-back-for-more-review/article\\_ce97983f-a661-5020-a5c7-b4aa1fa88396.html](https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/appeals-court-sends-kittitas-solar-project-back-for-more-review/article_ce97983f-a661-5020-a5c7-b4aa1fa88396.html)

## **Resilience**

### **DOE begins development of North American 'energy resilience model'**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will spearhead the development of a North American Energy Resilience Model (NAERM), designed to "proactively anticipate damage to energy system equipment," predict associated blackouts and help with recovery. The Office of Electricity (OE)

issued a report on its plans to develop the NAERM earlier this month, citing growing threats to the nation's grid and the range of critical infrastructure that relies on electricity, from banking and water distribution to telecommunications. To continue reading the article and access the OE report, see *Utility Dive*, July 31, 2019:

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/doe-begins-development-of-north-american-energy-resilience-model/559902/>

## Conferences

### Washington State Solar Summit, Bellevue, WA, October 18, 2019

The Washington State Solar Summit is an important annual conference and networking event for industry stakeholders including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities, legislators, educators, students, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, financial lenders, consultants and more. Last year over 250 industry professionals gathered to network and tackle the issues facing the solar energy landscape in Washington. For more information and to register:

[https://www.solarwa.org/2019\\_solar\\_summit\\_register](https://www.solarwa.org/2019_solar_summit_register)

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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](mailto:whitneya@energy.wsu.edu)

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