



May 5, 2022

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Oregon News

Community Solar Project Up and Running in Talent

More than two years after organizers began working to bring community solar to Southern Oregon, a solar system atop a building in Talent is now generating energy and helping residents save on their utility bills. The project was organized by the nonprofit Solarize Rogue in partnership with Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which has a production building in Talent, and Oregon Clean Power Cooperative. It is the first community solar project in Pacific Power service area to reach commercial operation—Energy Trust of Oregon, Blog, Apr. 20, 2022: <https://blog.energytrust.org/community-solar-project-up-and-running-in-talent/>

Benton County Celebrates New Solar Project

A new renewable energy project is complete in Corvallis, generating clean, renewable energy, and supporting a good cause. Benton County held a ribbon-cutting event today with Board Chair Nancy Wyse, County Administrator Joe Kerby, Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall and Corvallis Police Department's Captain Joel Goodwin in attendance, along with representatives from Pacific Power, which helped fund the installation through a Blue Sky funding award—Pacific Power, [Press release], Apr. 22, 2022: <https://www.pacificpower.net/about/newsroom/news-releases/Community-embraces-renewable-project.html>

Bonamici Tours Tualatin Solar Panel Business on Earth Day

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici spent a portion of Earth Day taking a tour of A&R Solar, a Tualatin company that installs eco-friendly solar panels on homes and businesses. The company started in Seattle in 2007,

creating a separate Oregon location in Tualatin in 2015. About six years ago, Farrell said the company expanded into the electric battery sector, thinking it would become about 10% of the company's business. However, demand has quickly grown to the point it makes up about 30%—Ray Pitz, *The Times*, Apr. 25, 2022: <https://pamplinmedia.com/ttt/89-news/543392-435098-bonamici-tours-tualatin-solar-panel-business-on-earth-day>

Washington News

Lighting the New Library

It has taken a lot of energy from multiple sources to advance from the drawing board to construction phase plans for the new LaConner-Swinomish Regional Library. That kind of energy promises to be renewable on several levels going forward. Plans to solarize the library were shared in detail during a 45-minute Zoom session last Wednesday sponsored by the La Conner Library Foundation, La Conner Weekly News, and Western Solar, the Bellingham firm tabbed to install the library's solar energy system—Bill Reynolds, *La Conner Weekly News*, Mar. 29, 2022:

<https://laconnerweeklynews.com/Content/Default/Community/Article/Lighting-the-new-library/-3/495/6943?s=1ary/-3/495/6943?s=1>

2022 Solarize Campaign, Brings Affordable Solar Options to Thurston County Homeowners & Businesses

Entering the spring season, South Sound residents will have the opportunity to get outside and take in the region's longer daylight hours and budding greenery. As nature starts to spring back to life, the new season can also be a time for Thurston County homeowners to start thinking about green living improvements, including a transition to solar energy. To help streamline the solar panel installation process, local nonprofit, [Olympia Community Solar](#) (OCS), is launching the second annual [Solarize Campaign](#), set to begin in early April—Molly Walsh, *Thurston Talk*, Apr. 8, 2022: <https://www.thurstontalk.com/2022/04/08/2022-solarize-campaign-brings-affordable-solar-options-to-thurston-county-homeowners-businesses/?msclkid=83b123dfb9e711ecac586a6a32888293>

California Company Plans Side-by-Side Solar Complexes in Washington

A California company has applied to build side-by-side solar-power complexes on nearly 1,800 acres of rangeland in northeast Yakima County. Cypress Creek Renewables of Santa Monica submitted an application last week to the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council to construct the High Top and and Ostrea solar projects about 30 miles east of Yakima—Don Jenkins, *Capital Press*, Apr. 12, 2022:

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/california-company-plans-side-by-side-solar-complexes-in-washington/article_6bf8bcb0-baa3-11ec-921a-5f0c38fca1b9.html

PUD and Everett City Partner on Solar Project in South Everett

Snohomish County PUD is partnering with the City of Everett on a solar project that will be built in south Everett and generate funds that will assist PUD customers having trouble paying their bill. Partially funded by the Washington Department of Commerce's Clean Energy Fund (CEF), the south Everett solar project will be built adjacent to Walter E. Hall Park in south Everett and will direct solar generation benefits to Project PRIDE, the PUD's customer-funded income-qualified program that currently serves 500 customers annually—*My Everett News*, Apr. 12, 2022: <https://myeverettnews.com/2022/04/12/pud-and-everett-city-partner-on-solar-project-in-south-everett/>

Solar Array in South Everett will have Energy to Power 40 Homes

South Everett is getting a new solar array, courtesy of the Snohomish County Public Utility District. The project will sit on city of Everett property next to Walter E. Hall Park, overlooking a skate park. It will have the capacity to generate 375 kilowatts, enough to power about 40 homes. The Everett City Council unanimously approved a lease last month—Zachariah Bryan, *Herald Net*, Apr. 12, 2022:

<https://usapp01.newsmemory.com/everettdailyherald/news/2022/04/12/new-solar-array-is-coming-to-walter-hall-park-in-everett/>

New Community Solar Projects Targeting Lower-Income Area

Community solar projects have been part of the clean energy landscape in Washington since about 2005. The idea is to offer ratepayers who don't have a good place to install solar panels at their homes - or enough funds to pay for an entire system - the chance to purchase shares in a larger project, offsite. They then get credits on their bill for the clean energy produced. Now, the City of Everett and the Snohomish County Public Utility District are partnering for a new kind of community solar project. The revenue it generates will help low income households pay their energy bills—Bellamy Pailthorp, KNKX Public Radio, Apr. 13, 2022: <https://www.knkx.org/environment/2022-04-13/new-community-solar-projects-targeting-lower-income-areas>

New Microgrid in Seattle's Capitol Hill Neighborhood to Power Community Center during Outages

Ahead of Earth Day Friday, Gov. Jay Inslee and Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell celebrated the new microgrid at the Miller Community Center on Thursday. Located at Miller Park in the city's Capitol Hill neighborhood, the new microgrid is a system of solar panels and battery storage and comes with new artwork at the community center—Cody Miller, King 5 News, Apr. 22, 2022:

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle-microgrid-earth-day/281-e9516848-6e78-4305-83c0-40edcc58b9c5>

With Yakima Valley's Abundant Sunshine, More Homeowners Turning to Solar Energy

In many parts of the country, residents who install solar panels are primarily doing it for environmental reasons. While that also may be a motivation in Central Washington, Paul Comiskey, general manager of [AllCities Solar](#) in Yakima, said there's another "green" factor at work here — with our abundant sunshine, solar energy can save residents money—Joel Donofrio, *Yakima Herald-Republic*, Apr. 22, 2022:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/with-yakima-valleys-abundant-sunshine-more-homeowners-turning-to-solar-energy/article_3e311af7-0cde-5539-95c6-63b7b9b918b6.html?utm_medium=email

Vashon Island Landfill Utilizing Unbuildable Land for Solar Generation

Over the past few years, King County has been actively working to reduce their carbon footprint through switching several of their facilities over to 100% solar power. With another award from the Washington Department of Commerce, the King County Waste Division is currently installing the largest solar project ever completed on Vashon Island at their Recycling and Transfer Station, with 149,480 watts of peak power. While all of the previous projects have been installed on existing rooftops, this project is taking advantage of the otherwise unbuildable open space surrounding the landfill and will feature a ground mounted system with 404 solar panels angled to optimize the system production in the wide open field—Western Solar [Press release], Apr. 27, 2022: <https://www.westernsolarinc.com/vashon-landfill-solar/>

Community Solar

Five Things to Look for in a Community Solar Software Platform

Community solar has been growing throughout the U.S., with over 3.6 GW of projects operating in late 2021 and deployments expected to increase by 4.5 GW of capacity in the next five years. But managing the projects can be unnecessarily complex, which can hamper their deployment. To accelerate community solar growth and achieve the DOE's goal, we must eliminate as many complexities as possible. Given these benefits, what should developers and asset owners look for in a community solar billing platform?—

Armando Gaetaniello, *Solar Power World*, Apr. 11, 2022:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2022/04/five-things-to-look-for-in-a-community-solar-software-platform/>

Introducing Community Solar+: The Next Generation of Community Solar

The first generation of community solar has truly enabled greater access to solar energy across the United States. Through innovative subscription programs and policies, community solar offers opportunities for many residential customers — including renters, people living in multifamily residential buildings, and those without a viable rooftop for hosting solar — to buy clean energy and reduce their energy burden. And momentum is building for community solar, with new and expanded programs from [New Mexico](#) to [New York](#) to [Washington](#). But community solar has the potential to do far more. In our new report [Community Solar+: How the Next Generation of Community Solar Can Unlock New Value Streams and Help Communities Pursue Holistic Decarbonization](#), RMI introduces our vision for Community Solar+ (CS+): community solar projects that are deliberately planned and strategically deployed to embrace added value streams and advance community-wide sustainability and equity goals—Matthew Popkin, Madeline Tyson, RMI, Apr. 12, 2022: <https://rmi.org/introducing-community-solar-the-next-generation-of-community-solar/?msclkid=81720777bcd211ec8b935fd0eedaadd2>

National News

Site Renewables Right: Accelerating a Clean and Green Energy Future

The Nature Conservancy supports the rapid expansion of renewable energy, and the ample wind and solar resources in the central U.S. offer the opportunity to provide clean, low-impact power for people and wildlife. The new Site Renewables Right map identifies where renewable energy can be developed in the central U.S. while still conserving important wildlife habitats and natural areas at the same time. It is a win-win— Kelsey Misbrener, *Solar Power World*, Feb. 8, 2022:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2022/02/nature-conservancy-low-impact-solar-siting-map/>

DOE will Assist 22 Communities with Locally Tailored Pathways to Clean Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the inaugural communities selected as part of the Communities Local Energy Action Program ([Communities LEAP](#)), a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to help energy-overburdened communities take direct control of their clean energy future. The 22 communities will receive support from DOE to create community-wide action plans that reduce local air pollution, increase energy resilience, lower utility costs and energy burdens, and provide long-term jobs and economic opportunity. The selected communities include: Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Seattle (Beacon Hill), Washington—*T&D World*, Mar. 31, 2022:

<https://www.tdworld.com/renewables/article/21237624/doe-will-assist-22-communities-with-locally->

[tailored-pathways-to-clean-energy](#)

Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) Funding Opportunity,

On April 12, 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) announced the Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) funding opportunity, which will award \$25 million in funding for projects to enable communities to utilize solar and solar-plus-storage to prevent disruptions in power caused by extreme weather and other events, and to rapidly restore electricity if it goes down. For more information: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/articles/funding-notice-renewables-advancing-community-energy-resilience-racer>

Solar Industry ‘Frozen’ as Biden Administration Investigates China

More than 300 solar projects in the United States have been canceled or delayed in recent weeks because of an investigation by the Commerce Department—David Gelles, *New York Times*, May 1, 2022, accessed via Governors’ Wind & Solar Energy Coalition: <https://governorswindenergycoalition.org/solar-industry-frozen-as-biden-administration-investigates-china/>

Solar Panel Recycling

What is Best? Building Solar Panels that Last 30 Years, or are Short-Lived Easy-to-Recycle and Upgrade

The good news is that PV modules last so long – 30 years – that we do not have to worry about recycling for a while. The bad news is that means we are not thinking about the alternative pathway of deliberately building modules that last only a few years yet can be easily recycled. Harrison Dreves at NREL describes the data-gathering and creation of a modelling tool that quantifies the flow of materials, energy, and carbon in the PV industry to help inform decisions that enable a more cost-effective and equitable circular economy—Harrison Dreves, *Energy Post Events*, Apr. 24, 2022:

<https://energypost.eu/whats-best-building-solar-panels-that-last-30-years-or-are-short-lived-easy-to-recycle-and-upgrade/>

Conferences, Webinars and other Training Opportunities

Mobile Solar+Storage for Emergency Management: May 10, 2022 9:00 a.m. PT

Mobile resilient power systems – solar PV paired with battery storage (solar+storage) – are gaining traction as emergency management leaders look for reliable backup power resources to utilize on-the-go when a disaster occurs. This Clean Energy Group webinar will provide an overview of how mobile solar+storage units are built and operated. Emergency response officials will speak to their experience deploying these systems in the field. For more information and to register see: Clean Energy States Alliance: <https://www.cesa.org/event/resilience-hubs-model-overview-and-community-case-studies/>

Energy Heroes: Recruiting the Clean Energy Workforce of the Future

Through the [National Clean Energy Workforce Alliance](#), over 350 diverse organizations and 400 individuals have provided direct input to identify scalable solutions to address today's workforce development challenges. Join us for the Alliance's first Solution Summit, Energy Heroes: Recruiting the Clean Energy Workforce of the Future, to continue the conversation as we focus on positioning the clean energy sector as “Energy Heroes” and mitigating barriers to participation in the green workforce

of the future For more information and to register:

https://irecusa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ug1H2DdfRJepVkJArXfy53Q

NW Energy Coalition's Decarbonizing the Northwest Webinar Series – June & July 2022

Join the NW Energy Coalition for our summer webinar series “Decarbonizing the Northwest.” This virtual series will take place on June 1, June 15, June 29, and July 13 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. PT / 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. MT. For information on individual sessions and to register see:

<https://nwenergy.org/news/decarbonizing-the-northwest-webinar-series-june-july-2022/>

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This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Solar Plus Strategies for Oregon and Washington award number DE-EE0007665.

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