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Oregon News

Kôr Community Land Trust's Sustainability Program Funded by U.S. Bank Foundation, C.O. Health Council

Kôr Community Land Trust develops to goal net-zero energy standards to ensure equitable access to energy-efficient homes, and the health and savings that come with it. Kôr has recently scaled its affordable housing pipeline to ensure that it can build more net-zero homes to better serve the lower-income housing needs of Central Oregonians. The U.S. Bank Foundation and Central Oregon Health Council have collectively made a \$100,000 investment in Kôr's sustainability program, funding the photovoltaic solar panel systems for Kôr's next communities—KTVZ News Channel 21, August 1, 2022:

<https://ktvz.com/community/community-billboard/2022/08/01/kor-community-land-trusts-sustainability-program-funded-by-u-s-bank-foundation-c-o-health-council/>

Going Green: Oregon Shakespeare Festival Making Environmental Changes

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is going green. In recent weeks, OSF has taken steps to create clean power by installing solar panels and making arrangements for using electric vehicles. Through Solarize Rogue, a non-profit organization based in Talent, since March 14, solar panels on the OSF Production Building in Talent have been operating and is providing power for 16 Rogue Valley homes along with 20 percent discounts for two low-income families. "This is the first 'Carve-Out' project in the state, the first certified project in Pacific Power territory and the first 'Participant-Owned' project" in Oregon, according to a joint statement by OSF and Solarize Rogue. "This project demonstrates that community members can indeed own their power-generating equipment even if the solar panels are not physically located on their rooftops"—Lee Juillerat, *Herald and News*, August 2, 2022:

https://www.heraldandnews.com/klamath/going-green-oregon-shakespeare-festival-making-environmental-changes/article_2f0ae07b-0854-556a-97e8-5864bdde589d.html

EV Dealership goes Greener with Dual-Axis Solar Tracker Project

A car dealership in Southern Oregon selling and leasing electric vehicles will soon be powered by photovoltaic solar. TC Chevy has been in business since 1985, and recently chose Stracker Solar to install dual-axis solar trackers in the car lot. Each of the five dual-axis solar trackers will carry 28 LONGi 445-W bifacial solar panels atop its 20 ft. pole. They will sport high-power LED display lighting for the illumination of the display lot. The complete five-Stracker system will produce 140,000 kWh solar power per year—Billy Ludt, *Solar Power World*, August 4, 2022:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2022/08/ev-dealership-goes-greener-with-dual-axis-solar-tracker-project/>

U.S. Senate Bill Seen as Big Win for Oregon

Clean energy developers, farmers, ranchers, forest and homeowners in Oregon are slated to get hundreds of millions of dollars in grants, tax credits and incentives from legislation that passed the U.S. Senate this weekend. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, an umbrella name for a climate and energy package that includes provisions for health care, could go to the U.S. House for a final vote as soon as Friday and is likely to pass under the Democratic majority—Alex Baumhardt, *Oregon Capital Chronicle*, August 9, 2022: <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2022/08/09/oregon-renewable-energy-projects-farmers-loggers-could-get-millions-from-inflation-act/>

Upgraded Energy Trust Guidelines Make Installing more Affordable

Energy Trust of Oregon, a nonprofit that helps people and organizations reduce their energy use and benefit from renewable power, has increased income guidelines for cash incentives that make installing solar at home more affordable for families with low-to-moderate incomes. Energy Trust's Solar Within Reach offer provides higher cash incentives to income-qualified customers interested in greatly lowering their monthly energy bills and putting solar to work in their homes—*Lake County Examiner*, August 15, 2022: https://www.lakecountyexam.com/townnews/economics/upgraded-energy-trust-guidelines-make-installing-more-affordable/article_41b831bc-b9b1-5cbf-858d-8cd508e478ed.html

Affordable Housing Residents Benefit from Wallowa County Community Solar Project

Enjoying the benefits of solar power might seem out of reach for someone experiencing a lower income and living in an apartment in a small, rural town. But tenants of two affordable housing apartment buildings in the city of Wallowa will save on energy costs for years to come thanks to a new community solar project that began generating energy in July. The 360-kilowatt Wallowa County Community Solar project was developed by Fleet Development, a company created to bring renewable energy to affordable housing—Energy Trust Blog, Energy Trust of Oregon, August 15, 2022:

<https://blog.energytrust.org/affordable-housing-residents-benefit-from-wallowa-county-community-solar-project/>

Tip Leads to Arrest in Fire Lookout Break-in Case

An anonymous tip led to the arrest of a man suspected of stealing batteries and solar panels needed to power a lookout tower's fire detection camera, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office said—Vickie Aldous, *Mail Tribune*, August 24, 2022: <https://www.mailtribune.com/top-stories/2022/08/23/tip-leads-to-arrest-in-fire-lookout-break-in-case/>

Washington News

REC Silicon Still on Track to Reopen Moses Lake Polysilicon Factory in 2023

With manufacturing credits once again included in a [congressional reconciliation bill](#), new solar development plans could be back on the table in the United States. The current draft of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 includes \$370 billion in energy and climate spending, with manufacturing credits as presented in the former Solar Energy Manufacturing for America (SEMA) Act still intact: solar-grade polysilicon (\$3/kg), PV wafers (\$12/m²), thin-film and silicon PV cells (4¢/WDC), thin-film and silicon PV modules (7¢/WDC)—Kelly Pickerel, *Solar Power World*, August 1, 2022:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2022/08/rec-silicon-still-on-track-to-reopen-moses-lake-polysilicon-factory-in-2023/>

17 Square Miles of Benton County Agricultural Land May be Home to this New Kind of Farm

A second large [solar generation project is proposed](#) for a rural area of Benton County before construction on the first one being discussed has begun. The Hop Hill Solar Project would be built on 17 square miles, just east of Highway 241 on the south face of Rattlesnake Ridge and about seven miles northeast of Sunnyside. It would produce up to 500 megawatts of solar energy power and also would include up to 500 megawatts of battery storage—Annette Cary, *Tri-City Herald*, August 8, 2022:

https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/17-square-miles-of-benton-county-farm-land-may-be-home-to-solar-farm/article_76ac3646-173c-11ed-8fc8-5bf0e1e0164a.html

Solar Panels Delivered for Installation on Burien's Highline High School

Last week, a bright milestone was reached – solar panels were delivered to be installed on the roof of Burien's Highline High School, as part of a student-led effort to help provide power to the school. Two 2021 graduates and the current president of the HHS Environmental Club were charged up at 8 a.m. on August 4, 2022 to see the first of 285 panels, lifted by a very tall crane to the roof of the 3-story school—*The B Town Blog*, August 3, 2022: <https://b-townblog.com/2022/08/08/solar-panels-delivered-for-installation-on-buriens-highline-high-school/>

Puget Sound Energy Removes Barriers to Accessing Solar Power with Community Solar at Olympia High School

If you are not able to install solar panels on your roof but you want to support alternative energy and reduce your carbon footprint, [Puget Sound Energy](#) (PSE) and [Olympia High School](#) (OHS) partnered to the option to subscribe to solar energy shares. “The [Community Solar Program](#) was designed to make solar more accessible for customers,” says Leslie Myers, PSE product manager for renewables—Nancy Krier, *Thurston Talk*, August 5, 2022: <https://www.thurstontalk.com/2022/08/05/puget-sound-energy-removes-barriers-to-accessing-solar-power-with-community-solar-at-olympia-high-school/>

Energy Secretary Agrees Tri-Cities Assets ‘Irresistible’ for Growing a Clean Energy Hub

The Tri-Cities is well positioned to move from “cleanup to clean energy,” said Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm on her first visit to the Tri-Cities. Leaders representing Tri-Cities economic and other interests pitched the concept to her at a roundtable discussion, with their message bolstered by Granholm’s tours of the Hanford site and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland Thursday and Friday—Annette Cary, *Tri-City Herald*, August 15, 2022:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/northwest/energy-secretary-agrees-tri-cities-assets-irresistible-for-growing-a-clean-energy-hub/article_07dc5975-85c9-5016-acb9-03332ce29a32.html?amp;amp

Benton County Officials, some Residents Object to Solar Project Near Yakima County Line

During an August 8 public information meeting and land use consistency hearing for the Wautoma Solar Project, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council members heard from more than 20 people with strong opinions on both sides of the solar farm issue. Comments called the 470-megawatt proposal, planned just across the Yakima County line near the intersection of State Routes 24 and 241, everything from “a huge positive impact for the region” to another mandate benefiting Western Washington residents at the expense of the state’s east side—Joel Donofrio, *Yakima Herald*, August 22, 2022: https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/benton-county-officials-some-residents-object-to-solar-project-near-yakima-county-line/article_c3bfd100-1fec-11ed-8fcb-1b253515bc45.html?utm_medium=email

Central Washington Family that Owns Wautoma Solar Project Site Explains Benefits of Proposal

Much of the discussion regarding solar power has focused on the “green energy” benefit it would provide for consumers, the state and the environment as Washington officials hope to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Solar power farms and their thousands of solar panels also benefit another group: landowners who for economic or social reasons are having a tough time with traditional farming—Joel Donofrio, *Yakima Herald-Republic*, August 22, 2022:

https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/central-washington-family-that-owns-wautoma-solar-project-site-explains-benefits-of-proposal/article_9d65dc4e-2009-11ed-9113-634d09ce52b9.html

Washington’s Community Solar Program

After a two-year period with no incentive for community solar in Washington, legislators introduced and passed a 2022 bill “expanding equitable access to the benefits of renewable energy through community solar projects” ([HB 1814](#)). This marks an exciting milestone for Washington’s community solar advocates, as the 2022 bill incentivizes community solar development and prioritizes low-income communities through the creation of a grant-style fund. The program features a pre-certification option through the Washington State University Energy Extension program and payments to project developers, which can cover installation and some administration costs—McKenzie Diep and Maria McCoy, *Institute for Local Self-Reliance*, August 25, 2022: <https://ilsr.org/washingtons-community-solar-program/>

Four Questions to Consider Before you go Solar

Solar power is hot. It can sound like a joke in the Pacific Northwest: That is about as useful as a solar array in Seattle! Ha ha. But it is really no joke. The [Snohomish County] PUD’s Community Solar array in Arlington has been producing energy since early 2019 and just had an impressive July, producing nearly 100,000 kilowatt-hours of energy in 31 days. They are also preparing to install a second

Community Solar array in south Everett. This array will be slightly smaller at 375 kilowatts and the funds generated by the project will go to help customers struggling to pay their energy bills—by Snohomish County PUD, *HeraldNet*, August 25, 2022: <https://www.heraldnet.com/life/four-questions-to-consider-before-you-go-solar>

Technology

More Energy on Less Land: The Drive to Shrink Solar's Footprint

From the ground, the new solar farm shimmers like a mirage oasis on a hot summer day. Instead of row after slanting row of shiny panels stretching taller than corn, this array, mounted directly on the earth, lies flat as water. From the air, it looks like an acre-sized swimming pool. Yet despite its modest stature, this new type of photovoltaic plant — one of five now producing a combined 2.5 megawatts of energy in California's Central Valley — can match the output of conventional solar farms nearly three times its size—Cheryl Katz, *Yale Environment 360*, July 28, 2022: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/small-solar-agriculture-technology>

National News

What is in the Inflation Reduction Act for the Solar Industry?

This past Sunday, the United States Senate passed the Inflation Reduction Act, and today the House of Representatives votes on the bill. It is now on its way to the President's desk for a final signature as soon as next week. The bill – known technically as H.R. 5376 – Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 – is 730 pages of dense legalese. With that, pv magazine USA will try its best to extract and point to the pieces of the legislation that will directly affect our industry—John Fitzgerald Weaver, *pv magazine*, August 5, 2022: <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2022/08/15/whats-in-the-inflation-reduction-act-for-the-solar-industry/>

Four Ways the Inflation Reduction Act Speeds the Shift to a Cleaner, More Affordable Energy Future

The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a once-in-a-career opportunity, permanently shifting the course of both the U.S. economy and global climate to a better future. And it represents the culmination of decades of work by RMI — its experts and analysis played a direct role advancing key provisions — along with countless other NGOs, businesses, communities, scientists, and policymakers—John Coequyt, RMI, August 16, 2022: https://rmi.org/four-ways-the-inflation-reduction-act-speeds-the-shift-to-a-cleaner-more-affordable-energy-future/?utm_source=SolarWakeup&utm_campaign=10291307c3-SolarWakeup_2_182_16_2013_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5eaa0aab62-10291307c3-44257697&mc_cid=10291307c3&mc_eid=94deb606ee

With Major Policy Win, Solar and Storage Industry Charts Course for a U.S. Manufacturing Renaissance

Today the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) released a roadmap with near- and long-term steps to dramatically scale America's solar manufacturing sector now that the Solar Energy Manufacturing for America Act (SEMA) has passed as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The new whitepaper, [Catalyzing American Solar Manufacturing](#), outlines how the solar and storage industry can capitalize on this policy support and build a manufacturing base that is cost-competitive, ensures

sufficient demand and supports a strong, diverse workforce—SEIA [press release], August 18, 2022: <https://www.seia.org/news/major-policy-win-solar-and-storage-industry-charts-course-us-manufacturing-renaissance>

Why U.S. Community Solar is forecast to more than Double by 2027

There are currently 4.9 gigawatts (GW) of community solar installed in the U.S. through the second quarter of 2022, and at least 7 gigawatts of community solar are expected to come online in the U.S. in the next five years, according to new research released by Wood Mackenzie in collaboration with the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA). The SEIA, as of June 7, forecasts the addition of more than 4.3 GW of total US community solar capacity, but Wood Mackenzie has increased its 2022-2026 forecast by 477 MW, an 11 percent uptick compared to previous forecasts, and extended its outlook to 2027—Michelle Lewis, electrek, August 3, 2022: <https://electrek.co/2022/08/03/us-community-solar-forecast-2027/>

Upcoming Events: Conferences, Webinars, etc.

Advancing Solar for Manufactured Homes through Community Solar [webinar] September 14, 12:00 p.m.

Panelists will share more information about how community solar can be used to bring the benefits of solar to manufactured homes; how to engage with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Community Solar Partnership; and successful examples of community solar projects that have benefitted manufactured homes and communities. For more information and to register:

<https://www.cesa.org/event/advancing-solar-for-manufactured-homes-through-community-solar/>

STEMtember Series: Careers in EERE: Renewable Power [webinar] September 15, 2022 9:00 a.m.

Whether you are a seasoned professional or a new graduate, U.S. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) wants you to join its team of Clean Energy Champions. Join them on Sept. 8 for "EERE STEMtember Sessions: Careers in Clean Energy," a webinar series to highlight EERE career opportunities. For more information and to register: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/are-you-clean-energy-champion>

Go Clean Energy Conference [hybrid event] – Central Oregon Community College, Bend, OR October 6, 2022

The most affordable "how-to" conference in the region. 30+ speakers help you build your project in efficiency, clean energy, EV Charging and more. Individuals, businesses, and government discover opportunities in clean energy, efficiency, sustainability, electric mobility, and green jobs—For more information and to register: <https://gocleanenergy.org/>

WA State Solar Summit: Connecting to our Clean Energy Future [hybrid event] Centilia Cultural Center, Seattle, WA, October 14, 2022

Hosted by Solar Washington since 2015, the Washington State Solar Summit is an important annual information gathering and networking event for anyone working in the solar industry or interested in solar, including manufacturers, installers, utilities, municipalities and tribes, legislators/policy makers, educators, students, advocacy organizations/nonprofits, distributors, engineers, financial lenders,

consultants and more. For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-solar-washington-summit-connecting-to-our-clean-energy-future-tickets-354707689247?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Oregon Solar + Storage Conference: Portland, OR, November 1-3, 2022

OSSIA is currently accepting sponsors, speakers and exhibitors, as it looks forward to over 500 attendees with a diverse mix of solar and industry leaders. Please contact mauri@oseia.org or erin@oseia.org For more information and to register: <https://www.orssia.org/osec>

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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