

GreenPower News

A weekly update from Western's Renewable Resources Program covering green power, reports and studies and funding.



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Green Power

Wind Power Said To Beat Natural Gas In Midwest

Xcel is on a wind roll. Days after announcing a subsidiary's plans to purchase nearly 700 megawatts of wind power for customers in New Mexico and Texas, the company – thought not long ago to be going soft on wind – turned its attention to the Upper Midwest, telling regulators it wanted to add 600 MW of power from three planned wind-farm projects in North Dakota and Minnesota to its portfolio.

Once again, Xcel cited the attractive price of wind energy as a reason for the move. [Read more](#). Source: *Earth Techling*, 7/17/13

Geothermal system at Colorado state Capitol being brought on line

The new geothermal heating and cooling system at the Colorado state Capitol, consisting of water pumped from two wells drilled into the Arapahoe Aquifer more than 850 feet

underground, is being brought on line this week and should bring hefty savings on utility bills for the Capitol, officials said Wednesday.

The water from the aquifer is a consistent 65 degrees. [Read more](#). *Source: The Denver Post, 7/17/13*

Council Approves Major Renewable Solar Electric Purchase Agreements

Palo Alto has taken yet another step in its quest to be one of America's greenest cities with its recent major long-term solar power commitment.

On June 17, the City Council authorized three major solar electric power purchase agreements, which together will result in the acquisition of up to 182,500 megawatt-hours (MWh) of solar photovoltaic electric power per year.

This new power purchase represents roughly 18 percent of the City's electric needs. (That's enough power to supply all 65,000+ Palo Alto residents—and then some!). [Read more](#). *Source: City of Palo Alto, 6/17/13*

EPA Updates its Ranking of Community Green Power Use

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Green Power Partnership has released an updated ranking of the country's top Green Power Communities (GPC). A GPC is one which meets or exceeds the program's green power purchase requirements. The communities are ranked based on both the volume of green power used and green power as a percentage of its total power use. In this new ranking, Washington D.C. maintains the number one spot as user of the most green power with more than 1 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) consumed. The community with the largest percentage of green power used is Oak Park, Ill., at 91.9 percent. The rankings welcome several new members this year, including Cincinnati, Ohio; Creve Coeur, Mo.; and Arlington Heights, Ill. [Read more](#). *Source: Green Power Partnership, 6/14/13*

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Reports, studies and policy

Proceeds from Wind Wildlife meeting now online

The nation's leading scientists on wind energy and wildlife convened Nov. 27-30 in Denver, Colo., for the ninth biennial Wind Wildlife Research Meeting to share their latest findings and evaluate progress in understanding and addressing wind energy's potential impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat. The meeting was co-hosted by the American Wind Wildlife Institute and the [National Wind Coordinating Collaborative](#). With over 40 speakers, 70 poster presentations, and 350 attendees, it was the largest ever of its kind.

The proceedings and presentations are now [online](#). *Source: National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, 7/18/13*

Battery Seen as Way to Cut Heat-Related Power Losses

As scorching weather envelops the Northeast and the Midwest, electric utilities are scrambling to keep the power on while air-conditioners strain utilities' capacity. By Tuesday afternoon in New York City and Westchester County, for instance, Consolidated Edison had logged nearly 7,700 interruptions since the heat arrived on Sunday, and it had dispatched crews to restore almost all of the power. [Read more](#). *Source: The New York Times, 7/16/13*

DOE Releases Report on Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change

The Department of Energy has released a report on current and potential impacts of climate change on the energy sector, including power plants.

The report released on July 16, "U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather," examines current and potential future impacts of climate trends on the U.S. energy sector. According to the DOE, researchers have identified several critical issues, including power plant disruptions due to drought and the disruption of fuel supplies during severe storms. They've also pinpointed potential opportunities that would make the nation's energy infrastructure more resilient to these risks. [Read more](#). *Source: PowerNews, 7/18/13*

RePower Humboldt releases final strategic plan

RePower Humboldt is an effort to build a Renewable Energy Secure Community, or a RESCO. A RESCO is a concept defined by the California Energy Commission: it refers to a community that has developed its local renewable energy resources, including energy efficiency and conservation, in an effort to meet its local energy needs and to secure its sustainable energy future at minimal costs to energy consumers.

Humboldt County has untapped renewable energy resources including wind, wave, hydropower and biomass. Combined, these resources could provide about three times more electricity each year than we currently consume. If electricity is used for heating (with heat pumps) and transportation (with electric vehicles), there is enough renewable energy in Humboldt County to meet all of our present energy needs.

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority and SERC have released final versions of the RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan and related documents. [Read more](#). *Source: Redwood Coast Energy Authority, 7/15/13*

Energy from Water—Is your project worth pursuing?

The Small Hydro Manual is written to assist people who are interested in developing a small hydro opportunity. It will be especially useful to people with small sites that would not justify the expense of extensive professional engineering services. Even with small sites, such services may be advisable if you have conditions you do not fully understand. The book will provide you with the information you need to:

- Evaluate the potential of a small hydro site
- Lay out the site
- Apply for necessary licences and permits

- Get financing
- Select and install equipment
- Understand the equipment

The emphasis in the book is on doing as much as possible yourself, thus keeping capital costs as low as possible. [Read more](#). *Source: Morehead Valley Hydro, Inc. 7/9/13*

Wind Powering America releases regional stakeholder meetings and priority state reports

Beginning in 2010, DOE conducted an assessment of WPA activities to determine whether the methods the department had used to help grow the wind industry to provide 2 percent of the nation's electrical energy should be the same methods used to achieve 20 percent of the nation's energy from wind (as described in the report 20 percent Wind Energy by 2030: Increasing Wind Energy's Contribution to U.S. Electricity Supply).

This report summarizes the results of the inaugural regional meetings and the state reports with a focus on ongoing wind deployment barriers in each region. As part of the discussion process, attendees voted on the critical barriers in their regions and discussed the top issues in each region during breakout sessions. [Download the report](#). *Source: Wind Powering America, 6/14/13*

Fact Sheet: Jobs in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

This fact sheet provides the number of "green" jobs in the United States as well as a more specific consideration of employment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. According to Environmental Entrepreneurs, in 2012 alone the clean energy sector created 110,413 jobs. Job figures in renewable energy and energy efficiency were obtained by referring to studies and reports published by the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and a host of non-profits, think tanks and national trade associations. [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 6/11/13*

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Funding

EERE Financial Opportunities

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) works with business, industry, universities, and others to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. One way EERE encourages the growth of these technologies is by offering financial assistance opportunities for their development and demonstration. [Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/23/13*

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