

GreenPower

News

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



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update* for **November, 2014**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.

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- NREL seeks feedback on latest version of SAM

- National lab publishes utility-scale solar report

Funding

- DOE Buildings Energy Efficiency Frontier and Innovation Technologies – Nearly \$8 Million
- USDA Rural Community Development Initiative – Nearly \$6 Million
- EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program
- DOE Landscape Design for Sustainable Bioenergy Systems – \$14 Million
- HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition – \$1 Billion
- DOE Advancing Solutions to Improve the Energy Efficiency of U.S. Commercial Buildings – \$9 Million
- CDFI Bond Guarantee Program – \$525 Million
- EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program – \$1.2 Million
- Concentrating Solar Power: Advanced Projects Offering Low LCOE Opportunities
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Green Power

Distributed Generation: Is Your Co-op Prepared?

Ready or not, distributed generation is "becoming more of a reality every day" for electric cooperatives and other utilities, Jeffrey Triplett declared. Better to be ready.

"What if you get a flood of these requests coming in and you have a significant portion of your membership interested in interconnecting some form of distributed generation on your system?" asked Triplett, an engineer at Power System Engineering.

At the Innovative Power Summit, Oct. 30, he raised several questions that co-ops can expect, and offered guidance, including NRECA's updated DG Toolkit.

Source: Electric Cooperative Today, 11/12/14

Accelerate Energy Productivity 2030 Launch

What would you do with an extra \$1000? Go on a vacation? Buy a new computer? Put it towards your kids' college tuition?

Well, a new initiative the Department of Energy and partners are kicking off today could save the average American family over \$1,000 per year on energy by 2030.

Today, we met with industry leaders to kick-off Accelerate Energy Productivity 2030, an initiative supporting President Obama's goal to double our energy productivity by 2030. Energy productivity is the gross domestic product produced per unit of energy consumed. Typically, it is reported in dollars per million metric British Thermal Units (\$/MMBTU). Simply put, energy productivity means growing our economy while using less energy to do it.

Source: Department of Energy, 11/06/14

RPS Collaborative Webinar: Tracking Systems and Section 111(d) State Plans

Dec. 10, 2014

11:00 AM—12:00 PM MT

EPA's proposed rule 111(d) would require close tracking of energy and emission attributes from power generation, as well as tracking of interstate transfers of physical power and associated environmental attributes. States would need to decide how to relate their State Implementation Plans to existing RPSs and other programs that involve tracking of electricity and emission attributes. States are already engaged in markets where power attributes (primarily RECs, but also zero emission attributes from large hydro and nuclear facilities) are traded across states and regions. To provide background information on these issues, APX Environmental Markets has written a paper on the topic of "Using Tracking Systems with the Implementation of Section 111(d) State Plans." The paper discusses the key elements of tracking systems, differences among them, various ways in which they could be used in 111(d) compliance, and which compliance options may be most appropriate in which situations. In this webinar, Lars Kvale of APX will summarize and discuss the report's main points.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 11/11/14

RPS Collaborative Webinar: A Status Update on Renewable Portfolio Standards

In this webinar presentation, Galen Barbose, Staff Research Associate, Electricity Markets and Policy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBL) reviewed the overall status of RPSs around the country, including data on RPS compliance, costs, and generation capacity resulting from RPSs. Barbose made observations about RPS trends and provided a preview of two upcoming research projects from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory: one quantifying the benefits of state RPS programs, and the other analyzing implications of scheduled ITC reversions for state RPSs.

This webinar was hosted by the Clean Energy States Alliance and the State Federal RPS Collaborative.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 11/06/14

Solar development resources available to local governments

The Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs) is designed to help accelerate solar energy adoption on the local level by providing timely and actionable information to local governments. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) SunShot Initiative, SolarOPs achieves its goals through a mix of educational workshops, peer-to-peer sharing opportunities, research-based reports, and online resources.

Source: DOE Sunshot Initiative, 11/5/14

Getting to A Win-Win: Distributed Solar & Utility Cost Recovery

Rate design is a key element to ensure that all invested solar customers benefit from solar energy development, and collectively continue to drive the reductions in soft costs necessary to materialize the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative's goal to make solar energy technologies cost-competitive with other forms of energy by reducing the cost of solar energy systems by about 75% before 2020.

Source: Solar Outreach Partnership, 11/4/14

Reports and Studies

[Report: States Remain Strong on Consumer Clean Energy Policies](#)

'Freeing the Grid' 2014 Grades 50 States on Net Metering, Interconnection

Vote Solar and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) today released the 2014 edition of Freeing the Grid, a policy guide that grades all 50 states on two key clean energy programs: net metering and interconnection procedures. Together these policies empower energy customers to use rooftop solar and other small-scale renewables to meet their own electricity needs. Now in its eighth year of publication, the report shows that over the past year, states nationwide have generally upheld and in some cases strengthened these pillars of consumer clean energy investment.

Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 11/13/14

[Getting to A Win-Win: Distributed Solar & Utility Cost Recovery](#)

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This webinar features Solar Outreach Partnership's recent publication, Rethinking Standby and Fixed Cost Charges: Regulatory and Rate Design Pathways to Deeper Solar Cost Reductions. Lead authors discuss the key findings of their report, including a three-part approach that includes revenue decoupling, a minimum monthly contribution and time-of-use pricing, along with other approaches that serve the interests of both solar PV technology and utilities.

Source: Solar Outreach Partnership, 11/04/14

[Rethinking Standby and Fixed Cost Charges: Regulatory and Rate Design Pathways to Deeper Solar Cost Reductions](#)

A new report from NC Clean Energy Technology Center outlines a series of approaches that utilities and their regulators can adopt that provide a "softer path" to rate design that does not delay solar grid parity. Currently, discussions around net-metering focused on the value of solar concept, while ignoring the contributions of other factors, such as declining energy use across most utilities' customer base, on utility fixed-cost recovery and financial stability.

Rethinking Standby and Fixed Cost Charges: Regulatory and Rate Design Pathways to Deeper Solar Cost Reductions examines an integrated approach that is beginning to be adopted by several forward-thinking utilities and regulators. The strategy combats this systemic problem without imposing disproportionate burdens on solar DG, and SunShot Initiative soft costs reduction efforts.

Source: NC Clean Energy Technology Center, 11/5/14

[NREL report assesses US Army's energy efficiency, renewable energy strategies](#)

The Army Net Zero Initiative is a holistic strategy founded upon long-standing sustainable practices and incorporates emerging best practices to manage energy, water, and waste at Army installations. The

intent of the Net Zero Initiative is to enhance mission effectiveness and increase installation resiliency. Additional energy-related Federal mandates—including Executive Order 13514, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007—further support Net Zero strategies.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 11/3/14

[Hydro newsletter available online](#)

Van Ness Feldman; a law and policy firm specializing in energy, environment, land use, real estate, and government relations matters; publishes a monthly newsletter highlighting hydropower issues.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 10/31/14

Funding

[Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update](#)

Seven opportunities totaling over \$57 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Air
- Energy Efficiency
- Public Lands, Oceans, & Parks
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Water

The list includes opportunities that have been released since November 6, 2014, as well as those expiring by December 1, 2014.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 6/18/14

[November 2014—Funding Opportunities and Upcoming Events](#)

The Tribal Energy Program is pleased to share the following information on current funding opportunities and upcoming events that may be of interest to tribes.

- EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program
Applications Due: Nov. 20, 2014
Eligible Entities: Applicant must have support of the local government, regional entity, or community-based organization.
- CDFI Fund Native American Assistance Program – \$1 Million
Applications Due: Nov. 24, 2014
Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible
- NC GreenPower Request for Proposals (RFP)
Applications Due: All bids due Nov. 25, 2014
Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible
- FirstEnergy Corp. RFP for 2014 Solar and Renewable Energy Credits
Applications Due: Dec. 3, 2014 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible

- NFWF Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant – \$2.5 Million
Applications Due: Dec. 10, 2014
Eligible Applicants: Local, state, tribal, and municipal governments; nonprofits; and educational institutions
- EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program – \$1.2 Million
Applications Due: Dec. 15, 2014
Eligible Entities: Tribal governments and nonprofits
- SunShot Initiative Sustainable and Holistic Integration of Energy Storage and Solar PV
Applications Due: Concept papers due Dec. 16, 2014; full applications due March 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. EST
Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible
- EPA Brownfields and Cleanup Grants
Applications Due: Dec. 19, 2014
Eligible Entities: State, local, and tribal governments; nonprofits
- Southern California Edison Solar PV Program RFP
Applications Due: Jan. 6, 2015
Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible
- USDA Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity
Applications Due: Jan. 23, 2015
Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible
- HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition – \$1 Billion
Applications Due: March 16, 2015
Eligible Applicants: All states with counties that experienced a Presidentially Declared Major Disaster in 2011, 2012, or 2013 are eligible to submit applications that address unmet needs as well as vulnerabilities to future extreme events, stresses, threats, hazards, or other shocks in areas that were most impacted and distressed as a result of the effects of the qualified disaster. This includes 48 of 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. In addition, 17 local governments that have received funding under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (PL 113-2) are eligible. See the complete list of eligible applicants.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 11/07/14

[Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update](#)

Two years ago Van Ness Feldman launched its Federal Funding Resource Center, an online tool to inform clients and friends about key energy-, environment-, and resource-related federal funding opportunities across a range of federal agencies including the Departments of Energy, Defense, Agriculture, and the Interior. The Federal Funding Resource Center is updated daily with active federal funding opportunity announcements in one place for ease of review. It includes a Primer on the federal funding process.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 11/6/14