

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*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **December, 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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Green Power

[Nominations open for 2014 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award](#)

It is once again time to honor electric cooperatives for their leadership in developing the fastest growing form of generation in the U.S.

The [National Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#) (NRECA) has called for nominations for the [2014 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award](#). All NRECA member cooperatives are eligible to apply, and may nominate themselves or another system. There is no cost to enter.

Submit the [completed forms](#), along with relevant graphics or innovative marketing material, to:

Randy Manion
Desert Southwest Region
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457
720-201-3285

All nominations are due by close of business Jan. 5, 2015.

For additional information, contact Renewables Program Manager [Randy Manion](#) at 720-201-3285.

Source: Western Area Power Administration's Energy Services Bulletin, 11/18/14

[Webinar explores state tracking systems](#)

If you missed the RPS Collaborative Webinar "Tracking Systems and Section 111(d) State Plans." This webinar has been recorded and is available on the Clean Energy States Alliance website. For more information about the Clean Energy States Alliance and the State-Federal RPS Collaborative, and for information about upcoming webinars, please visit the [website](#).

Please send your questions, comments and feedback to [CESA](#).

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 12/17/14

[Western, DOE announce 2015 Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar lineup](#)

The [webinar series](#) for Native American tribes, government officials and renewable energy developers returns Jan. 28, 2015, with a new schedule covering the many aspects of developing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The webinars are generally held on the last Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time. Visit the Tribal Energy Program for more information and links to [registration](#) (required).

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 12/10/14

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

Reports and Studies

[Take part in SEPA's annual utility solar survey](#)

Deadline: February 4, 2015

[Solar Electric Power Association](#) (SEPA) is conducting the [eighth annual survey](#) to provide data for its 2014 Utility Solar Market Snapshot, to be released in April 2015, and its new Utility Solar Market Report, scheduled for a June 2015 release.

Please send your response by Feb. 4, 2015. Early submissions are appreciated, and those submitting by the deadline will receive complimentary summary reports. For more information, contact [Miriam Makhyoun](#) at 202-379-1615.

Source: Solar Electric Power Association, 12/10/14

Local Market Conditions and Policies Strongly Influence Solar PV Pricing

Differences in local market conditions and policies, and other factors, particularly the size of the system, can lead to wide disparities in what consumers across the United States pay to install solar energy systems on their homes or small businesses, according to a recent study published by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab). This translates into thousands of dollars difference in the price of comparable solar energy systems around the U.S.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 12/15/14

NREL Compares State Solar Policies to Determine Equation for Solar Market Success

Analysts at the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have used statistical analyses and detailed case studies to better understand why solar market policies in certain states are more successful. Their findings indicate that while no standard formula for solar implementation exists, a combination of foundational policies and localized strategies can increase solar photovoltaic (PV) installations in any state.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 12/11/14

Report explores factors affecting customer economics of PV

Compensation customer-owned photovoltaic (PV) systems is generally based on stable rate structures and the assumption of increasing electricity prices. The reality, however, is not that simple and straightforward.

A study by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory investigates three key sources of uncertainty in the future value of bill savings from customer-sited PV, with a focus on residential customers. These sources include changes to electricity market conditions that would affect retail electricity prices, changes to the types of retail rate structures available to residential customers with PV, and shifts away from standard net-metering toward other compensation mechanisms for residential PV.

Given the multitude of potential changes to retail rates and PV compensation mechanisms in the future, however, understanding how such changes might impact the value of bill savings from PV is critical for policymakers, regulators, utilities, the solar industry, and potential PV owners.

A [recorded webinar](#) discussing the findings of the report is also available.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories, 12/10/14

Census Bureau Economic Data Show Electric Power Generation Using Renewable Energy Growing

Economic Census Statistics Now Available for the First Time on Wind, Geothermal, Biomass and Solar Electric Power Generation Revenues for electric power generation industries that use renewable energy resources rose 49.0 percent from \$6.6 billion in 2007 to \$9.8 billion in 2012, according to new economic census statistics released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

These industries that use renewable energy resources consist of hydroelectric power generation (NAICS 221111), four newly delineated industries — wind (NAICS 221115), geothermal (NAICS 221116), biomass (NAICS 221117) and solar electric power generation (NAICS 221114) — and one newly defined category of other electric power generation (NAICS 221118).

Source: United States Census Bureau, 11/18/14

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Federal Funding Opportunities Update for Dec. 16, 2014

Seven opportunities totaling over \$12.5 billion in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Environment
- Natural Gas & Oil
- Nuclear Energy
- Water

[See more opportunities](#) released since Dec. 9.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 12/16/14

Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update

Twelve opportunities totaling over \$60.5 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Electricity & Transmission
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Water

The list of opportunities includes those that have been released since Dec. 2, 2014, as well as those expiring by Dec. 22, 2014.

Van Ness Feldman has helped clients secure nearly \$3 billion in federal funding for projects in recent years. The firm's lawyers and policy professionals are experienced in every step of the funding process, including developing and implementing strategies for securing funding from both Congress and federal agencies, assisting with funding applications, negotiating funding agreements, and managing ongoing reporting and compliance requirements. For more information on this funding opportunity update, the firm's capabilities in this area, or to request coverage of additional opportunities, please contact the firm's Federal Funding Practice at 202-298-1800.

Visit the Van Ness Feldman [Knowledge Center](#) for more information.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 12/10/14

[Learn how to apply for DOE Loan Guarantee](#)

**Dec. 18
10-11 am Mountain Time**

The Department of Energy has reopened the window for applications for federal loan guarantees for renewable energy projects embodying innovative technologies. The deadline for applications was extended last week from Jan. 14, 2015, to December 30, 2015. An estimated \$4 billion in financing will be made available for qualifying projects. Eligible projects must employ an innovative technology for renewable energy, efficient electricity generation, transmission or distribution, or energy-efficient end use. The project must avoid, reduce or sequester anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and be located in the U.S.

[Register today](#) to hear a discussion on the opportunities and challenges for project developers. The panel will include three people close to the program on December 18, 2014, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. MST.

Source: B2B Webinars, 12/4/14

[Energy Education: Upcoming Events & Deadlines from the U.S. Department of Energy](#)

The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is pleased to announce several opportunities for energy educators and high school or university students looking to get involved in renewable energy technologies. These include events and student competitions or funding opportunities:

- [National Energy Education Summit](#) – Jan. 26, 2015
- [Hydrogen Student Design Contest](#) – early deadline 12/8/14; final deadline 1/16/14
- [Race to Zero Student Design Competition](#) – register by 12/15/14
- [Collegiate Wind Competition](#) – proposals due 12/15/14
- [BUILD Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) – concept papers due 12/19/14
- [#BioenergizeME Virtual Science Fair](#) – announcements to be made in Dec. 2014

Some of the registration deadlines are coming up soon, so please help us spread the word!

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 12/2/14

Find more [funding sources](#).