

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, 2015**. 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!

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Geothermal Design Challenge 2016 [↗](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Geothermal Technologies Office, in partnership with the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) and Idaho National Lab (INL) is recruiting students in graphic design, communications, science and/or engineering to bolster their portfolio, resume or college applications by entering the 2016 Geothermal Design Challenge. We are looking for smart and creative student teams to design an infographic that will illustrate how geothermal energy is clean, safe, reliable and sustainable. Winners will share

a prize purse of \$7500 and present their infographic at a geothermal energy conference in California. Register today to form teams and submit a draft infographic **by March 1, 2016**.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 12/15/15

Beyond Demonstration Projects: How Universities can use Mid-Scale Solar

**December 16
11-12 MT**

Many universities have developed solar demonstration projects for educational purposes. But, as the costs of solar have rapidly declined, increasingly, universities are looking to scale their solar investments. In order to go solar, universities need to examine solar cost, financing options, state and local policies, utility regulations, and navigate university approval processes. This webinar, hosted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, will provide an overview of the resources available to universities as they choose to go solar, including information about how to apply for no-cost targeted technical assistance through NREL.

Source: EPA Green Power Project, 12/7/15

Upcoming DGIC Webinar; New Solar Technical Assistance Available for Utilities

**January 21, 2016
12 p.m. EST**

Join National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Solar Electric Power Association for [Utility Participation in the Rooftop Solar PV Market](#) , the first webinar of the 2016 Distributed Generation Interconnection Collaborative (DGIC) Informational Webinar Series.

Sign up today to learn how Arizona is enabling investor-owned utilities to finance, own, and operate PV systems on residential customer rooftops. These programs are first of their kind. With residential PV growing rapidly in the United States, utility ownership of rooftop solar could provide a strategy to reliably deliver peak-load reductions and other benefits.

The DGIC aims to share knowledge on distributed photovoltaic interconnection practices and innovation. Learn more and become a member.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 12/3/15

NREL offers extends solar expertise to utilities

The Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) gathers NREL solar technology and deployment experts to provide unbiased information on solar policies and issues for state and local government decision makers. In general, the expert assistance is intended to support legislators, regulators, and their staff members in order to develop the market for solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies.

Last month, NREL, under the DOE SunShot program, expanded our state, local, and tribal solar technical assistance (TA) offerings to utilities. In these programs, we aim to

measurably move jurisdictions, and now utilities, forward toward their solar goals. In this pilot year, we're offering support to utilities in the following, limited areas:

- Programmatic considerations and strategies for utility-owned rooftop solar
- Programmatic and technical design of community solar
- Strategies for implementing advanced inverter protocols
- Deployment considerations for photovoltaic (PV)-enabling technologies such as storage, grid routers, and cybersecurity
- Streamlining interconnection screening methods and application processes.

Access to the program is a very [simple application](#) the utility [emails](#). NREL is accepting applications through January.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 12/7/15

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Reports and Studies

EERE Publication & Product Library

This library will allow you to find publications and products provided by the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy specifically for our constituents. To help serve you better this database will allow you to:

- Search for publications and products
- Download or view publications online
- Request a copy to be mailed to you

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 12/23/15

Rocky Mountain Institute annual report available online [↗](#)

You can now download *Speeding the Energy Revolution*, the 2014-2015 annual report from Rocky Mountain Institute.

Source: Rocky Mountain Institute, 12/23/15

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Request for Information - Renewable Energy Deployment

The Department of Energy has announced a Request for Information (RFI) to assess the level of interest among state and regional-level entities—including governmental, industrial, and academic organizations—in including renewable energy deployment into their energy strategies and in identifying specific challenge areas to address. For purposes of this RFI, renewable energy includes solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal technologies.

Renewable energy targets and strategic plans have been set at the state level for many years, sometimes including technology-specific plans and programs. As Renewable Portfolio Standards sunset in many states and as compliance requirements are launched for greenhouse gas reduction, states may wish either to establish or re-evaluate targets for renewable electricity deployment and/or consider the most beneficial paths for achieving those goals. This is solely a request for information and not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

The RFI submission deadline is January 13, 2016.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 12/22/15

Funding for More Than 1,100 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects Nationwide

The USDA is awarding loans and grants that will help more than 1,100 rural small businesses and agricultural producers reduce energy usage and costs in their operations. The funding is for energy efficiency improvements and/or renewable energy systems. USDA is financing projects in every state, as well as in the Virgin Islands, the Western Pacific and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Source: Department of Agriculture, 12/23/15

Local Nebraska Governments Can Apply for Solar Technical Assistance and National Recognition as a Solar Ready Community

The U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative selected The Solar Foundation to lead a \$10.3 million solar technical assistance effort for local governments, through the Department's new "Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC)" Program. The combined technical assistance and designation program efforts seek to reduce soft costs in 300 communities over the next 3 years.

Source: Department of Agriculture, 12/23/15

NOI: Establishment of an Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Energy Providers Network

The Office of Indian Energy will continue its efforts to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives and together, with “inter-tribal organizations”, intends to provide tribal communities and Alaska Native villages the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to implement successful strategic energy solutions.

It is envisioned that “inter-tribal organizations” will structure their technical assistance to best meet the needs of their member Indian tribes and/or Alaska Native villages, resulting in clear measurable outcomes or end-products that include a plan to become financially sufficient beyond DOE’s Office of Indian Energy funding. See the [Notice of Intent](#).

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 12/15/15

Find more [funding sources](#).