

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 **February, 2016**. 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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[Previous issues](#)

[In this issue:](#)

Green Power

- Workshops explore community solar strategies
- Don't Miss the Upcoming Advanced Inverter Deployment Webinar
- 2016 Green Power Leadership Awards
- Get national recognition for your community
- Citrus In The Snow: Geothermal Greenhouses Grow Local Produce In Winter
- Free Webinar - Using Power Purchase Agreements for Solar Deployment at Universities
- Hydropower and Renewable Portfolio Standards webinar online

Reports and Studies

- EPA webinar follow-up: Status of the US Voluntary Green Power Market
- Electricity generation from renewable sources expected to grow 9% this year
- Groups Collaborate to Support Geothermal Use in Clean Power Plan

Funding

- NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program
- Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation
- Establishment of an Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Energy Providers Network
- Renewables financing webinar online

Green Power

Workshops explore community solar strategies

Join the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, the Colorado Energy Office, and the Institute for Sustainable Communities for the "Catalyzing Community Solar in the West" regional workshop on Friday, March 4, 2016. This workshop is the first of four regional workshops focused on furthering community solar.

Workshop highlights include:

- Accessing federal resources to support community solar
- Exploring policy and legislative approaches
- Expanding options for finance and business models
- Designing programs to serve low- and moderate-income households
- The role of electric utilities and cooperatives
- Advancing community solar in both rural and urban areas
- Using community solar to create resilient communities
- Working collaboratively across the west to create a strong regional solar market

[Register](#)  for the workshop, as space is limited. Contact [Caroline Baker](#) with questions.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/22/16

Don't Miss the Upcoming Advanced Inverter Deployment Webinar

Join NREL and the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) for the second webinar of the 2016 [Distributed Generation Interconnection Collaborative](#) (DGIC) Informational Webinar Series.

Title: Emergent Considerations for Advanced Inverter Deployment

Date: April 28, 2016

Time: 2 p.m. EST

[Sign up](#) today to learn more about the research being done by NREL, SEPA, and Enphase Energy on the following topics:

- Work done on factors that have restrained advanced inverter deployment to date
- The experiences of a few pioneering utilities that are moving to deploy advanced inverters in the field
- The current status of efforts to lower barriers to the use of advanced inverters
- The speakers will highlight their research and work on these topics to deliver timely insights into the emerging paths forward for this promising technology.

The DGIC aims to share knowledge on distributed photovoltaic interconnection practices and innovation.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/22/16

2016 Green Power Leadership Awards

**2016 Application Period Opens Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Deadline Monday, April 18, 2016**

Save the date! The application period for the 2016 Green Power Leadership Awards will open on Tuesday, March 1 and close on Monday, April 18, 2016.

The annual Green Power Leadership Awards are competitive awards that recognize outstanding commitments and achievements in the green power marketplace. EPA and awards co-sponsor, the Center for Resource Solutions, will hold a webinar on Thursday, March 3rd from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. MST to provide an overview of the Green Power Leadership Awards, as well as information related to eligibility, evaluation criteria, and application content for each of the award categories. There will be a question and answer session at the end of the webinar. If you're interested in attending, please [register for the webinar](#)  now.

The awards will be presented in conjunction with the Renewable Energy Markets Conference in fall 2016, hosted by the Center for Resource Solutions. Read more about the [conference](#) .

Learn more about the [awards](#), or contact [Melissa Klein](#) at 202-343-9207.

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 2/22/16

Get national recognition for your community

Earn visibility as a solar leader from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The new Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC) program is coming soon! SPARC will establish a national recognition and a no-cost technical assistance program for local governments — driving greater solar deployment and making it possible for even more American homes and businesses to access affordable and renewable solar energy to meet their electricity needs.

Source: DOE SunShot Initiative, 2/17/16

Citrus In The Snow: Geothermal Greenhouses Grow Local Produce In Winter

For the Midwesterner who likes to eat local, this time of year is a challenge. Browse the produce shelves in middle America — or any place where snow falls in winter — and you'll find carrots from Mexico and peppers from Peru.

Some visionaries think greenhouses could help meet demand for year-round local produce. But there's a problem with greenhouses: They can be energy guzzlers, typically lit and heated by burning fossil fuels.

Source: National Public Radio via KTEP, 2/11/16

Free Webinar - Using Power Purchase Agreements for Solar Deployment at Universities

Feb 24, 2016
1:00–2:00 p.m. MST

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is hosting a webinar on using power purchase agreements for solar deployment at universities. This webinar is intended for university financial planners and other stakeholders who are assessing the financial aspects of deploying solar. The speakers will provide an overview of how universities are using PPAs and key PPA components. In addition, they will discuss the process of using PPAs, why PPAs make sense for campus solar deployment, and the benefits and challenges for universities. Tools and other resources will be shared to help universities interested in using PPAs for campus solar deployment.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/5/16

Hydropower and Renewable Portfolio Standards webinar online

If you were not able to attend the Clean Energy States Alliance webinar, "Hydropower and Renewable Portfolio Standards," you can now download a recording of it.

This webinar explores the role and treatment of hydropower in RPSs across the country. Specifically, it provides an overview of hydropower technologies, growth potential, and the opportunities for this renewable energy resource to provide additional value to RPSs in the future.

This webinar was a presentation of the [Clean Energy States Alliance's State Federal RPS Collaborative](#) .

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 2/3/16

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

Reports and Studies

EPA webinar follow-up: Status of the US Voluntary Green Power Market

The Green Power Partnership webinar, "[Status of the US Voluntary Green Power Market](#) 

" with EPA and NREL, is now available to download. After clicking on the link, you should be able to download and view the recording. You'll need Windows Media Player or a similar media player in order to view the webinar.

We hope the webinar provided useful information on the status and trends of the voluntary green power market in the US.

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 1/28/16

Electricity generation from renewable sources expected to grow 9% this year

Electricity generated from utility-scale renewable plants is expected to grow by 9% in 2016, based on projections in the latest Short-Term Energy Outlook. Much of the growth comes from new installations of wind and solar plants and increases in hydroelectric generation

after a relatively dry 2015. In 2016, electricity from utility-scale renewable sources is expected to account for 14% of the total electricity generated in the United States, with wind and solar contributing 5.2% and 0.8%, respectively.

Source: Energy Information Agency, 2/4/16

Groups Collaborate to Support Geothermal Use in Clean Power Plan

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), Geothermal Resources Council (GRC), and Geothermal Exchange Organization (GEO) announce the release of guidance for states on meeting new clean energy standards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The free state-by-state guides walk through the benefits and uses of three major types of geothermal applications: power generation, direct use and heat pumps, and initially cover Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Idaho, and Colorado.

Source: Global Renewable News via Geothermal Energy Association, 2/1/16

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program

Applications Due: May 16, 2016
National Science Foundation

A well-educated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce is a significant contributor to maintaining the competitiveness of the U.S. in the global economy. The National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program addresses the need for a high quality STEM workforce in STEM disciplines supported by the program and for the increased success of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Click here for the [FOA](#).

Source: VanNess Feldman LLP, 2/23/16

Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

The Council of Development Finance Agencies is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation's leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing 400+ public, private and non-profit development entities.

Source: The Council of Development Finance Agencies, 2/17/16

Establishment of an Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Energy Providers Network

Through this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department's Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications from "Alaska Native Regional Corporations" and "Inter-tribal Organizations" to provide technical assistance on a regional basis, to best meet the needs of their member Indian tribes, resulting in clear measurable outcomes or end-products that include a plan to become financially sufficient beyond DOE's Office of Indian Energy funding and a methodology of equitably providing services across member Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages. [See the FOA.](#)

Source: VanNess Feldman LLP, 2/17/16

Renewables financing webinar online [↗](#)

A recording of "Financing Solar+Storage with Federal Tax Credits," a webinar from the [Resilient Power Project](#) [↗](#) is available to download.

This webinar features a presentation on ITC considerations for solar+storage projects from tax professionals at Deloitte Tax LLP. With the extension of the Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC), it's more important than ever to understand how the ITC applies to solar+storage projects.

Source: Clean Energy Group Resilient Power Project, 2/4/16

Find more [funding sources](#).