

GreenPower

News

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



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Green Power

Ormat Completes the Don A. Campbell Geothermal Power Plant With Full 16 Megawatt (net) Output

New Power Plant Constructed in Nine Months Taps Low-Temperature Geothermal Resource in Nevada to Serve California Customers

Ormat Technologies, Inc. (NYSE:ORA) announced today that it completed the Don A. Campbell geothermal power plant in Mineral County, Nevada. The plant is producing its full capacity of 16 megawatts (net) and performing as expected as of December 6, 2013.

The Don A. Campbell facility, formerly Wild Rose, is receiving a full rate of \$99 per megawatt hour with no annual escalation under the terms of the Power Purchase Agreement with Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA). SCPPA is reselling the power to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Burbank Water and Power (BWP). Ormat wheels the power from the Don A. Campbell plant to SCPPA over NV Energy's transmission grid including the new One Nevada Transmission Line (ON Line) recently

placed in service, making Ormat the first independent power producer to use the ON Line to export renewable energy to customers in California.

"Completing the Don A. Campbell geothermal power plant and reaching full capacity is a historical milestone in our continued partnership with SCPPA to bring reliable, renewable geothermal power to California's ratepayers," said Yoram Bronicki, president and chief operating officer at Ormat. "We commend NV Energy for their success in making statewide transmission in Nevada a possibility, thereby allowing resources in northern Nevada to serve customers not only in southern Nevada but also in southern California through ON Line's completion." [Read more](#). Source: *Global Newswire*, 1/6/14

Minnesota judge backs solar in favor of gas

The decision marks the first time that unsubsidized solar energy has gone head-to-head with natural gas and come out on top as the best option, both economically and environmentally.

A judge in the U.S. state of Minnesota ruled last week that solar energy was a more economical and better environmental investment for the state than gas producers.

Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman said utility giant Xcel Energy should therefore invest in solar developer Geronimo Energy instead of natural gas generators.

[Read more](#). Source: *PV Magazine*, 1/6/14

How next-gen geothermal could boost the future of energy

Harnessing naturally occurring heat trapped between layers of rock below the earth's surface, geothermal power plants are capable of supplying clean, renewable electricity around the clock. This valuable trait should position geothermal power as an important asset within emerging sustainable energy systems that rely heavily on intermittent renewables such as wind and solar.

But despite more than 50 years of commercial activity, geothermal power's path has been more rocky than disruptive.

That's largely because the medium- to high-temperature sites required by conventional geothermal power plants — known as hydrothermal sites — are limited. In the United States, which leads the world [PDF] in geothermal power with an installed operating generating capacity of about 3,790 megawatts as of the end of 2013, development is highly concentrated in the West, primarily California and Nevada. This adds up to just 0.33 percent of the country's electric generating fleet, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) most recent infrastructure update. Among electric fuel sources tracked by FERC, only waste heat and "other" account for less. [Read more](#). Source: *GreenBiz*, 12/20/13

Public power utilities urged to take SEPA solar rankings survey

The [Solar Electric Power Association](#) (SEPA) is inviting utilities to participate in SEPA's [seventh annual survey](#) to provide data for the annual *Utility Solar Rankings Briefing*.

SEPA will release the results of the survey in April 2014, and follow that with its new *Utility Solar Market Report* in June 2014. Past reports have received significant coverage from media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, Renewable Energy World, Transmission & Distribution World, and Reuters. [Read more](#). Source: *Energy Services Bulletin*, 12/17/13

Green-e Sees Fourth Year of Strong Growth

The Center for Resource Solutions (CRS) has released its 2012 Green-e Verification Report highlighting annual statistics on the sale of Green-e certified renewable energy certificates and carbon offsets. Green-e is an independent renewable energy verification program that certifies environmental products. The report shows that during 2012, the total retail sales of Green-e Energy increased by 29 percent from 2011, or roughly 36 million megawatt-hours (MWh). This marks the fourth year in a row that CRS has seen approximately 30 percent growth of Green-e Energy certified renewable energy product sales. [Read more](#). Source: *The Green Power Network*, 11/7/13

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

Reports, studies and policy

Study: Consumers' views of renewable energy improving

After years of declining attitudes toward clean and renewable energy concepts, public attitudes in 2013 improved significantly, according to a new study released this week by Boulder-based Navigant Research.

The survey of 1,084 adults in the United States was conducted in the fall, and asked respondents their level of favorability - very favorable, favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, strongly unfavorable, not sure or not familiar - on 10 clean-energy concepts. Those included solar energy, wind energy, nuclear power, hybrid vehicles, electric cars, natural gas vehicles, biofuels, smart grid, smart meters and LEED certification. [Read more](#). Source: *Wyoming Business Report*, 1/6/14

SEPA Releases Handbook For Community Solar Program Development

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) has released the "Utility Community Solar Handbook: Understanding and Supporting Utility Program Development."

SEPA says the handbook provides the utility's perspective on leading community solar program development and can be used as a resource for government officials, regulators, community organizers, solar energy advocates, nonprofits and interested citizens who want to support their local utility in implementing a project. [Read more](#). Source: *Solar Industry Magazine*, 12/26/13

NREL Releases Renewable Energy Data Book Detailing Growing Industry in 2012

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has released the 2012 Renewable Energy Data Book on behalf of the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The annual report is an important assessment of U.S. energy statistics for 2012, including renewable electricity, worldwide renewable energy development, clean energy investments, and data on specific technologies. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 11/21/13*

Climate Change and the California Energy Sector

Recent studies have described the potential vulnerability of California's energy supply and demand infrastructure to the effects of climate change, including higher temperatures, reduced snowpack, sea-level rise, and extreme events like heat waves, flooding, and wildfires. The [California Energy Commission](#) released a staff paper for the 2013 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) summarizing the research on projected changes in the state's climate and the potential vulnerabilities the changes create in the energy system. The paper identifies future research needs to help the energy sector prepare for climate change and concludes with key policy issues. The goals of the staff paper are to set the stage for California's *Fourth Climate Change Assessment* and to help align the IEPR with the forthcoming *Safeguarding California Plan*, an update to the 2009 *Climate Adaptation Strategy*. [Download](#) the report, webinar recording and presentations. *Source: California Energy Commission, 6/4/13*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

DOI Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Solicits Grant Proposals from Tribes

On Dec. 23, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced that IEED is soliciting grant proposals from Indian tribes and Alaska Native regional and village corporations for projects to 1) build tribal capacity for energy resource development and 2) promote the processing, use, or development of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands. The announcements are summarized below.

Tribal Energy Development Capacity-Building Grant Proposals

Applications Due: Feb. 18, 2014

Eligible Entities: Federally recognized tribes, including Alaska Native regional and village corporations and tribal energy resource development organizations

The Tribal Energy Development and Capacity-Building (TEDC) grant program helps tribes in assessing, developing, or obtaining the managerial and technical capacity needed to develop energy resources on Indian land and properly account for energy resource production and revenues, as provided for under Title V, Section 503 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Tribal Council resolution is a prerequisite for consideration of the grant proposal, due on or before Feb. 18, 2014. Proposals may be e-mailed, mailed or hand-delivered to the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, Attention: [Ashley Stockdale](#), 1951 Constitution Ave., N.W., MS-20-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

For more information, read the full [DOI news release](#) and [Federal Register Notice](#).

IEED Grant Program to Assess, Evaluate, and Promote Development of Tribal Energy and Mineral Resources
Applications Due: February 18, 2014
Eligible Entities: Federally recognized tribes, including Alaska Native regional and village corporations, and tribal energy resource development organizations

IEED, through the Division of Energy and Minerals (DEMD), is soliciting grant proposals for projects that explore for energy and mineral resources, inventory or assess known resources, or perform feasibility or market studies about the use and development of known energy and mineral resources on Indian lands. See the Federal Register Notice for information on eligibility and other requirements.

Tribal Council resolution is a prerequisite for consideration of the grant proposal, due on or before Feb. 18, 2014. Proposals may be e-mailed, mailed or hand-delivered to the Department of the Interior, Division of Energy and Mineral Development, Attention: Energy and Mineral Development Program, c/o [Dawn Charging](#); 13922 Denver West Parkway, Suite 200 (#253), Lakewood, Colo. 80401-3142.

For more information, read the full [DOI news release](#) and the [Federal Register Notice](#).
Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 1/7/14

SCCPA accepts RFPs for demonstration of innovative technologies

The Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) has released its latest Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the demonstration of innovative and emerging electric technologies, measures and products.

SCPPA is a joint powers authority with 12 Member utilities including the cities of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Burbank, Cerritos, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Riverside, Vernon, and the Imperial Irrigation District.

The Innovative Technologies RFP is open to public and private entities including schools, research institutes and development firms. SCPPA will begin accepting Responses to the RFP immediately. The deadline is open-ended.

The RFP is intended to provide partial funding for the demonstration of innovative technologies related to the efficient use, storage, management, distribution, or generation of electric energy that are not already commercially-available at scale. Currently, there is no project-specific budget amount. However, the RFP Program budget in total is limited. Therefore, SCPPA will review all Responses to the RFP and determine, at its sole discretion, the Project(s) that are deemed to best meet our goals and expectations. [Read more](#).
Source: Southern California Public Power Authority, 11/20/13

Find more [funding sources](#).