

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 **January, 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

- Green Power Partnership Program Updates for January 2016
- FUPWG Spring 2015 Agenda and Presentations
- Distributed generation webinar available online
- FORGE website gets new features for 2016
- Cloud Computing Company Salesforce Signs First Major Renewable Energy Transaction
- Plug and Play: Purchase, Install, and Connect Residential Solar Power in Hours
- Green Power Network News update for December 2015
- Tribal Energy and Economic Development Webinar Series

Reports and Studies

- More Than Half of US States Are Studying or Changing Net Metering Policies
- Report looks at U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards
- Researchers Pinpoint the Drivers for Low-Priced PV Systems in the United States
- Case Studies of Potential Facility-Scale and Utility-Scale Non-Hydro Renewable Energy Projects across Reclamation
- EIA analysis shows wind is most cost-effective option for Clean Power Plan compliance
- Report outlines new utility regulatory pathways
- Report: Benefits From State Renewable Portfolio Standards Far Outweigh Costs
- High-Penetration PV Integration Handbook for Distribution Engineers

Funding

- Tribal Colleges and Universities Program - National Science Foundation
- Wind for Schools (WfS) Project Sustainability Plan - Department of Energy
- DOE Announces \$220 Million in Grid Modernization Funding

Green Power

Green Power Partnership Program Updates for January 2016

- EPA Releases Updated Top Partner Lists
- EPA Releases Updates to the College & University and On-Site Renewables Challenges
- Partner Spotlight – Reformation
- On Twitter? Use #EPAGreenPower in Your Tweets
- Join GPP's LinkedIn Group
- By the Numbers – 2015 in Review
- Federal Government's First-Ever Joint Solar Power Purchase Agreement
- GPP Partners are Pledging to Act on Climate
- Reminder: GPP/NREL "State of Market" Webinar January 27
- EPA Webinar on Renewable Energy and the Clean Power Plan January 28
- RE100 Webinar January 28
- Climate Leadership Conference and Awards
- States' RPS Policies Yielded \$7.4 Billion in Benefits in 2013

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 1/25/16

FUPWG Spring 2015 Agenda and Presentations

Find links to the presentations given during the spring 2015 Federal Utility Partnership Working Group meeting, which took place April 22-23, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 1/25/16

Distributed generation webinar available online [↗](#)

If you missed the Jan. 21 Energy Central webinar, *The Woodstock Hydro Story: Microgrids, Rooftop Solar, Household Storage and Whatever the Future Might Bring*, download the [slides](#) [↗](#) and [recording](#) [↗](#). This is a members-only event, but [joining is free](#) [↗](#).

Source: Energy Central, 1/22/16

FORGE website gets new features for 2016

The DOE Geothermal Technologies Office FORGE Team is kicking off the New Year by launching new features on the FORGE website! New features include updated information and visuals for each of the five FORGE Phase I teams and candidate sites, along with links to external team websites. Go check it out!

As you visit the site please also notice our Phase 1 Countdown clock to be launched early next week, and mark your calendars for the Phase 1 deliverables submission deadline! The competition is heating up!

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 1/7/16

Cloud Computing Company Salesforce Signs First Major Renewable Energy Transaction [↗](#)

2014 was a record-breaking year for corporate renewable energy procurement and 2015 has already [nearly tripled last year's total](#) [↗](#). Now, to cap what is already a banner year, a company recently signed another major PPA deal for 125,000 megawatt-hours of electricity annually. This "virtual" PPA contracts for energy from a wind farm being developed in West Virginia and will cover electrical use at data centers that are leased by Salesforce, a founding corporate member of the [Business Renewables Center](#) [↗](#). This is the first major PPA for Salesforce, but probably not the only one: they are committed to achieving 100-percent renewable energy.

Source: RMI Outlet, 12/23/15

Plug and Play: Purchase, Install, and Connect Residential Solar Power in Hours

Consumers may soon have the option of purchasing a do-it-yourself rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system at their local home improvement store that can be installed and connected to the grid in less than a day. Thanks to SunShot Initiative awardee [Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems](#), a novel residential Plug and Play PV system may soon be commercially available.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/16/15

Green Power Network News update for December 2015

This update summarizes recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity. Additional information on green power markets and products, as well as links to the companies mentioned below, can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's Green Power Network website.

News

- [UC Davis and SunPower Completed 16.3-Megawatt Solar Plant Detroit Zoo Goes 100% Renewable Energy](#)
- [Google and Duke Energy Collaborate on 61-MW Solar Project in North Carolina](#)

- [City of San Diego Signs 20-year PPA with SunEdison](#)
- [Royal Philips to Use 100% Wind Energy](#)

Renewable Energy RFPs

- [The City of Raleigh](#)
- [The Maine Public Utilities Commission](#)
- [PV Navigator](#) 
- [Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island](#) 

Source: *The Green Power Network*, 1/6/16

Tribal Energy and Economic Development Webinar Series

The DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, in partnership with Western Area Power Administration (Western), is pleased to continue its sponsorship of the DOE Tribal Energy and Economic Development Webinar Series for 2016. The series is intended for tribal leaders and staff who are interested in developing facility- and community-scale energy projects, responding to utilities' requests for proposals, and learning more about the competitive power market. For additional details, see the [flier](#).

Source: *DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs*, 1/8/16

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

Reports and Studies

More Than Half of US States Are Studying or Changing Net Metering Policies

A new report by the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center lists distributed solar policy changes in Q3 from around the country.

In the third quarter of 2015, there were 91 instances in 42 states of proposed or enacted solar policy changes, according to the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center's latest "50 States of Solar" report.

The most common policy action was around net metering. Regulators or legislators in 19 states considered or decided on changes to their solar net-metering policies in the third quarter, and 12 states were conducting a solar-valuation or net-metering study. Factoring in overlap, a total of 27 states were either studying or changing their net-metering policies in Q3.

Source: *Greentech Media*, 11/13/15

Report looks at U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards

[*A Retrospective Analysis of the Benefits and Impacts of U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards*](#)  is the second in a series of reports exploring the costs, benefits, and other impacts of state renewable portfolio standards (RPS). This report focuses on the benefits and impacts of all state RPS programs, in aggregate, for the year 2013. Relying on a well-vetted set of methods, this report evaluates a number of important benefits and impacts in both physical and monetary terms, where possible, and characterizes key uncertainties. In particular, the study evaluates potential societal benefits associated with reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution emissions, and water use. It also assesses the impacts—which are best considered resource transfers rather than societal benefits—associated with gross jobs and economic development, wholesale electricity prices, and natural gas prices. The [prior study](#) in this series focused on historical RPS compliance costs, and future work will evaluate costs, benefits, and other impacts of RPS policies prospectively.

Source: Berkeley Lab, 1/20/16

Researchers Pinpoint the Drivers for Low-Priced PV Systems in the United States

The price of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems installed on homes and small businesses spans a wide range, and researchers from the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) have published a new study that reveals the key market and system drivers for low-priced PV systems.

Berkeley Lab's Ryan Wiser, a co-author of the study, explains, "Despite impressive recent cost reductions, installed prices for small-scale PV systems in the United States continue to show wide pricing differences depending on the location of the installation, the installer, the components of the system, and other factors. Our work seeks to pinpoint the characteristics of recently-installed PV systems at the lower end of the observed solar price range."

Source: Berkeley Lab via Global Energy World, 1/19/16

Case Studies of Potential Facility-Scale and Utility-Scale Non-Hydro Renewable Energy Projects across Reclamation

The report summarizes the results of an assessment and analysis of renewable energy opportunities conducted for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The work was conducted under interagency agreement number IAG-11-1816, entitled Technical Assistance for the Bureau of Reclamation's Non-Hydro Renewable Energy Program. This report represents the results of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the effort (Resource Screening and Site Assessments).

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/14/16

EIA analysis shows wind is most cost-effective option for Clean Power Plan compliance

Editor's Note: AWEA recently released its report on the findings of EIA's May 2015 "Analysis of the Impacts of the Clean Power Plan."

The introduction is presented here, interpreting what the analysis means for the future of the wind industry in the U.S.

The Energy Information Administration's (EIA's) analysis of the Clean Power Plan (CPP) represents the most in-depth and comprehensive CPP economic modeling effort to date. See the [full report](#) .

Source: American Wind Energy Association via Windpower Engineering & Development, 7/9/15

Report outlines new utility regulatory pathways

Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 7 – As more electricity providers enter the energy market, the way consumers obtain electricity is becoming more and more decentralized. Today, the leaders of the Powering Tomorrow Initiative released their Phase Two report, which defines industry structures and regulatory packages that accommodate a growing number of market participants, while securing the vitality of existing utilities and a fair playing field for new market entrants. See the [full report](#) .

Source: Arizona State University, 1/7/16

Report: Benefits From State Renewable Portfolio Standards Far Outweigh Costs

State renewable portfolio standards, the key policies driving renewable power growth across the United States, are under attack from opponents who say they increase electricity costs for consumers.

But a [new report](#) finds that any costs are far outweighed by the economic benefits derived from the environmental and health improvements that come with greening the energy mix in the [29 states](#)  that have adopted RPS targets.

Source: GreenTech Media, 1/6/16

High-Penetration PV Integration Handbook for Distribution Engineers

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has released the High-Penetration PV Integration Handbook for Distribution Engineers.

This handbook was created under the auspices of the NREL/SCE High-Penetration PV Integration Project, a 5-year project, funded by DOE and the CPUC focused on modeling the distribution system level of PV impacts, mitigating those impacts with advanced inverters, and demonstrating the effectiveness of such mitigation in the field.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/14/16

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Tribal Colleges and Universities Program - National Science Foundation

Applications Accepted Anytime

The Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) provides awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote high quality science (including sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, statistics, and other social and behavioral sciences as well as natural sciences and education disciplines), technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, research, and outreach. Support is available to TCUP-eligible institutions for transformative capacity-building projects through Instructional Capacity Excellence in TCUP Institutions (ICE-TI).

NSF, through TCUP, will support those aspects crucial to participation that are not provided by Howard Hughes Medical Institute. HHMI will provide the support to TCUs that it provides to all SEA institutions. Awards will engage TCU faculty and students in the on-going national study to isolate, identify, sequence, and analyze newly discovered mycobacteriophages. These awards can help a TCU develop a novel biology curriculum, establish an undergraduate research program, or provide professional development for faculty.

Source: VanNess Feldman, 1/19/16

Wind for Schools (WfS) Project Sustainability Plan - Department of Energy

Applications Due: January 26, 2016

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is issuing a formal Sources Sought for organizations interested in developing a Sustainability Plan for the Wind for Schools project. The first step of this effort is identifying an organization that will take a leadership role in ensuring the sustainability of the WfS project, making it more independent from NREL/DOE funding while continuing the mission of promoting wind energy education and workforce development at the university and K-12 levels.

Source: VanNess Feldman, 1/19/16

DOE Announces \$220 Million in Grid Modernization Funding

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today built on its Grid Modernization Initiative – an ongoing effort that reflects the Obama Administration’s commitment to improving the resiliency, reliability, and security of the nation’s electricity delivery system. During his visit to a utility control center in Miami, FL today, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz announced the release of DOE’s comprehensive new Grid Modernization Multi-Year Program Plan, a blueprint for modernizing the grid. The Secretary also announced the award of up to \$220 million over three years, subject to congressional appropriations, to DOE’s National Labs and partners to support critical research and development in advanced storage systems, clean energy integration, standards and test procedures, and a number of other key grid modernization areas. Additional programs, initiatives, and funding opportunity announcements related to the Grid Modernization Initiative will be announced in the coming days.

Source: Department of Energy, 1/14/16

Find more [funding sources](#).