

# 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 **June, 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!

*Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.*

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Previous issues](#)

[In this issue:](#)

### Green Power

- Still time to register for June 24 Tribal Renewable Energy webinar
- You Don't Need to Raise the Roof: Cutting Solar Permitting Costs for Wooden Rooftops
- Nonprofit helps homeowners choose clean energy
- Utilities look to turn their water pipes into hydropower
- Sonoma Clean Power becomes county's dominant energy supplier

### Reports and Studies

- Environmentally Friendly Products: FTC's Green Guides
- The Bottom Line: Taking Stock of the Role of Carbon Offsets in Corporate Carbon Strategies
- PV reference guide for utilities available from NRECA
- 2015 Program Review Meeting

### Funding

- EPA Tribal Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program Applications Are Due July 15, 2015

## Green Power

### [Still time to register for June 24 Tribal Renewable Energy webinar](#)

**11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. MDT**

[Regulatory Impacts for Renewable Energy Projects on Indian Lands](#) , the June installment of the monthly [Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar Series](#), will explore increasingly critical role tribes are playing when it comes to regulating renewable energy projects on their lands.

These projects can lead to economic growth and long-term sustainability for tribes, but come with complex permitting and regulation factors. In this webinar, speakers will discuss environmental laws and regulations that can affect community- and utility-scale projects and cover the latest developments related to transmission and interconnection, examples of project development timelines and case studies.

Participation is free but [registration](#) is required.

Audio recordings and PowerPoint presentations for past webinars can be downloaded from our [webinar library](#). The webinar series is sponsored by the Department of Energy [Office of Indian Energy](#) in partnership with Western.

*Source: Western Area Power Administration Renewable Energy Program, 6/19/15*

### [You Don't Need to Raise the Roof: Cutting Solar Permitting Costs for Wooden Rooftops](#)

As solar energy becomes a more affordable choice to power our lives, hardware costs are less frequently the biggest hurdle to overcome in installing rooftop photovoltaic (PV) panels. Homeowners and solar installers in some locations are required to have a structural engineering analysis of the home's rooftop, resulting in higher costs and delays. While a structural engineering analysis can help ensure that a rooftop can support the solar PV system, new research indicates that the caution employed in the analysis significantly underestimates the actual roof strength.

A structural analysis is not universally required, and rules vary by location – even among neighboring municipalities; this makes it difficult for solar installers who work in multiple jurisdictions. For homeowners, the step may add hundreds of dollars to the cost and a week or more to the installation. If the engineer conducting the analysis requires site visits and revisions, costs can grow rapidly and the home owner may scrap the PV project entirely.

*Source: DOE EERE Blog, 6/17/15*

### [Nonprofit helps homeowners choose clean energy](#)

Every state has the power to enable shared renewables in its communities through strong policy. Shared Renewables HQ is intended to advance state shared renewable energy policy by sharing best practices and tracking progress.

The site is managed by the non-profit organization Vote Solar in partnership with Lee Barken, a CPA and LEED-AP based in San Diego. The resource advances Vote Solar's mission of making solar more accessible to more Americans.

*Source: Shared Renewables, 6/17/15*

## **Utilities look to turn their water pipes into hydropower**

Faced with falling revenue because of water conservation, some utilities are looking to make money from the water pipes they already have in the ground—and creating low-cost hydroelectric energy in the process.

"Small hydropower" captures electricity by using water that flows through a pipe to turn micro turbines in the lines, or by harvesting energy from stream flows in irrigation canals and streams. Other technology on display at a water expo in Anaheim, Calif., this week included the latest in pumps, pipes and smart water meters, as well as leak detection and filtration systems.

*Source: CNBC, 6/10/15*

## **Sonoma Clean Power becomes county's dominant energy supplier**

Sonoma Clean Power, the year-old public agency, is rolling out service Monday to three additional cities and in doing so is set to become the main electricity supplier within Sonoma County, dislodging PG&E from a business it has long dominated in the region.

The expansion makes Sonoma Clean Power the new default provider for homes and businesses in Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Cloverdale, as well as Santa Rosa, Windsor, Cotati, Sonoma and Sebastopol, where the agency is already purchasing power for most residential and commercial customers.

*Source: Press Democrat, 5/31/15*

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

## **Reports and Studies**

### **Environmentally Friendly Products: FTC's Green Guides**

A growing number of American consumers are looking to buy environmentally friendly, "green" products, from recycled paper to biodegradable trash bags. Companies have responded with "green" marketing touting the environmental benefits of what they're selling. But sometimes what companies think their green claims mean and what consumers really understand are two different things. The Federal Trade Commission's Green Guides are designed to help marketers avoid making environmental claims that mislead consumers.

*Source: Federal Trade Commission, 6/17/15*

### **The Bottom Line: Taking Stock of the Role of Carbon Offsets in Corporate Carbon Strategies**

In 2013, CDP-reporting companies purchased 50.3 million offsets. This is equivalent to not burning 117 million barrels of oil, or shutting down 13 coal-fired power plants for one year. But it still represents less than 1% of reporting companies' 2013 emissions not reduced by other means. This report explores offsetting from a business perspective, exploring how companies incorporate offsetting into comprehensive carbon management strategies – and how they drive investment in these emissions reductions activities.

*Source: Forest Trends, 6/15/15*

## **PV reference guide for utilities available from NRECA**

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC/CFC), and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange (Federated) have created a series of manuals to support electric cooperatives as they explore and pursue utility-scale, utility-owned solar PV deployments, defined in the project as greater than 250 kW. Volume I covers business models and financing options, Volume II covers planning and construction and Volume III covers operations and maintenance.

*Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 6/15/15*

## **2015 Program Review Meeting**

Find presentations from the 2015 Tribal Energy Program Review held May 4–7, 2015, in Denver, Colorado. They are organized according to the [meeting agenda](#) under the following topics:

- Overview
- Subject Matter Expert Presentations
- Planning for Energy Development
- Assessing Resource Options
- Developing Clean Energy in Indian Country
- Panel Discussion—Barriers to Clean Energy Development in Indian Country
- Deploying Clean Energy in Indian Country

*Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 5/11/15*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

## **Funding**

### **EPA Tribal Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program Applications Are Due July 15, 2015**

EPA Tribal Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program  
Applications due: July 15, 2015

Eligible entities: Tribal governments

The EPA is accepting applications for the Tribal Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program for tribal projects to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced by diesel engines and diesel emissions exposure.

*Source: DOE EERE Tribal Energy Program, 6/23/15*

Find more [funding sources](#).