

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 **March, 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

- CESA webinar on tax credits for renewables now online
- New Financing Options Help Make Geothermal Affordable
- Webinar focuses on two states' renewables efforts
- 2016 Green Power Leadership Awards

Reports and Studies

- NREL webinar looks at grid integration of renewables for Western interconnection
- NREL webinar examines low-carbon grid potential
- Exploring Renewable Energy Integration in California

Funding

- Grant available to train teachers in environmental education
- DOE's Innovative Small Business Vouchers Pilot Selects 33 Small Businesses for Lab Collaboration
- New research initiative on geospatial analysis and funding opportunity
- New USDA Funding for Rural Economic Development
- RFI for Non-Powered Dam and Pumped Storage Hydropower Development

Green Power

CESA webinar on tax credits for renewables now online [↗](#)

If you were unable to attend the webinar, "Impacts of Federal Tax Credit Extensions on Renewable Deployment and Power Sector Emissions," you can now download the slides and recordings of the event.

This webinar is presented by Clean Energy States Alliance for the [State-Federal RPS Collaborative](#) [↗](#).

Source: Clean energy States Alliance, 3/18/16

New Financing Options Help Make Geothermal Affordable [↗](#)

Three new kinds of partnerships give builders more options for financing and installing geothermal technology.

Green is hot, at least as far as residential building is concerned. A 2016 study from Booz Allen Hamilton for the United States Green Building Council found that green building construction growth currently outpaces general construction and will continue to do so through 2018, with LEED residential at a year-over-year growth of 31.1 percent from 2015 to 2018.

Source: Builder, 3/10/16

Webinar focuses on two states' renewables efforts [↗](#)

If you were unable to attend "Hawaii's 100 Percent RPS and Vermont's New RPS," the Clean Energy States Alliance webinar, the slides and a recording of it are now available [online](#) [↗](#). In this webinar, program developers and managers from the two states discussed the standards and what the states are doing to achieve them. Presentations were followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) presented this webinar for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative. [Learn more](#) [↗](#).

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 3/14/16

2016 Green Power Leadership Awards

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

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

Reports and Studies

[NREL webinar looks at grid integration of renewables for Western interconnection](#)

March 31
11 am-12 pm

Grid Integration: Operating the Western Interconnection with 80%–90% Renewables discusses a sub-hourly analysis of grid operation at 80–90% renewable penetration in the Western Interconnection. The study analyzed very high penetrations and potential mitigating strategies for renewable integration.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/22/16

[NREL webinar examines low-carbon grid potential](#)

April 14
11 am-12 pm

Join the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for Grid Integration: Exploring Renewable Energy Integration in California, a webinar highlighting a study which concludes that California can achieve a 50% reduction from 2012 CO2 levels by 2030 in the electric sector under a wide variety of scenarios and assumptions.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/22/16

[Exploring Renewable Energy Integration in California](#)

Webinar
April 14, 10 a.m. PT

These recent works from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory focus on integration of renewable energy into the California electricity grid. Collectively, these papers indicate that there are multiple pathways to increasing the amount of wind and solar that can be deployed in California. However, successful integration of these variable generation resources will require increased grid flexibility and greater consideration of the optimal mix of both renewable resources and flexibility options. For example, without appropriate mitigation measures, oversaturation of photovoltaic generation may result in excessive curtailment, which could complicate the economics of the power system. NREL's work on energy storage continues to show that storage technologies can assist in integrating

renewables, but these technologies need to be compared to alternative sources of grid flexibility to ensure least-cost deployment of renewables.

To learn more about these works from the lead analysts, join the webinar on April 14 at 10 a.m. Pacific time.

- [California Low Carbon Grid Study: Analysis of a 50% Emissions Reduction in California](#)
- [Overgeneration from Solar Energy in California: A Field Guide to the Duck Chart](#)
- [Operational Benefits of Meeting California's Energy Storage Targets](#)

For information about these or any other NREL reports or papers, please contact [Aaron Bloom](#), National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 303-384-7032.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/16/16

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Grant available to train teachers in environmental education

Deadline: May 9, 2016

The Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals for its Environmental Education Training Program. The purpose of the program is to deliver environmental education training and long-term support to education professionals in developing and delivering environmental education and training programs and studies.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 3/15/16

DOE's Innovative Small Business Vouchers Pilot Selects 33 Small Businesses for Lab Collaboration

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that 33 small businesses have been selected to work directly with DOE national labs to accelerate the transformation toward a clean energy economy. The selected businesses will be afforded access to world-class laboratory resources to help move these innovative ideas and technologies closer to the marketplace.

The department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will invest nearly \$6.7 million under Round 1 of the new [Small Business Vouchers pilot](#) . These partnerships between clean energy small businesses and DOE national laboratories help promote economic development and American innovation by pairing DOE's unparalleled laboratory resources and expertise with small business drive and creativity.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/10/16

New research initiative on geospatial analysis and funding opportunity

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has formed a first-of-its-kind team: the Subsurface Technology and Engineering Research, Development, and Demonstration ([SubTER](#)) initiative. SubTER aims to improve energy security, environmental protection, and economic and social benefits by addressing issues including: increasing U.S. electricity production from geothermal reservoirs; safe storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to meet greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets; and drinking water protection.

In addition, DOE has recently released a [funding opportunity announcement](#)  of approximately \$9 million to continue to address subsurface research, development, and demonstration challenges. The funding aims to advance technologies in carbon storage as well as technologies employed to identify and validate subsurface signals used to progress geothermal exploration.

Source: Think Geoenergy via US Department of Energy, 3/10/16

New USDA Funding for Rural Economic Development

A new Department of Agriculture program lets electric cooperatives partner with regional organizations to boost rural economic development.

The [Strategic Economic and Community Development program](#) was established as part of the 2014 Farm Bill, but is just now getting off the ground.

USDA has set aside \$500 million for projects that support economic and community development plans across jurisdictions, said Joe McKinney, executive director of the National Association of Development Organizations, a Washington, D.C.-based group.

Deadline for application is June 30, 2016.

Source: Electric Co-op Today via US Department of Agriculture, 3/7/16

RFI for Non-Powered Dam and Pumped Storage Hydropower Development

The Wind and Water Power Technologies Office (WWPTO), within the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), invites input from the public regarding challenges and opportunities associated with hydropower development in two resource classes:

- existing non-powered dams, and
- pumped storage hydropower.

Information sought under this RFI is intended to assist the WWPTO in developing future activities and priorities. WWPTO seeks input from any stakeholders in the U.S. hydropower community.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 3/1/16

Find more [funding sources](#).