

GreenPower News

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

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Green Power

BLM Launches New Website, Approves Plan for New Solar Energy Zone

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has launched its Solar Energy Program website as the online center for public information regarding the ongoing implementation of the program. The Solar Energy Program was created by the BLM for utility-scale solar energy development on BLM-administered lands in six southwestern states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. The website provides up-to-date information on the features of the BLM's Solar Energy Program for the purpose of aiding the public, solar energy developers, and regulators in understanding the BLM's requirements and incentives for utility-scale solar energy development on public lands. [Read more](#). Source: DOE Sunshot Initiative, 8/20/13

Cost of Solar Power to Drop 75% by 2020? US Military Embraces It

Not one to shy away from overstatement, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard is not a writer we would normally quote extensively; well-renowned as the Telegraph newspaper is, for which he frequently writes in the Business section, but his article last week on solar power trumping shale gas even had us sitting up and taking notice.

True, many of the figures quoted in his article come from firms involved in the solar industry and as such we can expect them to put a positive gloss on the numbers, but we wouldn't count the US Energy Department to be biased and they are quoted as saying they expect the cost of solar power to fall by 75 percent between 2010 and 2020. [Read more](#). *Source: MetalMiner, 8/20/13*

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

Reports, studies and policy

EPA/NREL Feasibility Studies

As part of the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative, the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are evaluating the feasibility of developing renewable energy production on Superfund, brownfields, and former landfill or mining sites. EPA is investing approximately \$1,000,000 for the project that pairs EPA's expertise on contaminated sites with the renewable energy expertise of NREL. The project aims to decrease the amount of green space used for development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensure EPA's commitment to protecting human health and the environment, and provide economic benefits to local communities, including job creation. [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 10/31/13*

Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS)—The Future of Geothermal Energy

While the amount of conventional hydrothermal power worldwide has reached nearly 12 gigawatts, exponentially more geothermal resources can be accessed through next-generation technologies known as enhanced geothermal systems (EGS). Through funding by the Department of Energy's Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO), the nation's first commercial-scale EGS was brought online in April, connecting tomorrow's technology to the U.S. electrical grid today and setting the stage for future growth of geothermal power. DOE investments deliver cutting edge pathways for EGS, a technology that helps reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and diversify our energy economy. GTO focuses on developing technologies where no natural hydrothermal system or geothermal infrastructure exists. Today DOE funds five active EGS demonstrations and several lab-scale research projects to help achieve this potential. Two of these demonstrations have reached milestones in accelerating the adoption of geothermal energy. Take a look at this [new blog](#) at the Energy Department's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy website. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/23/13*

Solar Technical Assistance Team 2013 Webinars

The Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) 2013 webinar series provides an overview of solar technologies, resources, and the role that state and local governments play in supporting the development of those resources. The 2013 series includes webinars on virtual net metering and community solar, among other topics. The webinars were organized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Office in coordination with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). [Read more](#). *Source: DOE SunShot Initiative, 10/22/13*

A Regulators Guidebook: Calculating the Benefits and Costs of Distributed Solar Generation

There is an acute need for a standardized approach to determining the benefits and costs associated with distributed solar generation (DSG). This report offers lessons learned from 16 regional and utility-specific DSG studies summarized in a recent review by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and then proposes a standardized valuation methodology for public utility commissions to consider implementing in future studies. [Download the report](#). *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 10/22/13*

Report highlights states' best practices in net metering, interconnection policies

Recognizing the many local benefits of tapping solar, wind and other renewable resources, state governments have long driven American progress on renewable energy policy. This support is motivated by a number of different reasons: To encourage in-state economic development and the creation of jobs To enhance the security and reliability of the electric grid To reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions To increase energy independence Good net metering rules and interconnection policies effectively smooth the road that transitions us from dependence on centralized, dirty power generation to a system that achieves the goals above. Together, these two policies allow energy consumers to generate their own clean electricity without burdensome red tape and costs. [Read more](#). *Source: Freeing the Grid 2013, 10/10/13*

Renewable Energy in the 50 States

ACORE's Renewable Energy in the 50 States report provides an executive summary on the status of renewable energy implementation at the state-level. The report provides a two-page, high-level overview on the key developments that have shaped the renewable energy landscape in each state, including information on installed and planned capacity, markets, economic development, resource potential and policy.

The report is a "living" document that will continue to evolve with updates and periodic revision. [Read more](#). *Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 10/10/13*

Geothermal Energy Association report analyzes international markets

The Geothermal Energy Association has prepared this document to provide the interested public with a sample of the range and complexity of the international geothermal power

market as of September 2013. The report was not able to include information on all countries where there is geothermal production, development, and exploration taking place. We appreciate and recognize people and companies in those countries whose efforts to expand geothermal energy production was not recognized or missed by this report. [Download the report](#). Source: *Geothermal Energy Association, 10/1/13*

New Berkeley Lab report analyzes data from large-scale solar projects

Utility-Scale Solar 2012: An Empirical Analysis of Project Cost, Performance, and Pricing Trends in the United States is the first edition in a new Berkeley Lab series to be revisited annually. The report focuses exclusively on the rapidly growing utility-scale segment of the U.S. solar market, and analyzes trends in not just installed costs or prices, but also operating costs, capacity factors, and power purchase agreement ("PPA") prices. [Download the report](#). Source: *Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, 9/26/13*

NREL Releases New Roadmap to Reducing Solar PV "Soft Costs" by 2020

The Energy Department's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently issued a new report, "Non-Hardware ('Soft') Cost-Reduction Roadmap for Residential and Small Commercial Solar Photovoltaics, 2013–2020," funded by DOE's SunShot Initiative and written by NREL and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). The report builds off NREL's ongoing soft-cost benchmarking analysis and charts a path to achieve SunShot soft-cost targets of \$0.65/W for residential systems and \$0.44/W for commercial systems by 2020.

Non-hardware costs—also referred to as soft, balance of system, or business process costs—include permitting, inspection, interconnection, overhead, installation labor, customer acquisition, and financing. The report also highlights that certain processes often categorized as soft costs, such as permitting and interconnection, may not appear significant when measured in terms of dollars-per-watt, but are costly in that they pose significant market barriers which slow PV deployment. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 9/25/13*

EESI annual report available

In 2012, the impacts—and costs—of climate change became ever more visible. The country experienced numerous extreme weather events, ranging from the widespread drought and heat wave in the Midwest, to the massive devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy. The Environmental and Energy Studies Institute did its part to spur action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Below are some of EESI's 2012 achievements :

- Called for increased adaptation, resiliency, and mitigation measures on climate change. Resiliency became one of EESI's key themes, with the release of a joint EESI-CCAP Report, *Preparing Transportation Infrastructure for Increased Climate Risk* and a briefing on the insurance industry's perspective on addressing extreme weather events.
- Helped develop Energy 101 to spread energy literacy in U.S. colleges. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities,

the University of Maryland, and EESI developed Energy 101, a unique, peer-reviewed model framework for college-level Introduction to Energy courses.

- Examined how to make it easier for clean energy projects to tap into low-cost financing, a critical piece of the puzzle. Our Clean Energy Financing: What Works? briefing attracted over 150 members of the policy community.

[Read more](#) in the EESI 2012 Annual Report. *Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 9/5/13*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Nearly \$10 Million in Funding and Technical Assistance Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

Nearly \$10 million in funding and technical assistance is available for state, local, and tribal governments from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Wells Fargo and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and Georgetown University that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including sustainable communities, community forests, and energy efficiency. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below.

In addition, please visit the [calendar of 2013 EPA grant opportunities](#) that may be of particular interest to communities.

- BIA 2013 Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Grant Program – \$600,000
Applications due: Nov. 29, 2013
Eligible entities: Federally recognized tribes and intertribal organizations. BIA has made available competitive grants for tribal adaptation, training, and tribal travel support to participate in technical training, workshops, forums, and cooperatives. For more information, visit the [request for proposals](#).
- Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps State and National Grants – Total Funding Available TBD
Notices of intent due: Dec. 11, 2013
Applications due: Jan. 8, 2014
Eligible entities: Government entities within states or territories; tribes; public or private nonprofit organizations; institutions of higher education; labor organizations; partnerships and consortia. The AmeriCorps State and National Grants provide funding to engage AmeriCorps members in service interventions to strengthen communities. For more information, visit the [AmeriCorps Grants Web page](#).
- Wells Fargo and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Environmental Solutions for Communities Grants Program – Grants Ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 each
Applications due: Dec. 16, 2013
Eligible entities: State, tribal, and local governments; educational institutions; and

nonprofit 501(c) organizations. Funding priorities include "greening" traditional infrastructure and public projects such as storm water management and flood control, urban forestry, and education and training of community leaders on sustainable practices. For more information, visit the [request for proposals](#).

- National Endowment for the Arts FY 2014 Our Town Initiative – Grants Ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000 Each
Applications due: Jan. 13, 2014
Eligible entities: All applications must involve two primary partners: a local government entity and a nonprofit organization. Local governments include counties, parishes, cities, towns, villages, or federally recognized tribal governments. Local arts agencies or other departments, agencies, or entities within an eligible local government may submit the application on behalf of that local government. The Our Town Initiative will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to improve their quality of life, foster stronger community identity and a sense of place, and revitalize economic development. For more information, visit the [grant opportunity web page](#).
- USDA Forest Service's Community Forest and Open Space Program – \$4 Million
Applications due: Jan. 15, 2014
Eligible entities: Local governments, federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native corporations, and nonprofits that are eligible to hold title to land for conservation purposes. This grant program authorizes the Forest Service to provide financial assistance to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. For more information, visit the [opportunity synopsis](#).
- Georgetown University Energy Prize – \$5 Million
Letters of intent due: Feb. 2014
Eligible entities: For this competition, a "community" is defined geographically by the limits of a municipality—a town, city, or county that has corporate status and local government. All small-to-medium municipalities in the United States with populations between 5,000 and 250,000 are eligible to apply. Communities will be challenged to work together with their local governments and utilities to develop and begin implementing plans for innovative, replicable, scalable, and continual reductions in the per-capita energy consumed from local natural gas and electric utilities. Interested communities are encouraged to submit a [nonbinding letter of intent](#) as soon as possible.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 10/24/13

Application for Solar Policy and Program Technical Assistance in 2014—Round 1

This year, DOE is offering technical assistance to cities and states targeting policy and programmatic improvements that will open and develop markets for distributed generation (DG), specifically solar rooftop photovoltaics (PV).

This is not a financial award. Successful applicants will be partnered with DOE and NREL expert staff to determine the most effective use of assistance in forwarding market opening policies and programs. NREL/DOE anticipate providing 1-10 weeks of work on these requests.

- Applications for Round 1 are due on November 15, 2013 by midnight MST
- Applicants will be notified of technical assistance award by December 17, 2013.

[Learn more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/22/13*

Find more [funding sources](#).

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