

GREEN POWER News

WAPA's Renewable Resources Program covering
green power, reports, studies and funding

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **October 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! *Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.*

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[Previous issues](#)

[In this issue:](#)

Green Power

- Continuing the Administration's Commitment to Deploying Clean Energy on Federal Facilities
- Comment on Proposed Revisions to Green Power Partnership Program Requirements
- PV Training Can Fill Knowledge Gap for Code Officials and Other Professionals

Reports and Studies

- Presentations from 2016 Wind Wildlife Research Meeting available online
- Resilient Power Retrofit: How a Minnesota Nature Center Became a Solar+Storage Community Shelter
- Revolution...Now Rewind: Modernizing the Grid to Accelerate a Solar-Powered Future
- NREL Report Shows U.S. Solar Photovoltaic Costs Continuing to Fall in 2016
- Top 3 Takeaways from the 2016 Revolution...Now Report

Funding

- Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement "Geothermal Deep Direct-Use Feasibility Studies"
- USDA Announces Support for Rural Cooperative Businesses and Organizations

Green Power

Continuing the Administration's Commitment to Deploying Clean Energy on Federal Facilities

Addressing climate change remains a top priority for President Obama. The Administration is committed to take action on climate change by continuing to promote the transition to clean energy sources and create good paying jobs. As the President made clear in his Climate Action Plan, he firmly believes that the federal government should lead by example in improving energy efficiency and cutting harmful carbon pollution. Today the Administration is celebrating the achievement of one federal leadership goal, and setting a new one.

Source: The Whitehouse blog, 10/14/16

Comment on Proposed Revisions to Green Power Partnership Program Requirements

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the **Green Power Partnership** as a voluntary program that encourages the use of renewable electricity to reduce the risk of global climate change and the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. The Green Power Partnership provides a framework that includes credible usage benchmarks, market information, technical assistance, and public recognition to organizations that use green power.

Since the Green Power Partnership was established, EPA has continually reviewed and updated the Partnership's program requirements. EPA is seeking comments on proposed changes to the program requirements. Please submit comments by Friday, Nov. 18, 2016 to both **James Critchfield**, EPA Green Power Partnership, and **Anthony Amato**, EPA contractor.

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, 10/17/16

PV Training Can Fill Knowledge Gap for Code Officials and Other Professionals

Online Solar Code Training Course Continues to Provide Value

Since April, IREC and partners have been busy with a project focused on bringing high quality training to code officials and the fire service. Although historically IREC has actively led credentialing and training efforts for solar and other clean energy industries, we are increasingly focused on the workforce needs of sectors "allied" with solar. From code officials to realtors, insurers to the fire service, there are a number of industries that impact the solar transaction, and the 'soft' (non-hardware) costs of going solar. IREC leads national and state efforts to streamline the permitting process to help address these costs, while simultaneously recognizing that it takes a well-trained workforce to support these initiatives.

Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 10/20/16

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Reports and Studies

Presentations from 2016 Wind Wildlife Research Meeting available online

Nov. 29-Dec. 2
Broomfield, Colorado

Abstracts for all planned oral and poster presentations are now available to review and learn more about the details of the agenda to the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting. Presenter bios will be added as the meeting approaches.

The biennial **Wind Wildlife Research Meeting** provides an internationally recognized forum for researchers and wind-wildlife stakeholders to hear contributed papers, view research posters, and listen to panels that synthesize the most recent wind power-related wildlife research. Academics, researchers, conservation scientists, consultants, federal and state officials, NGO representatives, and wind industry professionals come together every other year for this unique opportunity.

Source: American Wind Wildlife Institute, 10/19/16

Resilient Power Retrofit: How a Minnesota Nature Center Became a Solar+Storage Community Shelter

In this archived webinar recording by Clean Energy Group's Resilient Power Project, guest speakers from the University of Minnesota Duluth and the community nonprofit Ecolibrium3 shared details about the resilient power retrofit at Hartley Nature Center in Duluth, Minnesota.

Solar+storage proved to be a win-win solution to meet Hartley Nature Center's goals of reducing electricity costs, providing public education, and improving community energy security. In this project, a battery storage system was added to an existing solar PV array.

Source: Clean Energy Group, 10/20/16

Revolution...Now Rewind: Modernizing the Grid to Accelerate a Solar-Powered Future

Solar energy has experienced remarkable growth in the last few years. As EERE's recently released **Revolution...Now report** details, utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) costs have fallen 64% since 2008, enabling the installation of 13.9 gigawatts of solar capacity by the end of 2015—44% of all solar capacity ever installed in America. And this deployment trend is accelerating: the U.S. installed more than two times the utility-scale PV in the first half of 2016 than over the same time period in 2015. Distributed solar is not far behind. More than 3.1 gigawatts of distributed capacity was installed in 2015—a 34% increase over 2014.

At the same time, the nation's electric grid was built to handle power flowing one way from a few large, centrally-located power plants. Solar changes that paradigm. The SunShot Initiative funds projects that expand the panorama of cost reduction options while helping develop innovative tools that make it easier for grid operators to adapt to the changing demands of our energy mix. Moreover, the grid projects we're supporting also aim to maintain and improve the reliability and performance of our electricity grid upon which American households and businesses depend.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/4/16

NREL Report Shows U.S. Solar Photovoltaic Costs Continuing to Fall in 2016

NREL U.S. PV system cost benchmarks, from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the first quarter of 2016

The modeled costs to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems continued to decline in the first quarter of 2016 in the U.S. residential, commercial, and utility-scale sectors, according to updated benchmarks from the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Driving the cost reductions were lower module and inverter prices, increased competition, lower installer and developer overheads, improved labor productivity, and optimized system configurations.

"The continuing total cost decline of solar PV systems demonstrates the sustained economic competitiveness of solar PV for the industry across all three sectors," said NREL Senior Analyst and Project Lead Ran Fu.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 9/28/16

Top 3 Takeaways from the 2016 Revolution...Now Report

Clean energy technology costs are down – and deployment is up. So, you say you want a revolution? Well, you know, when it comes to clean energy, we are changing the world (with a hat tip to The Beatles).

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz has announced an exciting update to the Energy Department's Revolution...Now report, which highlights the dramatic growth and decreasing costs of five clean energy technologies: wind turbines, photovoltaic (PV) solar modules for both utility-scale plants and distributed systems, electric vehicles (EVs), and light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

As the report demonstrates, the Energy Department's investments in clean energy technologies are paying off – and then some.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 9/29/16

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Funding

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement "Geothermal Deep Direct-Use Feasibility Studies"

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled "Geothermal Deep Direct-Use Feasibility Studies."

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of EERE's intention to issue DE-FOA-0001601: "Geothermal Deep Direct-Use Feasibility Studies" in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions

concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

The Geothermal Technologies Office seeks to conduct feasibility studies of large-scale, low-temperature deep-well geothermal systems coupled with advanced direct-use applications and cascaded surface technologies whose applications will extend the reach of geothermal into geologically distinct parts of the country beyond the western U.S. These systems are referred to herein as Deep Direct-Use or DDU.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/20/16

USDA Announces Support for Rural Cooperative Businesses and Organizations

Grants Will Help Create Jobs, Boost Rural Economies in 22 States

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is awarding **29 grants totaling \$5.8 million** to help rural cooperatives create jobs and support business expansion. The funds are being provided through the **Rural Cooperative Development Grant** (RCDG) program, which helps fund non-profit groups, such as rural cooperative development centers and higher education institutions.

"America's rural communities have incredible potential to create jobs and expand economic opportunities," Vilsack said. "Many rural businesses and organizations are succeeding under the cooperative business model, and with access to additional resources, they can boost job creation and create an environment where more products are made in rural America. The funding USDA is announcing today will provide the critical training and technical assistance rural cooperatives and non-profit groups need to help strengthen America's 'Main Street' businesses."

Source: US Department of Agriculture, 10/3/16

Find more [funding sources](#).