

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 **January 2017**. 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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Energy Storage in an Unusual Spot

Montana co-op and youth agency team up on solar, Powerwall project

As director of a group home for at-risk youth, Lance Isaak wants to ensure that teenagers in the Kalispell, Montana, area stay safe while addressing dire family problems.

Someday, the program director of the Flathead Youth Home will also find himself as a solar energy tour guide, thanks to a partnership between the nonprofit and **Flathead Electric Cooperative**, also in Kalispell.

The co-op selected the youth home to test rooftop solar panels and a Tesla Powerwall battery as a means of energy storage. Flathead Electric will collect and evaluate data generated by the 7.2-kilowatt, net-metered solar array and backup system over several years to determine whether the technology is a good fit for members.

Source: ElectricCoop.com, 1/24/17

NREL System Advisor Model software update now available

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has released SAM 2017.1.17, a tool suite for solar project development. Get a free copy of SAM, available for Windows, OS X, and Linux operating systems.

A new version of the **SAM Software Development Kit** (SDK) is also available. To download the SDK, you must log on to the SAM website.

For details about the 2017 version, please see the **release notes**.

If you have questions about SAM, please **email NREL**, or post a question on the **SAM Support forum**.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/23/17

Year in Review: The Coolest Clean Energy Stories of 2016

As 2016 comes to a close, here's a look at the most popular clean energy blog posts of the past year.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 12/28/16

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Reports and Studies

Report offers roadmap for facilitating solar home listings

Berkeley Laboratory has published *Capturing the Sun: A Roadmap for Navigating Data-Access Challenges and Auto-Populating Solar Home Sales Listings*.

With more solar homes being sold, the market needs an improved process for listing, valuing, and closing on sales of these homes. The Roadmap promotes the concept in the real estate industry known as "automatic population," in which data aggregated in one industry can be automatically matched with home sale listings on an MLS. The Roadmap is intended as the first step toward auto-population, to help professionals identify barriers in a local context and develop the most appropriate implementation strategy in their market to connect the data to an MLS.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, 1/26/17

New Berkeley Lab Report Lays Out Pathways to Make Information on Solar Homes More Accessible

For 1.1 million solar homes in the US, no consistent way to have solar features marketed and valued when they sell

Register now for a **free webinar** on Thursday, January 26, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (Noon to 1:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time), that will highlight key findings from Berkeley Lab's latest report titled *Capturing the Sun: A Roadmap for Navigating Data-Access Challenges and Auto-Populating Solar Home Sales Listings*.

There are now over one million homes in America with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Yet real estate listing services (known as multiple listing services or MLSs) lack a standard way to report on the solar features of a home when it is placed on the market. Without this information, sellers may be losing out on value, and buyers may not know what they are getting, and real estate agents have a harder time bringing solar sellers and interested buyers together.

This new Roadmap from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) proposes a way to fill that gap. The PDF of this report will be available for download on January 26th.

Source: Berkeley Laboratory, 1/18/17

CEC issues final report on low-income barriers to efficiency, renewables

This study, mandated by **Senate Bill 350**, explores the barriers to and opportunities for expanding low-income customers' access to energy efficiency, weatherization, and renewable energy investments. It also examines barriers and opportunities related to contracting with small businesses located in disadvantaged communities. This study provides recommendations intended to have a transformative effect on access to clean energy investments for low-income customers and local small businesses in disadvantaged communities.

Source: California Energy Commission, 12/14/16

CESA webinar available online

If you were unable to attend the webinar, "Designing Publicly Supported Solar Loan Programs," the slides and a recording of the presentation have been posted on the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) website.

The report featured in this webinar is **available to download** .

CESA presented this webinar for the Sustainable Solar Education Project. **Learn more** , or **contact CESA** with your questions, comments and feedback.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 1/12/16

Cal-ISO smart-inverter study turns tables on PV

NREL, First Solar show PV can balance variable grid

A real-world test of smart inverter technology by Cal-ISO, DOE's National Renewable Energy Lab and First Solar showed solar plants can provide more grid balancing services than previously thought. A report on the test: "*Using Renewables to Operate a Low Carbon Grid*," was released by the ISO yesterday.

The team installed smart inverter technology on a 300-MW PV plant that was then tested on three ancillary services: frequency control, voltage control and ramping capacity. The testing, done at a First Solar facility in August, showed that solar plants with smart inverter technology could offer the electric reliability services similar to, or in some cases superior to conventional power plants.

Source: Smart Grid Today, 1/12/17

New Study on Demand Charge Savings from Residential Solar

We are pleased to announce a new study, Exploring Demand Charge Savings from Residential Solar, conducted jointly by Berkeley Lab and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

Retail electricity tariffs with demand charges, whereby electricity customers are charged based on their peak demand, are commonly used for commercial customers and are increasingly being considered for residential customers as well. In light of this increased attention, Berkeley Lab and NREL are jointly engaged in a series of studies to evaluate the potential role of demand charges in aligning customer bill savings and utility cost savings from rooftop solar. The analysis summarized here is the first in this series of studies. It focuses specifically on residential customers with solar and seeks to answer the basic question: To what extent, and under what conditions, can rooftop solar reduce residential demand charges? The analysis addresses this question by estimating demand charge savings from residential solar across a broad range of demand charge designs, locations, and PV system characteristics.

Source: Berkeley Lab, 1/11/17

Study evaluates potential RPS impacts 2015-2050

Berkeley Laboratory has released a new study, A Prospective Analysis of the Costs, Benefits, and Impacts of U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards, conducted jointly by Berkeley Lab and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

This is the third in a series of reports exploring the potential costs, benefits, and other impacts of state renewable portfolio standards (RPS). Prior studies in the series have examined the historical effects of RPS programs. This new report, instead, evaluates RPS policies prospectively, under both a continuation of existing policies as well as possible expansions.

The report, along with an accompanying fact-sheet, can be [downloaded here](#). A webinar summarizing key findings from the report will be held next Monday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time. [Register](#) for the free webinar.

Source: Berkeley Laboratory, 12/28/16

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Funding

Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III Advanced Drop-In Biofuels Production Project (ADBPP) Biofuels 2

Deadline: May 25, 2017

Proposals may take the form of either Brown Field expansion/modification of existing Pilot-scale facilities, commercial-scale facilities, or new Green Field construction. Attention will be paid to enhancing merchant supplier capabilities in order to effectively serve the broad DoD and non-DoD communities. Read the [full FOA](#).

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$55 million

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 1/19/17

Find more [funding sources](#).