

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 **July 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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Green Power

Latest Green Power Partner rankings available

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership released updates to its Top Partner Rankings, which highlight organizations that are choosing to use electricity from clean, renewable sources.

- National Top 100 Partners: Seven new Partners appear on the list – Goldman Sachs, U.S. General Services Administration, IKEA, Philips Electronics, Biogen, Cinemark USA, and Philips Lighting – ranking 19th, 30th, 37th, 60th, 69th, 81st, and 83rd, respectively. Intel, the District of Columbia, Lockheed Martin, BNY Mellon, Best Buy, Colgate-Palmolive, the State of Delaware, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture shook up the list even more with large increases in their green power use.
- Top 30 On-Site Partners: Four new Partners made the list: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at number four; General Motors / GMVM Orion at number eight; IKEA at number 11; and the U.S. General Services Administration at number 14.
- Fortune 500: Several of the Partners mentioned above also appear on GPP's Fortune 500 top list. Additionally, the three newly listed Fortune 500 companies – Baxalta Inc., Performance FoodService / North Center, and Hertz Corporation / Selected U.S. Facilities – also appear on the top list.

GPP also updated the On-Site Renewables Challenge and Green Power Communities list, and will do so again on October 24.

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 7/25/16

Energy Department Catalyzes New Mexico Solar Boom

New Mexico continues to cultivate a vibrant, dynamic solar energy economy. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association and GTM Research, New Mexico's current installed solar capacity of 400 megawatts (MW) ranks 13th in the country. Also, according to the Solar Foundation, New Mexico's solar industry employed about 2,000 workers as of November 2015. Employers in the solar business are expected to expand their payrolls by 12.3 percent this year in the state known as the Land of Enchantment.

The Energy Department's State Energy Program (SEP) has been critical to this growth. Between 2008 and 2014, SEP invested more than \$2 million in New Mexico's State Energy Office – the Energy Conservation and Management Division.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/21/16

Fact Sheet: Obama Administration Announces Clean Energy Savings for All Americans Initiative

President Obama is committed to ensuring that every American family can choose to go solar and to cut their energy bills – and that every American community has the tools they need to tackle local air pollution and global climate change.

Since President Obama took office, solar electricity generation has increased 30 fold and solar jobs are growing 12 times faster than the rest of the economy. Last year, we announced a set of actions to increase access to solar and create a more inclusive workforce, but there is still more work to do. That is why, today, the Obama Administration is announcing a new cross government partnership – the Clean Energy Savings For All Initiative – between the Departments of Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Veteran’s Affairs, and the Environmental Protection Agency to increase access to solar energy and promote energy efficiency across the United States and, in particular in low- and moderate-income communities.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/19/16

Solar Training Network builds strong solar workforce

The Solar Training Network addresses a critical need for high-quality, local, accessible training in solar installation and related skills. It was established under the Solar Training and Education for Professionals (STEP) funding program in 2016 and is administered by The Solar Foundation. The Network allows for greater connection between solar employers, trainers and training institutions, workforce investment boards, and trainees and job seekers, in order to meet ever-changing market demands, especially in regions where solar energy is rapidly expanding. Visit the Solar Training Network website.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/19/16

SunShot Initiative challenges communities, seeks feedback

For those who don’t own their rooftops, community solar offers a way to go solar – but how can the SunShot Initiative help to make it available to more people? That’s where your opinion matters. SunShot is looking for your feedback so we can help more people power their lives with solar energy.

SunShot plans to launch a prize challenge that encourages teams across the country to compete to bring community solar programs to their communities. The goal of the challenge is to enable the expansion of the solar market to a diverse array of new consumers, including low- and moderate-income customers. Competing teams will be eligible for cash prizes and technical assistance and legal help from the Department of Energy and other experts nationwide.

Before we launch the challenge, SunShot would like your feedback and comments on the structure, prizes, timelines, and the evaluation process of a community solar challenge. Comments will be accepted from the public, and more specifically from all interested potential contestants.

Learn more about the challenge and read the questions in the request for information. Please share this with your friends and colleagues to ensure we create a program that can make a difference. Responses are due August 2. We look forward to reading your responses.

Source: DOE Sunshot Initiative, 7/20/16

Solar Energy on Campus webinar recording now online

Universities and colleges nationwide green their electricity with solar through onsite generation, power purchase agreements and renewable energy certificate purchases. These institutions must be clear and accurate in their claims to avoid reputational and legal risk. This webinar for sustainability professionals in higher education explores the implications of the various purchasing options and how to ensure that the power fulfills the school's sustainability claims and goals.

Source: Center for Resource Solutions, 7/15/16

Download presentations from energy demand forecasting workshop

The California Energy Commission is presenting a series of workshops and meetings for the 2016 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update. Presentations and documents from the June 23 workshop, IEPR Commissioner Workshop on Methodological Improvements to the Energy Demand Forecast for 2017 and Beyond, are available online.

Source: California Energy Commission, 7/18/17

Green Power Partnership Newsroom

Green Power Partnership (GPP) Program Updates are published monthly and provide the latest news and updates on the Partnership. See highlights of recent news and press about the Green Power Partnership and its Partners.

Issue 41, June 20, 2016

- Partner Spotlight—Xanterra Parks & Resorts
- GPP Releases its Updated Green Power Partner Map
- Reminder: Use the Green Power Partner Mark to Promote Your Status
- Top Partner Rankings and Challenges — Updates Announced on July 25; Submit Your Data Updates by July 6!
- Several GPP Partners Sign on to RE100
- NREL's Top 10 Ranking of Utility Green Power Programs
- World Resources Institute Releases New U.S. Map for Companies Looking to Buy Renewables
- 2017 Climate Leadership Awards Application Period and Webinar; Climate Leadership Conference Save the Date
- Upcoming Center for Resource Solutions (CRS) and NREL Webinar—Solar Energy on Campus
- GPP Webinar Summaries
- Renewable Energy Markets Conference— Register Now for Best Rates through June 21! Early Bird Registration Available through August 16

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 6/20/16

Project success stories highlight NREL program's versatility

The technology deployment program of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory provides market expertise and tools to governments, utilities, tribes, and industry to implement clean energy solutions. Learn how NREL's integrated technology deployment activities are making a significant impact on the global energy marketplace towards a clean energy future.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 6/30/16

Obama's New Clean Energy Goal For North America: 50 Percent By 2025

President Obama and his counterparts from Canada and Mexico are preparing to unveil an ambitious new goal for generating carbon-free power when they meet this week in Ottawa.

The three leaders are expected to set a target for North America to get 50 percent of its electricity from nonpolluting sources by 2025. That's up from about 37 percent last year.

Aides acknowledge that's a "stretch goal," requiring commitments over and above what the three countries agreed to as part of the Paris climate agreement.

"We do ambitious well here at the White House," said spokesman Eric Schultz.

Environmental advocates praised the new target.

Source: National Public Radio, 6/27/16

Greentech Media offers archived webinars to download

GTM, an information services provider for this next-generation electricity system, delivers business-to-business news, market analysis and conferences that inform and connect players in the global clean energy market. Check out past webinars presented by industry experts on topics including renewable energy development and grid technology.

Source: Greentech Media, 6/30/16

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

Reports and Studies

Hydropower Vision: A New Chapter for America's 1st Renewable Electricity Source

Through the Hydropower Vision, the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind and Water Power Technologies Office has led a first-of-its-kind comprehensive analysis to evaluate future pathways for low-carbon, renewable hydropower (hydropower generation and pumped storage) in the United States, focused on continued technical evolution, increased energy market value, and environmental sustainability.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/26/16

Potential RPS Markets for Renewable Energy Generators

This paper provides information regarding where a renewable energy generator in a particular state or Canadian province can potentially sell its renewable energy certificates in order to meet the demand created by a renewable portfolio standard.

The data from this report is also available as an interactive map.

This report was originally published in January 2014. The report and the interactive map were updated in July 2016.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 7/18/16

REopt Model Expands Into Energy Storage, Resilience, and the Energy-Water Nexus

REopt, an NREL-developed modeling platform for energy system integration and optimization, has expanded its reach into new energy frontiers: energy storage, energy resilience, and the energy-water nexus with recent analysis projects for the National Park Service, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Interior.

REopt was recently used to evaluate the operation of the microgrid on Alcatraz Island which had been powered entirely by diesel generators until a solar-diesel-battery hybrid system was installed in 2012. When diesel consumption was still higher than expected, however, the NPS turned to NREL to help understand why. NREL used their REopt model to show that simply preventing the generators from charging the batteries, and instead reserving that capacity for excess PV production, would reduce diesel consumption by 15,000 gallons per year while extending the life of the batteries.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 7/21/16

Download storage measurement webinar

Slides and a recording of the webinar, "Measuring Energy Storage System Performance: A Government/Industry-Developed Protocol " are now available to download.

This webinar was a presentation of the Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership (ESTAP). ESTAP is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity and Sandia National Laboratories, and is managed by the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA).

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 6/30/16

Corporate Renewable Energy Procurement Industry Insights

The growing purchase of renewable energy by corporate end users is fundamentally remaking the model for electric power sales in the U.S. This report offers industry insights relating to corporations' procurement of renewable energy to simplify renewable procurement processes and provide realistic options for corporate players across the economy.

Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 6/19/16

Energy Storage Procurement Guidance Documents for Municipalities

Clean Energy Group and the Clean Energy States Alliance, with support from Bright Power, Sandia National Laboratories, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity, and the Barr Foundation, have drafted a series of energy storage procurement guidance documents for municipalities. These documents were originally produced to support Massachusetts Department of Energy's Community Clean Energy Resilience Initiative awardees in energy storage procurement; however, these materials offer useful information for other municipalities to consider as they develop solicitations for resilient, energy storage projects.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 6/27/16

Wind and Solar on the Power Grid: Myths and Misperceptions

Wind and solar are inherently more variable and uncertain than the traditional dispatchable thermal and hydro generators that have historically provided a majority of grid-supplied electricity. The unique characteristics of variable renewable energy (VRE) resources have resulted in many misperceptions regarding their contribution to a low-cost and reliable power grid.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 6/30/16

The EPA Clean Power Plan and State RPS Programs

Ed Holt of Ed Holt & Associates has written a wide-ranging new report on the relationship between EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) and state RPSs.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 5/18/16

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Availability of Land available for wind, solar renewable energy development on Tooele Army Depot

Applications Due: September 15, 2016

The U.S. Army is requesting competitive proposals for an enhanced use lease (EUL) at Tooele Army Depot, Utah. The project scope includes approximately 874 contiguous acres comprised of 4 parcels on Tooele Army Depot, UT, for development of solar and/or wind renewable energy. The lease will be for a term of up to thirty-one (31) years for solar photovoltaic or hybrid (wind and solar) development, or up to twenty-one (21) years for wind development. The U.S. Army intends for all power from the project to be sold to a third part off-taker. The lessee will be responsible for identifying and securing an off-post, non- U.S. Army off-taker of the renewable energy generation.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 7/19/16

Awards offered for innovative non-powered dam and pumped-storage hydropower development

The overall objective of this FOA is to further the development of non-powered dams (NPD) and pumped storage hydropower (PSH) resources by reducing capital costs and deployment timelines. These objectives will be achieved by funding projects in two topic areas.

Projects awarded under Topic Area 1 will develop low-head, modular, and standard turbine/generation technologies for NPD applications that can reduce civil works activities and can operate efficiently over a range of flows. Civil works includes the infrastructure of a hydropower project, such as dams, conduits, powerhouses, tunnels, and penstocks.

Under Topic Area 2, recipients will demonstrate the concept feasibility of innovative closed-loop PSH systems that can reduce development costs and timelines by applying concepts of modularity and creatively producing head differentials (e.g. pressurizing water using compressed air or weights).

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 7/19/16

Energy and Mineral Development Program

Applications due: July 8, 2016

The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs for the Department of the Interior, through the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), announces funding for awards to Federally-recognized Indian tribes, authorized tribal organizations, and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations for projects that assess, evaluate, or otherwise promote the processing, use, or development of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands, particularly feasibility studies of community-scale energy development projects that promote local economic benefits and stronger tribal economies.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 6/30/16

Find more [funding sources](#).