

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 **June 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

Top Ten Utility Green Power Programs

Which utilities are having the greatest success with their green power programs? NREL has compiled extensive data on utility green power programs and produced the following "Top Ten" lists of program characteristics and results: total sales of renewable energy to program participants, total number of customer participants, the percentage of customer participation, and green power sales as a percentage of total utility retail electricity sales.

Source: EPA Green Power Network, 6/17/16

Green Power Partner Map

The Green Power Partner Map shows the location and green power information of EPA's hundreds of **Green Power Partners**. Click on an individual pin to find more information on the Partner and their green power use.

Help us add more pins to the map! Start **using** green power and **join** the Green Power Partnership.

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 6/17/16

On the Path to SunShot

When the SunShot Initiative launched in 2011, it set the goal of making solar electricity cost-competitive with conventional sources of electricity by 2020. Since then, solar deployment has grown more than tenfold in the U.S. with more than one million solar installations currently operating across the country. The cost of solar energy has also dropped as much as 65%. As a result, the industry is approximately 70% of the way toward meeting the **SunShot 2020 goals**.

Source: Department of Energy Sunshot Initiative, 6/17/16

SPP CEO: Regionalization, transmission help push renewables penetration near 50%

Southwest Power Pool CEO Nick Brown says he sees solar, storage and more footprint expansion coming in the next five years

For some perspective on how far U.S. grid operations have come in the past few years, consider a headline:

"Western U.S. grid can handle more renewables," the MIT Technology Review declared a few years back. "A study says 35% of electricity could come from solar and wind — without expensive new backup plants."

That was in 2010, when utility stakeholders in the West were fretting over whether California could comply with a 33% renewable energy mandate passed eight years earlier. MIT was reporting on a hopeful study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory that found enhanced regional integration could push renewables above that mark.

Source: Utility Dive, 5/26/16

Maintaining Grid Reliability with Increasing Penetrations of Wind and Solar Power

Will the lights stay on even as penetrations of renewable energy increase throughout the west?

In the seventh webinar in a series hosted by the Four Corners Wind Resource Center, Brian Parsons with the Western Grid Group discusses the topic of cost-effectively maintaining grid reliability with increasing penetrations of wind and solar power.

This webinar was recorded from a presentation delivered to electricity regulators and regulatory stakeholders in Utah on May 13, 2016.

Source: Four Corners Wind Resource Center, 6/13/16

Grid Edge and Digital Technologies Take Center Stage at EEI Convention

During breakout sessions at this year's Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Convention on June 13 and 14 in Chicago, discussions centered mostly on issues far from what's traditionally been considered the center of electric utility operations: central station generation. Instead, panels focused more on technologies and policies at what's often called the "grid edge"—where customers large and small interconnect with the grid.

In fact, even the session titled "The Clean Power Plan and Beyond" spent more time on issues beyond the Environmental Protection Agency's carbon-reduction plan, which is currently stayed, awaiting judicial review.

Source: Power magazine, 6/15/16

Latest issue of CESA Brief available to download

The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national, nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy. CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country.

For updates on the recent programs and accomplishments of CESA and its member organizations, click here to read the latest issue of The CESA Brief Newsletter.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 6/15/16

Is Electricity Pricing Different from "Real Markets"? Should It Be?

"No company in a real market would ever price that way." If you've discussed electricity pricing much, you've surely heard this said by a person opposed to one retail tariff or another. In almost every instance, however, the claim is both incorrect and irrelevant.

Incorrect, because firms in unregulated markets are constantly experimenting with the pricing. Whether it's fixed charges, increasing-block pricing, decreasing-block pricing, demand charges, or even exit fees, there is something analogous in the unregulated economy.

Source: Energy Institute at Haas, 6/13/16

APS rate case sparks concern beyond mandatory demand charge proposal

Along with a rate structure overhaul, the Arizona utility also wants to cut net metering credits to its avoided cost rate.

After working for years to win approval from Arizona regulators for higher fixed charges and fees for solar customers, Arizona Public Service altered its strategy in a new rate case filed last week, requesting demand charges for virtually all its customers.

A year ago, APS filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for an increase of its \$0.70/kW fixed charge to \$3/kW. The utility said at the time the fixed charge was a more secure way to cover grid upkeep costs and protect customers without distributed generation from subsidizing those who have it.

Source: Utility Dive, 6/7/16

EPA launches new website 'Green Building Tools for Tribes'

The site includes the Tribal Green Building Toolkit with checklists and resources to help communities prioritize and update green building efforts.

It covers a full range of site and building planning topics, including:

- Land Use
- Materials and Resource Conservation – including Green Manufactured Housing
- Human Health: Radon, Mold and other Hazardous Pollutants
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Water Access, Management and Sanitation
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Code Implementation and Compliance
- Updating, Adapting or Adopting Codes or Developing New Codes

Feel free to share this information and link to it on your sites.

Please let us know if you have additional resources EPA should consider adding.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 5/24/16

Hidden Battery: Brattle Group Study Touts Benefits of Widespread Water-Heater-Control Programs

NRECA and a pair of research partners made quite a splash recently with an analysis of the promising energy-storage potential of a humble appliance found in more than 50 million U.S. homes: the electric water heater.

The Hidden Battery: Opportunities in Electric Water Heating details the economic and efficiency prospects of using system-control technology to manage the storage of heat energy, allowing utilities to take heavy load off-line when other demands are high.

Source: *Rural Electric Magazine*, 5/17/16

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

Reports and Studies

California Energy Commission posts proceedings from offshore renewables workshop

The presentations from the May 25 workshop on offshore renewable energy presented by the California Energy Commission. The **docket** and public comments are included.

Source: *California Energy Commission*, 6/1/16

Annual Energy Outlook 2016

Annual Energy Outlook 2016 presents yearly projections and analysis of energy topics

Projections in the Annual Energy Outlook 2016 (AEO2016) focus on the factors expected to shape U.S. energy markets through 2040. The projections provide a basis for examination and discussion of energy market trends and serve as a starting point for analysis of potential changes in U.S. energy policies, rules, and regulations, as well as the potential role of advanced technologies.

Source: *US Energy Information Administration*, 6/17/16

Beyond rate reforms: Bundling strategies could resolve net metering battles

An NREL study evaluated four common strategies used in these debates to find a solution for both sides

Debates over net metering policies nationwide are notoriously heated, with utilities and solar sector often sharply divided over how to compensate rooftop solar users for their excess energy.

Utilities say rooftop solar users don't pay their fair share to maintain the grid and shift those costs onto non-rooftop solar users. Solar advocates argue that utilities and regulators fail to quantify the full value and benefits of distributed solar. Rate reforms have been the primary tool of choice thus far in regulatory proceedings to settle the disputes.

Source: *Utility Dive*, 6/16/16

FACT SHEET: Obama Administration Announces Federal and Private Sector Actions on Scaling Renewable Energy and Storage with Smart Markets

President Obama believes in the need to transition to a cleaner, more reliable, and affordable 21st century power grid. Under his leadership, transformations in how we produce and consume electricity are decreasing carbon pollution, scaling up renewable energy, and generating savings on consumers' energy bills. Since 2009, renewable energy generation has increased at a record pace, while costs have decreased dramatically.

Building on this progress, smart electricity market reforms, enhanced transparency, and flexible energy resources such as storage and demand response have the potential to further accelerate the development of a cleaner and smarter grid. In fact, in 2015 alone, the United States doubled the installed capacity of advanced energy storage to 500 megawatts (MW) and deployment of this key resource is projected to continue to expand.

Source: The White House, 6/16/16

NERC assessment of Clean Power Plan impact now online

This report represents NERC's Phase II Special Reliability Assessment on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CPP final rule. This study assumes that the CPP will be implemented as outlined in the final rule. NERC is aware there are legal reviews underway, but for purpose of this study, the rule is assumed to be implemented. While the report is titled Potential Reliability Impacts of EPA's Clean Power Plan, many of the drivers for resource changes are external economic factors or technological developments. The modeling undertaken has limitations and is indicative only; it provides estimates of what resources are likely to be pursued when a number of other constraints are considered. Actual planning, particularly around transmission and upstream natural gas pipelines, will have to be conducted subsequent to this report.

Source: National Electric Reliability Council, 5/31/16

RPS Collaborative Webinar: A Tale of Two Grids

This webinar looked at the future of the electric grid and states' approaches to grid modernization. The presentation by Cameron Brooks was based on research that he recently featured in an article in Public Utilities Fortnightly. He found that states are tending to fall into two categories: ones where policy is moving toward more open market solutions and ones that are inclined toward expanding the vertical integration model. The webinar highlighted issues that RPS program managers, utility commission staff, and other state officials can consider as they think about the future of the grid.

Source: Clean Energy Group, 5/25/16

Studies Co-Authored by Berkeley Lab Staff Cover Environmental Benefits, Utility Regulatory Reforms, and Financial Innovation

Berkeley Laboratories is pleased to announce the release of a series of new reports issued as part of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s On the Path to SunShot study. The DOE launched the SunShot Initiative in 2011, with the goal of aggressively driving down the cost of solar energy. The eight reports that together make up the On the Path to SunShot study collectively take stock of progress already made, and highlight barriers and opportunities that remain to achieving SunShot-level cost reductions and deployment volumes.

Berkeley Lab contributed to three of these new reports:

- **The Environmental and Public Health Benefits of Achieving High Solar Penetration in the United States**
- **Utility Regulatory and Business Model Reforms for Addressing the Financial Impacts of Distributed Solar on Utilities**
- **Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in Financing Solar**

Source: Berkeley Laboratories, 5/18/16

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Solicitation of Proposals for Funding from the Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Feasibility Study Program

Applications Due: July 8, 2016

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), Division of Economic Development (DED), is soliciting applications from American Indian tribes to participate in a grant program to furnish them with funding for economic development feasibility studies. Proposals to participate in the program will be selected through a competitive process.

Source: Van Ness Feldman LLP, 6/15/16

USDA Announces New No-Interest Efficiency Loan Program for Rural Utilities

Good News for EESI's On-Bill Financing Project

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) welcomes the announcement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), which was published in today's Federal Register. This new program, under the purview of USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), makes \$52 million in zero-percent loans available to rural electric cooperatives and other rural energy providers for the purpose of relending the funds to homes and small businesses to make cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. Participants repay their utility for these improvements over time through a fixed charge on their monthly utility bills. This model has been implemented with great success by electric cooperatives and other utilities across the country.

Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 6/21/16

Sun-Powered Schools: Helping Universities Go Solar

Dormitory mini fridges, dishwashers in dining halls, and campus computer labs are just a few of the things that can create large utility bills for colleges and universities across the country. The SunShot Initiative is working to make it easier for college campuses to use solar energy to help ease the financial burden of around-the-clock operation.

The Solar Market Pathways funding program has spurred two projects that have already made a big difference. In the first project, the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia is working with 15 of its member schools to aggregate their purchasing power with the ultimate goal of installing 38 megawatts of distributed solar generation by 2020. This group purchasing structure will allow the colleges to negotiate better prices for their panels, which will save them money from the get-go. Colleges can expect the savings to continue, too—each of the planned solar installations will help reduce campus operating costs while carrying other economic and environmental benefits.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/16/16

Product Offerings & Market Assessment

Energy Investment Partnerships (EIPs) are newly emerging public-private partnerships with the authority to raise capital and maximize the impact of public funding. A primary feature of EIPs is the ability to attract private capital to finance clean energy projects. Private sector participation lowers the need for significant public investment, giving state and local governments the opportunity to consider using public dollars in other ways.

Source: DOE Energy Investment Partnerships, 6/16/16

Webinar on investment partnerships available online

The Energy Investment Partnerships Webinar Series is a tailored four-part webinar series designed specifically for states and stakeholders working to develop or enhance an Energy Investment Partnership (EIP). The webinar series will provide research-based education on EIPs and how development finance agencies, public entities, foundations, energy organizations and the financing community can work together to achieve greater program and project success to drive clean energy deployment.

Source: Council of Development Finance Agencies, 5/20/16

Find more [funding sources](#).