

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 **March 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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[Previous issues](#)

[In this issue:](#)

Green Power

- CESA project seeks to grow distributed solar market
- CESA webinar shows lessons from energy-efficiency programs apply to low-income solar
- Learn about green power certification, verification from recorded webinar
- The CESA Brief for March 2017
- CESA Energy Storage webinar recording available online
- Hydroelectric power is poised for comeback in California
- Download Recording of Wind and Wildlife Webinar
- Using Solar to Meet Campus Sustainability Goals

Reports and Studies

- IREC report highlights efforts to improve clean energy safety, access, price
- Webinar: Solar+Storage for Low- and Moderate-Income Communities
- Watch DOE EnergyTalks online
- Guide Details Best Practices for Photovoltaic System Operations and Maintenance
- DOE creates new document to streamline federal PV solicitations
- Final report issued on digester repowering project

Funding

- Presidio seeking to purchase renewable energy certificates
- Co-ops Get \$202M in Power Loans
- CEC posts Grant Funding Opportunity

Green Power

CESA webinar shows lessons from energy-efficiency programs apply to low-income solar

As states seek to increase the adoption of solar among low-income households and communities, the history of low-income energy-efficiency programs provides useful lessons. In this webinar, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory researcher Ian Hoffman discussed the lessons learned from low-income energy efficiency programs, and how they can be applied to low-income solar programs. Topics covered include how programs can be tailored to different segments of the low-income population, such as multifamily vs. single-family housing, as well as what obstacles have been encountered and what new solutions are proposed.

Source: Clean States Energy Advisory, 3/23/17

CESA project seeks to grow distributed solar market

The Sustainable Solar Education Project provides timely information and educational resources to help states and municipalities ensure distributed solar electricity remains consumer friendly and benefits low- and moderate-income households. The project is developing program guides, webinars, online course material, and in-person training for government officials on topics related to strengthening solar equitability, improving consumer information, and implementing consumer protection measures. It is managed by the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) and funded through the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative's Solar Training and Education for Professionals program.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 3/16/17

Learn about green power certification, verification from recorded webinar

The Green Power Partnership webinar, The Value of Certification and Verification is available online. The webinar presented information on the importance of certifying and verifying green power purchases.

You can download the webinar presentations and the [webinar recording](#) on the GPP website.

You will need Windows Media Player or a similar media player to view the webinar. All past and upcoming webinars can be found on the GPP [Events & Webinars page](#).

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 3/9/17

The CESA Brief for March 2017

The CESA Brief e-newsletter provides periodic updates about the programs and accomplishments of the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) and its member organizations.

To keep-up-to date with all of CESA's projects, join the [mailing lists](#) .

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 3/13/17

CESA Energy Storage webinar recording available online

In this webinar, Dan Borneo and Ben Schenkman from Sandia National Laboratories presented lessons learned from the portfolio of projects that Sandia is involved with. Panelists discussed project initiation, application determination, power and energy requirements, design, and installation, as well as other aspects of a successful energy storage project such as commissioning, system testing, codes and standards, data acquisition, and operations. This presentation was followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 3/8/17

Hydroelectric power is poised for comeback in California

California's years-long drought put hydroelectric power flat on its back.

But one of the cleanest and cheapest energy sources may be poised for a comeback as the state has been drenched with rain and its mountains blanketed in snow in recent months.

Energy officials studying the numbers are cautiously optimistic the sector's output may roar back to levels seen before drought decimated watersheds, streams and reservoirs.

Such a turnaround may not make a big difference in electricity bills because many factors go into what consumers pay, experts said. Instead, the major benefit would come in the form of less air pollution.

Source: Los Angeles Times, 3/7/17

Download Recording of Wind and Wildlife Webinar

In this webinar, Taber Allison of the American Wind Wildlife Institute described the current state of knowledge of wind turbine interactions with wildlife, and explained the key issues that were discussed at the December 2016 national Wind Wildlife Research Meeting.

Source: Clean Energy Group with Northeast Wind Resource Center, 3/3/17

Using Solar to Meet Campus Sustainability Goals

**Thursday, March 30
10-11 AM MT**

University campuses are increasingly deploying solar to meet their sustainability goals. This webinar will focus on how campuses can evaluate the costs and benefits of solar PV. Jenny Heeter (NREL) will share information on the current costs of solar and how solar compares to other greenhouse gas reduction efforts that campuses are taking. Chris O'Brien (Edison Energy) will present trends in campus renewable energy purchasing, including data on on-site PV installations. O'Brien will also review factors in understanding how on-site PV can be beneficial to campuses, including the engagement benefits. Finally, Lars Lisell (NREL) will demonstrate how campuses can use NREL's [System Advisor Model](#) (SAM) to determine technical and economic feasibility of implementing a solar project. Recent work will also be highlighted that was performed as part of NREL's [solar implementation assistance program](#).

Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/8/17*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Reports and Studies

IREC report highlights efforts to improve clean energy safety, access, price

For 35 years, Interstate Renewable Energy Council has brought together multiple clean energy stakeholders, often with differing goals, to reach consensus and produce results. This report, released at IREC's 35th anniversary on March 8th in Washington, D.C., highlights eight noteworthy results of IREC's decades-long work in regulatory reform, workforce development and consumer protection that have made clean energy safer, more accessible and affordable for us all. The report also features *The House that IREC Built*, an essay from former president/CEO Jane Weissman, on how IREC's culture of responding to changing markets and political circumstances has yielded an impressive list of clean energy impacts and outcomes over its 35-year history.

Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 3/8/17*

Webinar: Solar+Storage for Low- and Moderate-Income Communities

CESA has produced a new report for states and municipalities on solar+storage for low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. The report, *Solar+Storage for Low- and Moderate-Income Communities: A Guide for States and Municipalities*, explains how solar+storage can benefit LMI residents and describes a variety of policy tools for doing so, including grants, rebates, utility procurement standards, financing support, opening markets, and soft cost reductions.

Slides from this webinar are available as a [pdf](#) .

This webinar was a presentation of CESA's [Sustainable Solar Education Project](#) .

Source: *Clean Energy States Alliance, 3/17/17*

Watch DOE EnergyTalks online

Increase your Energy IQ! EnergyTalks presentations provide in-depth explanations of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs by energy specialists. Each 10-20 minute presentation highlights an aspect of our revolutionary impact on energy innovation. The complexity and breadth of this work is world-renowned and recorded on video.

Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/9/17*

Guide Details Best Practices for Photovoltaic System Operations and Maintenance

A [best-practices report](#) on photovoltaic (PV) operations and maintenance (O&M) released by the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the PV O&M

Working Group provides valuable insights on improving the performance of PV systems, extending their lifespan, and saving costs. The report is an expanded edition of an interim report published in 2015.

Lead author Andy Walker of NREL will host a webinar on March 15, 2017, at 12 p.m. EST to discuss the guide in more detail and take questions. [Register here](#) .

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/9/17

DOE creates new document to streamline federal PV solicitations

With the increasing adaption of on-site renewable energy systems designed to feed site loads, there is a critical need to develop tools that allow the federal sector to become a mature and sophisticated consumer. [Procurement Specification Templates for On-site Solar Photovoltaic](#) is intended to reduce project development and operational risks while increasing the speed at which projects are completed; two necessary components to reach the scale required to meet mandates and achieve cost savings for taxpayers. This guide is intended to act as a living document where lessons learned from the increasing number of projects can be incorporated and provide guidance for efforts.

While additional guides will be developed to cover other renewable technologies, this guide covers on-site solar photovoltaic systems with an emphasis on third-party designed, financed, owned, and operated systems.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2/13/17

Final report issued on digester repowering project

Municipal wastewater treatment accounts for 0.5-0.6 percent of the national electricity demand and is typically the largest operating cost after staff. This infrastructure has an excellent opportunity to re-define itself and evolve to being an energy producer versus an energy user. The solids, or sludge in municipal wastewater are rich in energy potential that can be harnessed when treated with the right anaerobic digestion technology.

A demonstration project by the California Energy Commission evaluated the measure of retrofitting a conventional digester with an [Omnivore digester](#) to increase biogas production.

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Presidio seeking to purchase renewable energy certificates

The Presidio Trust is seeking to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates to meet their renewable energy objectives through a solicitation issued by Western Area Power Administration. Responses to the Request for Proposal must be received via mail or fax before April 14 at 4:30 p.m. PDT.

WAPA will consider bids that meet Renewable Electric Energy and REC definitions and qualifications. Using the flexibility allowed under WAPA's power marketing authority, the REC contract will be awarded for the best overall value to Presidio while meeting the terms

of the RFP. WAPA is encouraging small and minority-owned businesses and Native American tribes to apply.

Source: Western Area Power Administration Renewable Resources for Federal Agencies, 3/29/17

Co-ops Get \$202M in Power Loans

The latest round of loans from the Rural Utilities Service will direct \$202 million for transmission and distribution projects to electric cooperatives in nine states.

Roger Glendenning, acting deputy undersecretary for rural development at the Department of Agriculture, made the announcement Feb. 28.

"USDA continues to be a partner with cooperatives and utilities to expand and modernize the rural electric grid," Glendenning said. "These loans represent the latest efforts to create jobs, help grow the rural economy, and support new technology."

The money comes from the RUS Electric Loan Program, which provides low-cost loans and loan guarantees, generally with a repayment period not to exceed 35 years.

Source: Cooperative.com, 3/2/17

CEC posts Grant Funding Opportunity

The following documents for GFO-16-509 - Geothermal Grant and Loan Program (GRDA) - Mineral Recovery from Geothermal Brines are now available on the California Energy Commission website:

- Pre-Application Workshop Participant List
- Pre-Application Workshop Webex recording
- Pre-Application Workshop Presentation

Source: California Energy Commission, 2/23/17

Find more [funding sources](#).