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 **November 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!

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Green Power

The feds just gave batteries and rooftop solar panels access to big-time energy markets

Distributed energy will be able to play in wholesale energy markets. That's a big deal.

Given the state of US politics, it's safe to say that very few people are paying attention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) right now — even fewer than usual, I mean.

However, in its quiet and nerdy way, FERC just did something that could help drive a paradigm shift in US energy markets, making them cleaner, smarter, more flexible, and more resilient. In short, the agency proposes to give distributed energy resources (DERs) — batteries, solar panels, smart energy-management software — access to markets where they can compete directly with big power plants. That could open up huge new sources of investment, enabling DER markets to scale up quickly.

Source: Vox, 11/22/16

SunShot Prize: Solar in Your Community Challenge

The SunShot Prize: Solar in Your Community Challenge is a prize competition that aims to expand solar electricity access to all Americans, especially underserved segments such as low- and moderate-income (LMI) households state, local, and tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations. In order to make solar more accessible and inclusive for every American, the Challenge works to spur the development of new and innovative financial and business models that serve non-rooftop solar users such as community solar.

Offering $5 million in cash prizes and technical assistance over 18 months, the Challenge supports teams across the country to develop projects or programs that expand solar access to underserved groups, while proving that these business models can be widely replicated and adopted by similar groups.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 11/21/16

Green Power Partnership Program Update for October 2016

Green Power Partnership (GPP) Program Updates are published monthly and provide the latest news and updates on the Partnership.

- GPP Announces 2016 Green Power Leadership Award Winners
- Highlights from the 2016 Renewable Energy Markets Conference
- EPA Releases Updated Top Partner Lists
- EPA Launches 2016–17 College & University Challenge
- Proposed Revisions to GPP Program Requirements

- In the News—Recent Press on the Green Power Partnership
- On Twitter? Use #EPAGreenPower in Your Tweets
- Partner Spotlight: Ulster County, New York
- Upcoming GPP Webinar—Solar Carports: Turning University Parking Facilities into Renewable Electricity Plants

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 10/31/16

Zombie wind and solar? How repowering old facilities helps renewables keep cutting costs

Old facilities are beginning to be replaced with newer, more efficient technologies, cutting costs and delivering more power

Renewable energy is a growth industry, so most media attention goes to installment numbers, expansion rates, and cost declines. Less is paid to the other side of the equation — what happens to facilities when they reach the end of their productive lives.

For most fossil facilities, reaching a retirement age means being decommissioned and demolished, if not retrofitted with a new turbine and cleaner fuel. But despite some persistent media rumors of "abandoned" wind turbines or assertions from a certain presidential candidate that "half of [turbines] are broken" or "rusted and rotting," the end of one renewable energy facility's life most often marks the beginning of another.

Source: Utility Dive, 10/26/16

Find more publications and webinars.

Reports and Studies

Upcoming DGIC Webinar Highlights Municipal Utilities Exploring Solar Options for Their Communities

Dec. 8, 2016
12:00–1:30 p.m. MT
DGIC: Key Outcomes of NREL's Utility Technical Assistance Program

This meeting will highlight the experiences of two utilities who applied for and received assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy's Utility Solar Technical Assistance program pilot. The webinar will discuss two of these in-depth projects: (1) financial viability of co-located solar-plus-storage facilities in Pasadena, CA, and (2) project finance for community solar in the U.S. Midwest. The technical assistance recipients and NREL subject matter experts will discuss the key outcomes and lessons learned from these experiences.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratories, 11/17/16

Solar Information for Consumers: A Guide for States

States have an increasingly important opportunity to present the public with sound, unbiased, user-friendly information on solar energy. To help states play this role, the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) has produced Solar Information for Consumers: A Guide for States. The guide explains why states should provide consumer information on solar, describes the types of information that can be useful, and points out existing educational efforts by states and other entities that provide models and useful resource information. Although the focus of the guide is on educational efforts by states, its messages and approaches can apply to municipalities, counties, and municipal utilities that want to provide consumers with information on solar.

In a **webinar** recorded on Thursday, Nov. 17, CESA's Executive Director Warren Leon provided an overview of the new program guide.

This publication is one in a series of guides being produced by CESA as part of its **Sustainable Solar Education Project**.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 11/13/16

Sharing the Wealth: Providing Access to More Solar Data

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) recently published the ninth edition of its **Tracking the Sun report**, a SunShot Initiative-funded **summary of trends** in the installed price of residential and non-residential solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. The report finds what you would expect of this booming industry: solar energy system pricing is at an all-time low. But what's also exciting is that this year, for the first time, Berkeley Lab publicly shared the data used in the report analysis, making fully accessible all non-confidential data from the approximately 800,000 solar energy systems tracked in the latest edition of the report.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 11/21/16

Find more publications and webinars.

Funding

Funding available for solar research projects

SunShot has four new funding opportunities with approaching deadlines:

- The SunShot Technology to Market 3 funding opportunity has $30 million available for projects that accelerate the commercialization of products and solutions that can help to drive down the cost of solar energy. Sign up for an informational webinar on November 22. Concept papers are due December 12.

- The Photovoltaic Research and Development 2: Modules and Systems funding opportunity has $25 million available to improve PV module and system design, including hardware and software solutions that facilitate the rapid installation and interconnection of PV systems. Sign up for an informational webinar on November 21. Concept papers are due December 14.

- The Solar Forecasting 2 funding opportunity has $10 million available for projects focused on improving solar irradiance and power forecasts used by utilities. Sign up for an informational webinar on November 21. Concept papers are due December 30.

- The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer funding opportunity has four new solar energy topics that encourage small businesses to conduct research and technology development with the potential for future commercialization. The 2017 Phase 1, Release 2 solar topics include concentrating solar power, photovoltaic performance, and energy storage. Applications are due February 17.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 11/17/16

Up to $6 Million Available to Deploy Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy on Indian Lands

Today, during the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Program Review, Office Director Chris Deschene announced the issuance of a new funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for up to $6 million to install energy efficiency measures and deploy clean energy systems on Indian lands.

Through this FOA, the Office of Indian Energy will continue its efforts to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives and help build the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to implement those energy solutions.

The full Funding Opportunity Announcement is available online on EERE Exchange. Applications are due Feb. 7, 2017.

Source: DOE Office of Indian Energy, 11/14/16

Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update

Nine opportunities totaling over $33.5 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Electricity & Transmission
- Environment
- Hydropower
- Natural Gas & Oil
- Water

Visit the **Knowledge Center** for more information.

Source: Van Ness Feldman LLP, 11/1/16

Find more funding sources.