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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2014

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### **SOLAR NOW! UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHTS RENEWABLE ENERGY TRAILER AND SENATOR BRUCE STARR**

**Hillsboro, OR:** In partnership with the conference host, the City of Hillsboro, Solar Oregon kicks-off the fifth annual Solar Now! University (SNU 2014) with a Meet and Greet event tonight at SolarWorld's Americas Headquarters. In addition to networking opportunities, participants will have the chance to tour the SolarWorld facility and hear remarks from the President of SolarWorld Industries America Inc Mukesh Dulani, Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey, and others leaders in the solar industry.

Tomorrow morning, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the opening session starts at the Hillsboro Public Library. The conference will officially begin with keynote presentations from Joshua Huneycutt of the U.S. Department of Energy and Kristen Ardani of the National Renewable Energy Lab. The program will continue all day Friday and Saturday morning and will offer a solution-centered in-depth exploration into the solar sector of the Pacific Northwest region with focus on four key areas: community solar, innovation and technology, solarize train the trainer, and Northwest Solar Communities' work to reduce or remove soft costs barriers to solar in our region.

In addition, the public is encouraged to stop by the Hillsboro Public Library throughout Friday and Saturday morning to explore the Lake County Resources Initiative Renewable Energy Demonstration Trailer. The trailer has traveled throughout the communities of Lake County, OR, giving hands-on workshops on a variety of renewable energy topics including ground source heat pumps, solar pivots, solar hot water, energy efficiency, weatherization, and wind systems. Families and children will have the opportunity to use wind and solar kits, learn the basics of wind and solar energy, how to build a wind turbine, and demonstrate the fundamentals of electricity through solar.

The conference will close on Saturday afternoon with the Solar Now! University Recognition Luncheon at Cornelius Pass Roadhouse. Solar Oregon will recognize five communities throughout Oregon that have been awarded \$10,000 mini-grants to begin solar initiatives in their neighborhoods. These grants were made possible by Solar Oregon's involvement with Northwest Solar Communities, a Rooftop Solar Challenge II grant program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Additionally, Solar Oregon will recognize Oregon State Senator Bruce Starr for his leadership in Oregon on Community Solar. In the 2014 legislative session, Senator Starr sponsored the recently passed SB 1520. The bill added Renewable Energy Cooperatives to the existing list of cooperatives that are exempted from securities registration in Oregon and will make it easier and less costly for

groups of Oregonians to pool their resources and develop solar installations and other renewable energy technologies.

For more information on the SNU 2014 please visit <http://solaroregon.org/solar-now>.

**Meet and Greet Kick-off**

6pm - 9pm on Thursday, June 12th  
SolarWorld's U.S. Headquarters  
25300 NW Evergreen Rd.  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Solar Now! University Recognition Luncheon**

12:30pm -2pm Saturday June 14th  
Cornelius Pass Roadhouse  
4045 NW Cornelius Pass Rd.,  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Solar Now! University and Renewable Energy**

**Trailer Demonstration:**

8am - 5pm on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 12:30pm on Saturday June 14th  
Hillsboro Public Library  
2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

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**About Solar Oregon**

Founded in 1979, Solar Oregon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that is supported by its member organizations, individuals, corporations and partners. For thirty four years, Solar Oregon has built a reputation as a trusted, unbiased source of solar information, and is an industry connector and a driving force for solar advocacy in the Pacific Northwest. <http://solaroregon.org>