



## October 2016 Newsletter

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### A Message from Solar Oregon Board President,

Hello from Solar Oregon! It is an exciting time for solar energy in Oregon. As many of you know Oregon passed Senate Bill 1547 increasing Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50%, one of the most aggressive standards in the country. This commitment leads to direct investments in solar and wind energy, which translate to more green jobs and clean energy for us all.

Solar Oregon's mission is to lead the way to a clean energy future. **The opportunities for Solar Oregon to educate the public about clean energy adoption are vast and we need your help ensuring we can reach as many households, classrooms, and communities as possible. [Become Solar Oregon's newest member](#) or [donate to our mission today!](#)**

As you read this newsletter, you'll see all of the areas where Solar Oregon is involved. We want to hear from you as we plan our activities for 2017, you'll be getting a survey soon asking for your input on where Solar Oregon should prioritize our efforts. So keep your eyes open for that.

The future of Oregon can be powered by clean renewable energy and Solar Oregon's mission of building knowledge through education can help insure that solar technology is applied and planned for wherever possible.

We look forward to seeing you at [a Solar Oregon event](#) soon,

Zach Henkin  
Solar Oregon Board President

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### Solar Oregon Educating Youth in PPS About Solar

The Portland Public School Solar Roofs Partnership Project is a combined partnership between Portland General Electric, Energy Trust of Oregon, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Solar Oregon, and more to bring solar industry professionals into classrooms to highlight the diversity of careers in the renewable energy sector.

Between now and May 2017, Solar Oregon will be matching solar professional volunteers with teacher needs to engage youth in conversations about renewable energy and solar (PV) electricity specifically. [Contact us](#) for more information.

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### Community Solar: An Exciting Next Step for Solar in Oregon

Community solar is a phrase that has been popping up in lots of places around the country. Essentially, community solar allows consumers who can't put solar on their roof for some reason (too much shade, they rent, local homeowner associations are too restrictive) to buy into a larger system and see the energy benefits on their electric bill, just as if they had the solar panels on their roof.

In February 2016, the Oregon legislature passed a bill that created a policy framework for community solar in Oregon. The policy allows for a lot of flexibility to create a variety of projects that would be available for consumers. The Oregon Public Utility Commission is currently writing the rules for a community solar program for the private utilities (Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and Idaho Power). Those rules will be finished by July 2017 and the first community solar projects will come online either in late 2017 or early 2018.

If you are a customer of a consumer-owned utility, those utilities can do whatever they want. You can approach your elected board to discuss community solar opportunities.

Community solar could allow many Oregonians who want to go solar now but can't an opportunity to do just that. It's really exciting. It will be important for Solar Oregon to help consumers understand what community solar means and how to participate as the program is developed. So you'll be seeing a lot more about it. If you want to follow the community solar issue at the Oregon Public Utility Commission, you can contact the [Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association](#) or [NWSEED](#).

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## What is Solar's Potential in Oregon?

Solar has been growing in Oregon, despite our rainy reputation. But how much of Oregon's energy can solar provide? That is the question that a project currently being conducted by the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association, the state's solar trade group.

Their project is defining exactly how much solar is installed in the state and where. It is also looking at how much solar could be installed over the next 10 years. The project will then look at what's standing in the way to make that potential a reality, whether those obstacles are policy related, workforce related or something else.

Initial findings from the project will be discussed at the [NW Clean and Affordable Energy Conference](#) in Portland on November 17. The project report will be finalized and released in January 2017. Solar advocates throughout Oregon will then have a roadmap to follow to significantly expand solar across the state. Stay tuned!

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## The Energy Trust of Oregon Has New Leadership



From Energy Trust of Oregon- Mike joined Energy Trust on August 15 after 15 years with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority where he was both the director of the New York City office and director of multifamily programs. NYSERDA promotes energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources to reduce customer energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions, while accelerating economic growth.

Mike brings decades of experience in promoting energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies throughout all sectors of the economy. He'll do the same at Energy Trust of Oregon, helping us reach and serve as many customers as possible with clean and affordable energy that powers our state's economy.

We asked Mike to share a little bit about himself as he arrived at Energy Trust for his first day of work: What are you most looking forward to about Oregon?

*Other than working with Energy Trust staff and the many businesses and organizations engaged in this work, I am looking forward to living in the Northwest. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and lived in Anchorage when my father was stationed there when I was younger. I fell in love with the natural environment there. The Pacific Northwest's natural beauty is a draw for me and I cannot wait to explore it.*

[Read the full interview here.](#)

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## Support Solar Oregon Today!

Solar Oregon works hard to get solar built in Oregon. But we can't do our work without the support of people such as you! For 36 years, we've been making solar happen with workshops, tours, technical support, training, education, outreach, research, and advocacy. But we've still got a long way yet to go until Oregon's clean energy future is secure.

We'd love to have you as a member -- [Join today](#) or make an [end of the year gift](#).

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## Upcoming Events

- [November 2](#), 6:30pm - 8:00pm - Basics of Solar workshop, Milwaukie
- [November 17](#), Clean & Affordable Energy Conference- @ 10:50am *An Economic Analysis of Solar Potential in Oregon* will be presented and @ 2:35pm *2017 Oregon Solar Policy Agenda* will be presented.
- [November 17](#), 6:00pm - 7:30pm - Basics of Solar workshop, Hillsboro
- [December 2](#), 6:00pm - 7:30pm - Basics of Solar workshop, Milwaukie
- **December 10, Save the date for Solar Oregon Member Meeting**
- December 15, 7:30pm @ Pips and Bounce- Solar Oregon fundraising event

Stay up-to-date by viewing our [Events](#) site!



Solar Oregon | 503.231.5662 | [info@solaroregon.org](mailto:info@solaroregon.org) | [www.solaroregon.org](http://www.solaroregon.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

