

## Newsletter

Eco Solar is a small, innovative contracting company devoted to the environmental welfare of the earth...



All of us at Eco Solar want to wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2010. In this issue, we would like to highlight some of our accomplishments in 2009, before taking a look at what lies ahead in the coming year. We will also provide further insight into what is happening in renewables.



In 2009, Eco Solar installed 10 Residential Solar Systems for a total of 45,485 Watts.

In addition:

A 1,755 Watt Tribal installation;

A Custom 2,460 Watt Mobile Installation for the Dept. of Forestry;

Three commercial systems for a total of 52,755 Watts; and

Two systems under contract, an apartment building and a farm irrigation pump system.



**Total PV Solar installed in 2009: 102,455 Watts**

**Total installed in 2007-2008: 32,720**

**Eco Solar is growing by leaps and bounds, and we are looking forward to even greater things in 2010.**

### **Feed-in-Tariff Coming To K-Falls in April 2010**

On January 6, 2010 in Salem, the PUC is holding the only public meeting prior to the Administrative Law Judge taking the information under consideration to give form to the recent law enacted last summer. House Bill 3039 is legislation designed to provide 30 MW of solar energy during 2010. How that is going to play out will be determined by the judge and a 12-panel council following the open meeting. The legislation is slated to go into effect on April 1, 2010. There is still much to hammer out since many interests are involved in this pilot program. If you or someone you know would like to offer an opinion or feed-back, please let us know before Jan. 6th so that we can forward that to someone who can present it at the upcoming meeting.

### **History of the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT)**

Germany enacted FIT legislation in 2000 which required the utility companies to pay a specific rate for clean power generated and fed into the grid. Germany implemented a multiple layered rate system for different types of power generated. It was so successful, they met their 10-year goal three years ahead of schedule. Various forms of this model are being considered in at least 25 states across the U.S.

## Oregon gets High Marks for Renewables

John M. Vincent/*The Oregonian*.

A report gives Oregon high marks for policies encouraging residential renewable power sources like rooftop solar. A report from renewable energy advocates says Oregon is among the best states for regulations that encourage distributed renewable energy, like residential solar panels.

The report, produced by the [Network for New Energy Choices](#), gives Oregon an A for net metering and a B for interconnection, and it uses the state as a case study in best practices.

"The fact that Oregon is continually working to facilitate and incentivize renewable energy makes it one of the nation's leaders in renewable energy policy," the report says.

## Interest in solar-thermal energy picks up steam

POSTED: Monday, November 16, 2009 at 09:29 PM PT  
Excerpted from the article by: [Nathalie Weinstein](#)



The Romans used solar-thermal energy to heat their tubs. Now, thousands of years later, modern systems are being added to commercial buildings to handle large hot-water loads, according to the Energy Trust of Oregon. But Doug Bolen, commercial solar program manager for Energy Trust wants to see more.

"I don't think that commercial building owners are aware of what solar can do for them," Bolen said. "There are a number of engineering and installation firms who can install these systems, but there is not a huge sales force out there that goes after these buildings."

"You're not changing (the solar energy) into electricity like photovoltaics, so it's a more efficient process," said Frank Vignola, director of the Solar Radiation Monitoring Lab at the University of Oregon. "The excess energy is turned into heat so you don't lose as much energy."

Despite being more efficient than photovoltaic systems, solar-thermal has a bad reputation in Oregon, according to John Sorenson of Neighborhood Natural Energy, because of poor installations performed in the 1970s. As the technology gained popularity, many fly-by-night companies performed improper installations of the systems, causing roof

leaks, and sometimes causing entire ceilings to cave in.

"It was the people, not the technology," Sorenson said. "But people associated the two."

But today, companies must meet strict training qualifications before Energy Trust will certify them to perform solar-thermal installations in commercial buildings. Qualification for tax credits is dependent on installation by a certified firm.

Bolen says tax credits can significantly lower the costs of a solar-thermal energy system. The Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit will cover 50 percent of the cost, a federal energy tax credit will cover 30 percent, and Energy Trust incentives - which are dependent on how much energy a system produces - can cover 10 to 15 percent.

## Oregon Gets \$30 Million from Stimulus Funds

Excerpted from an article by [Matthew Preusch](#), *The Oregonian* October 27, 2009, 10:12AM

The U.S. Department of Energy announced that \$3.4 Billion of the stimulus funds will go to smart grid projects, and about \$30 million of that is headed to Oregon.

Smart grid improvements are meant to make energy use more efficient and include things like meters that charge homeowners less for power that's used when overall electricity demand is low.

The state-by-state list of projects that will receive the funding, which is part of the federal stimulus bill, has two entries for Oregon.

In Portland, the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative will get about \$20 million to "implement a smart grid system, including more than 95,000 smart meters, substation equipment, and load management devices, that will integrate 15 electric cooperatives across four states."

And the Central Lincoln People's Utility District in Newport will receive nearly \$10 million to install smart grid technology for its 38,000 customers.



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