

## Newsletter

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



In this issue we want to point to the Home Builders Show this coming weekend, March 5, 6 & 7 at the Fairgrounds. We have put together a display that will 'knock your socks off.' We have solar for every interested soul - grid-tied, off-grid, commercial & even a killer hybrid system that we designed, and incentives apply.

**You won't want to miss this show!**

### Solar Terms 101

**DG (distributed generation):** also known as on-site generation, DG is when electricity is generated close to where it is used, such as your roof. Generally, DG reduces the amount of energy lost, size and number of power lines and power plants necessary to transmit energy from generating stations.

**NEG & NEM (net energy generation & net energy metering):** with home solar, you can end up generating more or less electricity than you use. NEG is the total electricity your panels produce minus the electricity you use from the grid. NEM means that the electricity you do generate will feed into the grid and earn you credits against the electricity you do pull from the grid. Your utility bill will then reflect only the net energy you've pulled from the utility.

**PPA (power purchase agreement):** a financing option for residential solar in which a solar company owns (and installs, monitors, maintains) your solar panels; you pay for electricity. With PPAs, you avoid the high upfront costs of installing solar and pay a monthly rate that depends on how much energy your panels produce.

**You can still take advantage of our Referral Program!**

### **NEW** Customer Referral Program

Eco Solar is offering a \$100 incentive to anyone who refers a customer that buys a solar installation from us.

Keep an eye open for our direct marketing program for a free site analysis.

### Solar in the News

#### *Solar Wine Production*

By STEPHANIE - SOLARPANELSPOWER.NET  
Originally Published November 26, 2009

As someone who really enjoys fine wines, I was pleasantly surprised by news about an Oregon-based winery that has implemented the power of the sun through the entire winemaking process. That's right – solar wine production is the wave of the future for vintners concerned about the environment and the longevity of certain grape varieties. Oh, and it's also great for those wanting to save some serious cash on utility bills. What a way to... um... "crush" the competition!

Of course, we all know that grapes grow in sunlight. But once they are harvested, most wineries rely on electricity from the grid (usually coal-based) to power the fermentation process and light up the facilities. Not at the Torii Mor Winery in Yamhill County, Oregon! They are solar from start to finish – an excellent example of solar wine production.

Read original post [here](#)

#### *Christmas Valley 5/MW Solar Project*

Obsidian Finance LLC dba Outback Solar, LLC is developing Oregon's first larger utility scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic project. It will have an installed capacity of just under 5 megawatts (MW). The system will produce over 10,000,000 kWh of electricity each year, enough to power over 1,300 homes in the Northwest. The project is being developed in Lake County, Oregon, near Christmas Valley.

The project will be owned, financed and maintained by Outback Solar, under a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Washington public utility districts and public power entities. Obsidian Renewables expects to break ground on the Outback Solar project in March 2010.

[http://www.obsidianfinance.com/renewables\\_projects.asp](http://www.obsidianfinance.com/renewables_projects.asp)

## *Church Harnessing the Sun*

By LAURENT BONCZIK - Newberg Graphic  
Published January 8, 2010

Family Life Church, one of the largest congregations in the town of Newberg, will soon be saving thousands of dollars in annual electrical bills, thanks to three large arrays of solar panels installed in their backyard at no cost to them.

While the panels, all 360 of them, were installed in December, work crews were still cleaning and tidying up this week and PGE was supposed to do the final hook-up Friday.

"We've been discussing for several years ways to develop our property," Pastor Dave Benson said. The church uses about three-and-a-half of a six-and-a-half-acre parcel lodged between two manufacturing plants and Highway 219. The church's location caught the eye of Matt Saager, a project manager for Oregon Electric Group who lives in Newberg.

Saager pitched Benson about installing the nearly \$600,000 system on his property. "It was almost like 'that's too good to be true,'" Benson said after Saager told him it wouldn't cost the church any money up front and they would benefit from lower electrical rates.

This was made possible because the church doesn't pay taxes but OEG does. FLC therefore cannot benefit from state and federal tax credit programs for renewable energy, but OEG can. And this is where the numbers all add up for businesses such as OEG. They install a solar array and recoup the costs through various tax breaks and incentives and by selling the electricity to FLC at the same cost PGE would, minus the usual governmental taxes and surcharges. After six years the solar array is sold to the church at "fair market value."

Read original post [here](#)

## *Feed-in Tariffs Is Coming & BETC Is Going*

Apparently, the Oregon pilot feed-in tariff implementation date has been pushed out to July 1st. Closing comments from OREP, PUC Staff, and all interveners are now posted at:  
<http://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/docket.asp?DocketID=15820>. Staff recommended incentive rates are at Table 1 on Page 21 of their comments.

Fortunately, all three incentives are still in place which can greatly assist the small business and residential customer to install affordable solar on their buildings. As the feed-in tariff progresses, and the legislature continues to re-visit the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC), we want to encourage those of you with commercial interests who want to take advantage of these incentives to get your hat into the ring soon because it is our understanding that the BETC will be

going away in mid-2012. There is an application process, although, to date, all of our customers have been approved.

## *Lawmakers Want 10 Million Solar Rooftops*

Congressional lawmakers earlier this month introduced legislation designed to get photovoltaic solar panels installed on 10 million rooftops across the United States over the next 10 years. The bill, offered by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), also would increase the capacity of solar hot water by an estimated 10 million gallons over the same period.

The 10 Million Solar Roofs and 10 Million Gallons of Solar Hot Water bill would provide rebates to various property owners to install photovoltaic (PV) and solar hot water heating systems. The maximum rebate for PV systems would begin at \$1.75 per watt and decline to \$0.50 per watt in 2018. The maximum solar thermal rebate would total \$1 per watt.

Eligible recipients include homeowners, businesses, nonprofit entities, and state and local governments. The properties on which the solar systems would be installed would have to be located within the U.S. and meet energy-efficiency criteria designated by the U.S. Department of Energy. Solar systems could not exceed two megawatts.

<http://constructionadvisortoday.com/2010/02/lawmakers-want-10-million-solar-rooftops.html>

[Senator Sander's legislative comment contact form](http://sandersonsenate.gov/contact)  
<http://sandersonsenate.gov/contact>

## *Now Is The Time To Change Your Tilt*

For those of you who have a pole-mounted system, the following dates are for changing your tilt: February 4, May 6, August 6 and November 6. Contact us with Qs.

For more information or to set up a site visit, contact us at (541) 273-3200 or [ajjani@ecosolarnow.com](mailto:ajjani@ecosolarnow.com) or visit our website: [www.EcoSolarNow.com](http://www.EcoSolarNow.com) or simply drop in and visit our office at 920 Oak Avenue in downtown K-Falls.



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