



Solar Washington Newsletter

SUMMER SOLSTICE 2006

WWW.SOLARWASHINGTON.ORG

What's in this issue:

- ☀ [Northwest Solar Group](#)
- ☀ [Vashon Island PUD](#)
- ☀ [Solar Works in Bellingham](#)
- ☀ [President's column](#)
- ☀ [Hot water from a heat pump](#)
- ☀ [Wind Conference Report](#)
- ☀ [Choose a heating appliance](#)
- ☀ [Wind Farm Report](#)
- ☀ [Solar Tour coming Oct. 7th](#)
- ☀ [Webmaster's Column](#)

98% of Americans endorse RE goal

Ninety-eight percent of voters say they support paying for research and development of renewable energy and building new production facilities, that would be worth it, to move us toward the goal of having 25% of the country's energy come from RE sources by the year 2025. This result was released in March, 2006, of a poll of 1,000 registered voters, by Public Opinion Strategies of Alexandria, VA.

The survey also revealed that 80% of voters favor financial incentives, and 92% support minimum government standards for the use of renewable energy by the private sector.

For more info, go to www.25x25.org

Northwest Solar Group began with a seed

They are a bunch of solar enthusiasts in the Tacoma area who want to spread the word and help others "Go Solar!"

See

[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/01_BeganWithASeed.pdf]



A little island, a big idea

Seeking more energy independence, some on Vashon Island think the time has come for starting their own Public Utility District. They gathered more than enough signatures and it will be voted on in November.

See [http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/02_LittleIsland.pdf]

Our President's column

ASES Conference, new arrivals & more

Pamela Burton talks about the upcoming ASES Conference, other summer solar events, taking action and new arrivals, including her new electric vehicle which charges from the sun! See

[<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/04.Pres.pdf>]



Hot water from a heat pump?

Did you know your water heater can be run by a heat pump? These retrofit & self-contained units are about 2-1/2 times more energy efficient than the traditional electric & gas water heaters. And they meet the federal tax rebate program, for up to \$300.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/05.HeatPump.pdf>]

Choosing a heating appliance

Electric power may be the primary energy source of the future. What seems to be in store for traditional fuels? What type of heating appliance should we tell people planning their new home, or major addition, to choose? What do you think? See

[<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/07.ElectricPower.pdf>]

Why Use Florescent bulbs?

Fluorescent bulbs generally last 10 times longer than traditional bulbs, while using only one-fourth the energy. The up-front cost to purchase fluorescent bulbs is higher, but you will ultimately save money and save energy. For more information on Energy Efficient Lighting visit the EPA's Energy Star program at www.energystar.gov.

Recycle Fluorescent Bulbs

Fluorescent bulbs contain potentially harmful substances, such as the highly toxic heavy metals cadmium, lead and mercury. To prevent these from entering the environment and posing a public health risk, recycle old fluorescent bulbs. This ensures that the contents will not leak into the soil, air or groundwater. Recyclers properly handle the toxic materials in fluorescents, and also recycle the glass and metal. Most retailers charge a small fee to cover the cost of recycling fluorescent bulbs. Call ahead to find out what the recycling fee is.

We're Solar Washington

Solar Washington is a chapter of the American Solar Energy Society. We're a private, not-for-profit association for people and organizations interested in solar power, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

We welcome any persons or organizations interested in helping to raise the level of public awareness for this purpose

For membership info, go to www.solarwashington.org/become/index.html

Website and email:

www.solarwashington.org

info@solarwashington.org

Phone: (206) 222-7113

Next meeting: Please watch our website for the next meeting. We hope to see you then.

Time is right for Solar

Dana Brandt discusses how Solar electricity works in Bellingham. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/03.TimIsRight.pdf>]

Wind Conference Report

Meg Gluckman attended the annual American Wind Energy Association conference in Pittsburgh and gives a report.

Congratulations to board member Heather Rhoads-Weaver for being awarded "Small Wind Advocate of the Year" at the Pittsburg conference. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/06.WindConfReport.pdf>]



Heather Rhoads-Weaver

Wind Farm Report shows no property value loss

New York study finds no impact on property values from local wind farm. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/08.WindFarmReport.pdf>]

Solar Tour Coming October 7th



This year will be Solar Washington's 6th year to participate in the annual National Solar Tour. We have just begun to organize this year's tour and are inviting you to join us if you have a solar site. Pam shares highlights so far - including Zelonedom in Olympia. See

[<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/10.Tour.pdf>]

Movie released, Podcasting, and more

Our webmaster welcomes the new newsletter editor. He also tells about what is available through podcasting, including an interview with the director of "Who Killed the Electric Car?" See [www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0606/09.Webmaster.pdf]

As always, if you want to make your voice heard in this newsletter, contact us at newsletter@solarwashington.org.