



Solar Washington Newsletter

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100 MPG Car?

That is the goal set by a for-profit charity fund, created by Google. It was announced this summer that Google is starting a research effort into a hybrid of ethanol, plug-in electric & gas, car. (Post Intelligencer)

New Type of Battery

MIT has announced a new type of lithium nickel manganese oxide battery that could become a cheaper alternative to the batteries that now power hybrid electric cars. It also charges & discharges ten times faster.

Home Depot

Home Depot is selling solar attic fans. Can solar panels be far behind?

Colorado Consumers Will Save

A new study says that energy consumers in Colorado will save more than \$251 million over the next 20 years because of the utility's current fleet of wind plants. (Renewable Energy Access)

Birth of a Solar Washington Chapter in Bellingham

It has been two years since the Solar Washington board challenged itself to grow subchapters (Colorado ASES state chapter CRES has done this successfully). The board has traveled the state, participating in public events and meeting with local folks. Bellingham is the second community (we also have a Southwest Chapter) to meet the challenge of organizing and formalize their relationship with the state chapter. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/B-Ham.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/B-Ham.pdf)



Community Renewable Energy

For decades, the conventional wisdom about developing energy projects in the U.S. has been that "big" always meant cheaper, and therefore better, projects. This produced what has become our modern centralized electric power system, fueled primarily by coal, natural gas and nuclear power. See [\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/CommRE.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/CommRE.pdf)

2nd Annual Solar Drag Race on 6/24/2006



Unlike other races that you may be familiar with, solar drag racing is different. Using no batteries or other pre-charged energy devices solar drag racing uses only sunlight that can be captured by the vehicle while it is running. Shown at left is an attempt to cool PV panels to increase efficiency just before the race. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Drag.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Drag.pdf)

Boehm Home: Not Just a House

A popular home building trend in our state seems to be homeowners buying property with acreage and then planning (over a period of years) for the design and construction of a home that they will live in for many years (many say planning for retirement). The Boehm home, an example of this strategy, will be featured on the Clark/Cowlitz Solar Tour. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Boehm.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Boehm.pdf)

California Enacts Landmark Global Warming Measure

In California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed a landmark measure to curb global warming. The law commits California to the goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by 2020. It also mandates that California establish emission controls on large industrial sectors including utilities, oil refineries and cement manufacturing. The legislation is widely considered the country's most ambitious effort so far to combat global warming. (DemocracyNow.org)

Energy Report Released

The Worldwatch Institute and the Center for American Progress released a report on 9/18/2006 titled, "American Energy: The Renewable Path to Energy Security." Go to <http://americanenergynow.org>

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.

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.

Our President's Column

Energy Answers, Celebrating and Tour

Read about renewable energy's answer to the challenge of global warming, climate change and shortage of fossil fuels. Pamela Burton is celebrating the first year living with a 6 kilowatt roof that produced 6261kWh and earned \$616.45 during just 9 months of the first year from the state incentive program. The annual Washington State ASES solar tour has grown tremendously in six years from four sites in King County to over 165 sites in 22 regions. Hope you can take the tour. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Prez.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Prez.pdf)

Biodiesel: A Solar Fuel!



This year's solar tour will feature sites with alternatively fueled vehicles including Dr. Dan's Biodiesel station in Ballard. There's also Lyle Rudensey, M.Ed., aka "BioLyle" in Seattle who consults, and gives classes, workshops, and school assemblies about biodiesel. He will be showing his PV, solar water heater, and

biodiesel systems as part of the Solar Tour. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/BioD.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/BioD.pdf)

Solar Power Case Study: An Old Idea with New Economics

John Watts has represented the third ward on the Bellingham City Council since 1999. His main topic of interest – as growth occurs – is determining how to preserve our quality of life, including the natural environment. The Watts/Casey Home is one of the homes featured on this year's Bellingham Solar Tour. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Watts.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Watts.pdf)

Future of Message Board In Question

Webmaster George Meyer talks about what's happening with our Message Board. See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Web.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/Web.pdf)

Last minute addition - Sad News

Dr. Iris Ovshinsky, co-founder, Vice President, and director of Energy Conversion Devices, Inc., died at her Michigan home August 16. She and her husband Stan were featured in the recent film "Who Killed the Electric Car?" See

[\[http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/IrisO.pdf\]](http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0609/IrisO.pdf)