



Solar Washington Newsletter

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Birth of a SW Chapter in Jefferson County

Our board is happy to announce that the Jefferson Energy Center has become a chapter of Solar Washington. Solar Washington member and regional tour coordinator Andy Cochrane reports on their activities and goals for the coming year. If you live on the Olympic Peninsula or in the north part of the state, your membership to Solar Washington includes a membership in one of the two northern chapters.



(Bellingham also has an active chapter.) See

[<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/JEC.doc>]

An Emerging Community-Supported Solar Energy Program

Solar Washington members Joe & Tammy Deets and members of Sustainable Bainbridge have

organized to enlighten the citizens, and city government as well, about how to live lighter on the land. City forums, Earth Day activities and the addition of a Bainbridge/Kitsap Solar Tour to the annual ASES/Solar Washington solar tour are only the beginning.



See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Bainbridge.doc>]

Clark Public Utilities offer Rebates & Loans

Barb Wesley, Solar Washington Utility Member from Clark Public Utilities, reports on extras that are offered to their customers including rebates and loans for both solar hot water and photovoltaic installations. If you live in the southwest part of the state and join Solar Washington you can also join a vibrant chapter.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Clark.doc>]

Energy Tax Credits Extended

Included in the big tax bill passed by Congress in November is expansion of Gulf Coast drilling and a one year extension of tax credits for wind, biomass and geothermal until the end of 2008. Solar tax credits for hot water and photovoltaics also received a one-year extension. In addition, language was added to the clean coal tax credits to allow subbituminous western coal to qualify.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Tax.doc>]

Ice Bubbles Reveal Biggest Rise in CO2

Antarctic ice core samples reveal the unprecedented increase of greenhouse gases during the last 200 years of human activity. "The rate of change is probably the most scary thing because it means that the Earth systems can't cope with it," said Eric Wolff of the British Antarctic Survey

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Ice.doc>]

Celebrate Valentines Day in Olympia

Celebrate Valentine's Day Wednesday, February 14 by attending Lobby Day in Olympia. You will have a chance to hear from legislators that are championing the "Priorities for a Healthy Washington" legislation. Plus you'll receive training on how to lobby and meet face to face with elected officials. Hosted by Washington Environmental Council, register online at http://www.wecprotects.org/join/leg_workshop_reg.cfm or call 206-622-8103

Giant Sucking Sound: The Energy Counter

Washington, Oregon, and Idaho produce virtually no natural gas, and absolutely no petroleum. So virtually every dollar the region spends on oil and gas gets immediately siphoned out of the region's economy. In round numbers, it's about **\$17 billion per year**, \$1,500 per person per year; and about \$537 each second.

To see the energy counter in action, go to http://www.sightline.org/daily_score/archive/2006/05/02/giant-sucking-sound

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.

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

Our president's column



Jack Herndon was among the first to receive a check from our state's new RE system incentive program.

New Chapter, Solar Energy Rewards, and Solar Summit

Solar Washington President Pamela Burton reports on the Jefferson Energy Center, and the exciting news of the rewards to those who signed up in the first year of our state's incentive program. Annual ASES Solar Tour and the WSU Solar Summit were both a success and accentuated the growth of the

solar industry. Can a panel made in Washington State be within sight? See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Prez.doc>]

NW Community Energy Website Launched

Solar Washington Board Member Leslie Grossman Moynihan reports on the launching of a new website that will provide answers about how to pursue community energy projects in the Northwest. The what, who and why of wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and efficiency are discussed. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Website.doc>]

SW's website going through changes

Webmaster George Meyer tells about some recent changes to our website. There are also some opportunities with which you can become involved. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Webmaster.doc>]

Highlights from NW Energy Coalition Biannual Meeting

Highlights from the Northwest Energy Coalition's Biannual Meeting in Portland in December (25th anniversary of the coalition) included review of the successful passage of I-937 and the challenges yet to come. The Coalition also plans to be active in the discussion around Energy Northwest's proposed integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plant in Kalama, on the Columbia River just south of Longview, Washington. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/NWEC.doc>]

Vashon Initiative Update

Solar Washington's Vashon Island tour coordinator Meg Gluckman updates us on election results of the initiative to establish a PUD on Vashon Island, and future efforts of the Vashon community to address growing energy and climate concerns. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0612/Vashon.doc>]

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