



# Solar Washington Newsletter

SPRING / SUMMER 2007

WWW.SOLARWASHINGTON.ORG

Solar Washington hires first Executive Director. Meet *Lori LaVel Weston* at our annual meeting. Hear about updates on WA solar panel production. Bring your ideas about SW's next direction. The meeting will be in July and our board is working on the details of when & where as this goes to press.

What's in this issue:

- ☼ **Ellensburg's Solar Farm becomes reality**
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## Global Cell Production Grows 40% in '06

U.S. silicon production lead by Thin Film with First Solar tripling its output of glass- based polysilicon.

Full report in ASES May/June 2007 issue by Travis Bradford, President of the Prometheus Institute for Sustainable Development.

## Ellensburg's Solar Farm Becomes a Reality



Ellensburg's citizens are partnering with the City, the County, CWU, and local clubs and organizations to fund a solar farm adjacent to highway 90. The first phase of the project - 120 solar modules (36kW) was completed in November, 2006. All of the power being produced goes directly onto the City's utility power grid. The 3 to 5 year goal is to expand the system to 550 solar modules (165kW). Thank you Gary Nystedt!

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/ESC.pdf>]

## Case Study of Olympia Solar Electric System

The Purtee Family in Olympia, WA have carefully tracked their solar electric system's performance since installation in July 2004. See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/Purtee.pdf>]



## Plug in America comes to Washington

The seeds had been planted by the "Plug in America" movement and the challenge was taken up by folks in Chelan County. A two day conference in Wenatchee and one day in Redmond featured the movers and shakers of "Power Up", Electrifying Transportation movement.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/PowerUp.pdf>]

## Classes in Solar Basics

Chris Herman has taught Solar Basics to homeowners for 17 years. Knowing the important part that solar energy systems will play in our efforts to reduce climate change, Chris Herman, past President of Solar WA, sees the demand for education at an all time high.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/HermanClass.pdf>]

## Zero Energy House

The Zero Energy House at Shoreline Community College was opened May 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be the future office of WA State University's NW Solar Center. The house was originally built by WSU students for the 2006 Solar Decathlon on the mall in Washington DC. Solar WA donated an evacuated tube solar water system. Pictures of the dedication are at <http://intranet.shoreline.edu/proofsheets/ZEH05172007/index.htm>

## Manure from 6 cows = energy for 1 household

SMUD & 3 family-owned Sacramento County dairy farms are teaming up to install anaerobic digesters to generate enough electricity to run their dairy operation and sell excess electricity to the utility. [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org)

## Prairie grasses better choice than corn for Bio-Based fuel

A study by University of Minnesota reports that grasses store more carbon in their roots and soil than is released by fossil fuels needed to grow them. [www1.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature\\_Stories/Back\\_to\\_the\\_future\\_prairie\\_grasses.html](http://www1.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature_Stories/Back_to_the_future_prairie_grasses.html)

## We're Solar Washington

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

### Website and email:

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Next meeting: July - TBA

Please go to our website for more information. We hope to see you then!

## Our President's column

### First Executive Director hired, SW at the table of change, ASES Conference Theme Timely

Solar Washington hires our first Executive Director! We are at the table as the utilities finalize process for the state incentive, and Shoreline Community College designs curriculum to educate students in renewable energy.

ASES conference is timely with the theme of "Sustainable Energy Puts America to Work". Join us in Cleveland July 7 to July 12.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/Pres.pdf>]

## Opportunities in Solar Washington

Webmaster George Meyer tells about some opportunities for involvement in promoting solar in our state. See

[<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/Webmaster.pdf>]

## Solar Water Laundry

Cost-effective solar water system reaps multiple rewards for laundry owner in working class Chicago suburb. The 30% federal business tax credit makes going solar financially viable.

See [<http://www.solarwashington.org/newsletters/0703/Laundry.pdf>]

## Women Of Wind Energy



Seattle members of the national Women of Wind Energy (WOWE) network met up at the Step It Up! demonstration on April 14th in Myrtle Edwards Park. From left to right- Natalie Babij (Global Energy Concepts), Kim Comstock (GEC), Leslie Moynihan (NW SEED & Solar Washington board member), Meg Gluckman (eFormative Options), Kristin Larson (3Tier). All women and men who support the increased participation of professional women in the wind energy industry are invited to participate in WoWE. See <http://www.windustry.org/womenofwindenergy>

As always, if you want to make your voice heard in this newsletter, contact us at [newsletter@solarwashington.org](mailto:newsletter@solarwashington.org).