



Solar Energy in Oregon, Washington Projected to Make Big Gains

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC - Powered by growing residential and commercial markets, the neighboring states of Oregon and Washington are set to make significant gains this year in new solar installations, according to the recently-released [U.S. Solar Market Insight 2014 Year in Review](#). The two Northwest states are expected to top 200 megawatts (MW) of combined solar electric capacity by the end of 2015 – enough to power nearly 25,000 homes.

The report went on to point out that the biggest solar gains last year in both states came in residential installations, but commercial installations increased, too, with leading companies such as Walgreens, Kohl's REI, Safeway and Intel all making significant investments in solar energy systems. But 2015 promises to be the best year ever for both states when it comes to adding new solar electric capacity.

"In Washington, solar growth this year is projected to triple, while Oregon is expected to more than quadruple. That's pretty impressive growth," said Rhone Resch, president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). "Today, more and more people, as well as business in both states, are choosing to 'go solar' as a way to reduce their electricity costs, make America more energy independent, protect our environment and fight climate change. It's a win-win for both states."

Today, there are 142 solar companies at work throughout the value chain in Oregon, employing more than 2,100 people. In Washington, there are 2,400 solar workers at 129 companies. These include manufacturers, contractors, installers, project developers and distributors, in addition to people working in financing, engineering and legal support.

Last year, the residential market in both states began to firmly take root, with installed system prices dropping by 8 percent – and down a total of 49 percent

installed system prices dropping by 3 percent – and down a total of 15 percent since 2010. Nationwide, the U.S. residential market added 1.2 GW of installed capacity in 2014, marking the first time that this growing sector surpassed 1 GW of clean, affordable solar. Residential also continues to be the fastest-growing market segment in the U.S., with 2014 marking three consecutive years of greater than 50 percent annual growth.

“Today, the U.S. solar industry employs 174,000 Americans nationwide – more than tech giants Apple, Google, Facebook and Twitter combined – and pumps nearly \$18 billion a year into our economy,” Resch added. “[This remarkable growth](#) is due, in large part, to smart and effective public policies, such as the solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC), Net Energy Metering (NEM) and Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). By any measurement, these policies are paying big dividends for the U.S., Oregon and Washington economies, as well as for our environment.”

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About SEIA®:

Celebrating its 41st anniversary in 2015, the Solar Energy Industries Association® is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA® is building a strong solar industry to power America. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works with its 1,000 member companies to champion the use of clean, affordable solar in America by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. Visit SEIA online at www.seia.org.

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