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WEBINARS

Insights into District Energy Recording

We had an excellent turnout for our webinar on October 21st, with over 135 registrants from communities all over the globe interested in district energy. Presenters discussed development and implementation of district energy systems in Minnesota, Vermont, Iowa, and Virginia, along with the benefits, considerations, lessons learned and next steps.

For videos and materials from the webinar, please visit our archive.

PROJECT PROFILES

Arlington County, VA

Arlington County Government has made great strides in advancing the way their community thinks about energy. Through the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE), Arlington County shares resources, provides community outreach, and strategizes effective projects to improve the community's energy use.

Community outreach has been successful with programs such as the Arlington Green Games, Green Home Choice, the Green Building Program, and events such as the Energy Journey (a life-sized board game to provide education on energy choices). An important milestone in Arlington County's efforts to address energy matters was the adoption of the Community Energy Plan in 2013, at which point it also became the newest element to the County's Comprehensive Plan.
Since then, County staff has been working with the Community Energy Plan Implementation Review Committee and other stakeholders to achieve goals outlined in six areas: Buildings, District Energy, Renewable Energy, Transportation, County Government Activities, and Education and Human Behavior. This plan serves as the road map to sustainability for the next 40 years.

More details on Arlington’s AIRE program and the Community Energy Plan can be found in the full project profile.

CURRENT NEWS AND RESOURCES

Climate Change Will be Solved in Cities, or Not at All

The *Scientific American* article “Cities Will Solve Climate Change, Not Nations” highlights the importance of empowering local communities and not waiting for federal or state level action.

At the recent United Nations Summit in September, 228 cities committed to deep greenhouse gas reductions through the Compact of Mayors and 25 cities pledged to decrease methane pollution from landfills. Research indicates that these commitments could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 13 Gigatons by 2050. "The future is in the cities," says Jeffrey Sachs, an economist and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

Action is coming from both small and large cities, including New York City which has committed to cutting greenhouse gases by 80 percent by 2050 with plans to retrofit old buildings to consume less energy. Other actions for the reduction of greenhouse gas pollution include alternative fuel vehicles in Jinan, China, electric car sharing in Paris, and rapid-transit buses in Curitiba, Brazil. "Nations are not delivering," says Eduardo Paes, mayor of Rio de Janeiro and chair of the C40 group of cities committed to fighting climate change. "How can there be any argument against prioritizing cities?"

More information about cities’ efforts to combat climate change can be found in the article "Cities Will Solve Climate Change, Not Nations”.

Maximizing Solar for Communities While Keeping Local Government Costs to a Minimum

This free webinar from ICLEI USA features the City of Beaverton, Oregon’s Solar on Reservoirs project and Tompkins County, NY’s solarize program. The City of Beaverton will save an estimated $95,000 annually through a Power Purchase Agreement, and the Solar Tompkins program is working to double solar PV installations through lower pricing and a simplified process.

To watch the webinar recording and learn more, please visit the Solar Outreach Partnership website.

Solar Prices Continue to Drop, While Tedious Local Regulatory Processes Drive Price Differences

Two new studies by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reveal that the price of rooftop and utility-scale solar energy continues to decline, in contrast to a third report that shows the variation in residential photovoltaic (PV) pricing partially due to differences in local permitting and regulatory processes. The Berkeley Lab report *How Much Do Local Regulations Matter?* reveals that differences in permitting among cities can result in an average home PV pricing to vary by $900. Additionally, variations in other local regulatory processes, such as interconnection, zoning, net metering and financing, result in price differences of $3,000 for an average PV system.
Learn How to Track and Evaluate Local Sustainability Projects

In this EPA webinar, you'll learn about two new federal resources to help you measure, track, and report progress, based directly on the experiences of local governments across the country, and hear from one case study taking place in northwest Washington working to evaluate economic impacts of the program:

- Emma Zinsmeister, EPA Local Climate and Energy Program: Learn about a new methodology outlining the key steps for developing, tracking, analyzing, and reporting on performance indicators for climate and clean energy programs.
- Ted Cochin, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities: This presentation will focus on the Sustainable Community Indicator Catalog, providing information on specific indicators that local entities can use to measure progress toward their sustainability objectives.
- Alex Ramel, Energy and Policy Director, Sustainable Connections: Learn about an on-the-ground effort to measure and evaluate the economic impacts of a community energy efficiency program implemented in Bellingham and other areas of northwest Washington.

Register now!

Californian Water-Energy Grant Program

The California Department of Water Resources' Water-Energy Grant Program will provide funds to implement water efficiency programs and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce water and energy use. Total grant funding available is $19 million for local agencies, joint powers authorities, and nonprofit organizations, with $2.5 million being the maximum grant amount. Applicants need to demonstrate potential energy and water savings and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Disadvantaged communities will be given priority and no matching funds are required.

For more information and to apply, please visit the Water-Energy Grant Program webpage.

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