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University of Kentucky Receives \$880,000 Grant for Energy Research

The University of Kentucky received a U.S. Department of Energy grant to enhance energy research and development projects. The grant is part of the DOE's Nuclear Energy Program's \$36.2 million initiative.

The grant, titled "Elastic/Inelastic Measurement Project," will center upon fuel cycle research and development. A consortium of three universities and a national laboratory has been formed to provide the necessary breadth for this effort, including scientists with extensive experience in neutron elastic and inelastic scattering measurements and with direct access to the facilities for completing the proposed neutron measurements, i.e., the UK Accelerator Laboratory. Read the June 11 article in UK's e-news.

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Solar PV Has Record Growth in First Quarter of 2012

Growth in solar photovoltaics (PV) markets in the United States is maintaining its breakneck pace from 2011, says a report released by the Solar Energy Industries Association.



The report says that the U.S. solar market, led by strong growth in the commercial sector, installed a record of 506 megawatts (MW) over the first three months of 2012, more than any other first quarter on record.

"The U.S. Solar Market Insight: Q1 2012," which was developed by GTM Research, shows that the first quarter's activity brings the total amount of solar PV across America to 4,427 MW.

In addition, concentrating solar power (CSP) facilities are providing 516 MW of electric power to the United States, industry official say, bringing the total solar electric capacity in the country to 4,943 MW, enough to power 775,000

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households.

“The U.S. solar industry continues to lead the U.S. out of difficult economic times,” said Rhone Resch, president and CEO of SEIA. “Installations have grown by 85 percent in the last year. This growth is coming from consumers who are turning to solar to reduce their energy costs. In states across the country, Americans are waking up to the realization that putting solar on your home or business is a better investment than the stock market.”

Overall, 2012 is shaping up to be another banner year for the U.S. solar market. The report forecasts total 2012 annual solar PV installations to exceed 3,200 megawatts, 75 percent greater than last year's total and 15 percent higher than previous annual forecasts for 2012.

In related news, the DOE this week announced the investment of \$56 million over three years in 21 projects that officials say will further advance cutting-edge concentrating solar power technologies (CSP). The research projects span 13 states and are conducted in partnership with private industry, national laboratories and universities. They support the DOE's SunShot Initiative, a collaborative national effort to make solar power cost-competitive with traditional energy sources by the end of the decade. The funding is dependent upon congressional appropriations.

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Clean Vehicle Workshop in Louisville on July 31

The Clean Vehicle Education Foundation's comprehensive workshops provide public and private fleet operators and policy makers with information about alternative fuels and vehicles for public and commercial transportation. The one-day workshop, "Compelling Case for Natural Gas Vehicles" will be in Louisville on July 31, 2012. Learn more about the workshop, how to register and the day's agenda.

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Open Energy Information - A Knowledge Sharing Online Community

Open Energy Information (OpenEI) provides the latest information and data on energy resources from around the world. OpenEI is built on a wiki platform, so your contributions and edits are both welcomed and encouraged. OpenEI is part of the DOE's open government initiative, referenced in President Obama's transparent government plan.

OpenEI currently links to a large and growing crowd-sourced utility rate database, over 60 Green Button apps and more than 200 energy apps, and has a wealth of datasets and information on solar, wind, and geothermal energy topics. OpenEI will be holding a bi-weekly telecom for anyone interested in connecting with OpenEI and finding out how to leverage the assets OpenEI has for their own personal endeavors. Find out how researchers, students, teachers and energy professionals are using OpenEI.

When: Occurs every Monday 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM (GMT-07:00) Mountain Time

Dial-in Call Information: 866-459-9997 #9645075

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Solar Energy Training Opportunity July 10-12

The Kentucky Solar Partnership and Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest, with the support of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service and Kentucky State University, present a series of introductory and advanced training classes on solar photovoltaics, solar water heating systems and trends in the US solar energy industry. The next training opportunity is July 10 - 12, 2012 – Advanced Solar Photovoltaics.

Full workshop descriptions and registration information can be found at the Kentucky Solar website. Financial support is available to residents of eastern Kentucky in the form of low-interest loans to cover registration fees and grants to cover travel expenses.

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Submit an Article to REnews!

KREC would like to publish your thoughts on renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kentucky in the "Members' Forum". Please send your opinions, articles or news about RE happenings in the Commonwealth to KREC@kppc.org. A short piece is preferable (300 or fewer words work best).

Make your voice heard – we want to give KREC members a forum to spread the word about renewable energy efforts and issues.

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