

# THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY TRACKER

A West Virginia News Source | Spring 2015

## POLICY TRACKING

### Net Metering Bill Signed by Governor Tomblin

A net-metering bill passed by the West Virginia Legislature revises existing law regarding grid-connected renewable and alternative energy systems owned or leased by customer-generators. The bill was initially vetoed by Governor Tomblin for technical reasons, but was subsequently signed following revisions to address the technical errors. In a press release about the signing the Governor stated, "I appreciate the increasing role solar and wind power will play in our state."

The bill requires the WV Public Service Commission to adopt a "rebate or discount at fair value" for net metering customer-generators and to assure that "any net metering tariff does not create a cross-subsidization between customers within one class of service." Cross-subsidization is defined in the bill as "the practice of charging costs directly incurred by the electric utility in accommodating a new metering system to retail customers who are not customer-generators." The subject has become an increasingly popular topic in states such as California and Arizona with rapidly growing levels of customer-sited solar capacity connected to utility distribution systems.

SOURCE: [legis.state.wv.us](http://legis.state.wv.us), [www.governor.wv.gov](http://www.governor.wv.gov)

## UTILITIES

### Appalachian Power's HomeSMART Program

Appalachian Power's Residential HomeSMART Program identifies energy saving opportunities through three levels of assessments and offers rebates for all-electric homes that complete certain building shell and HVAC improvements. Program options are:

- **On-Line Energy Check Up:** A self-service assessment tool through which customers answer basic questions about their homes and how they use energy in it.
- **In-Home Assessment:** A walk-through assessment administered by a trained energy professional to identify savings opportunities, install basic low-cost measures, and make customers aware of programs.
- **In-Home Blower Door Assessment:** An energy specialist conducts a blower door test and performs a 20% reduction in air flow through sealing. The customer is charged \$50 for the blower door and air sealing services, which is returned if other recommendations are installed. This is only available to all-electric homes.
- **Rebates:** Rebates of up to \$500 and \$400 are available for all-electric homes to install insulation and sealing. Up to \$600 is available to purchase a new heat pump or to replace an electric furnace with a heat pump meeting specific standards. Up to \$125 is available for an HVAC tune-up.

LEARN MORE: [AppalachianPower.com/Save](http://AppalachianPower.com/Save)



## FUNDING/FINANCING

### WVDOE Awards Grant to Plant Golden Delicious Apples under Its Mini-Grant Program

The WVDOE manages a Mini-Grant program funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission that seeks to deploy renewable energy, reforestation and sustainable agriculture projects on surface-mined lands. The program recently awarded the Central Appalachian Empowerment Zone funds to plant Golden Delicious Apple trees on former surface mine land owned by Consolidated Coal in Clay County, WV. This apple tree variety was first discovered in Clay County in the late-1800s, and is now owned by Stark Brothers. Up to 5,000 apple trees are expected to be planted as part of the project, with assistance from WV State, WV National Guard, and WV Department of Agriculture.

The Mini-Grant program is managed by the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) at Marshall University. Additional awards are expected to be announced this spring.

SOURCE: CEGAS

### USDA REAP Program Renewed with More Funding

In February, the USDA announced that it is making \$280 million available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) for farms and small businesses to deploy renewable energy and energy efficiency in their operations. The funds were allocated in the 2014 Farm Bill. As with the previous round of REAP funding, grants are available for up to 25 percent of total project costs and loan guarantees for up to 75 percent of total project costs. Application deadlines for the program are April 30th and June 30th. For more information on the West Virginia program contact Jesse Gandee at (304)284-4882 or [Jesse.Gandee@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Jesse.Gandee@wv.usda.gov).



## UPCOMING EVENT

### WVDOE-Sponsored Energy Efficiency Conference

WHAT: Expanding Energy Efficiency In West Virginia

WHEN: Thursday May 21, 2015

WHERE: The Embassy Suites | Charleston, WV

Save the date. This is a free event and open to the public. Registration will open in early April. Visit [marshall.edu/cber](http://marshall.edu/cber) for more information.

## OTHER ENERGY NEWS

### Water Heaters Soon to Become More Efficient

The Appliance Standards Awareness Project of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) tracks the impact of changes in appliance manufacturing standards mandated by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE). In a recent blog, ACEEE described pending changes to efficiency standards for new water heaters. In mid-April 2015, both gas and electric water heaters will be required to comply with more stringent standards.

These standards will especially impact the efficiency of units larger than 55 gallons. New heat pump water heaters of this size will use 50 to 60% less energy than conventional electric models. Smaller units will only see savings of around four percent. ACEEE notes that "water heating is on average the second largest household energy expense behind space heating, representing about 18% of total household energy consumption in the US."

SOURCE: ACEEE



## PEOPLE & PLACES

### Appalachian Residential Consortium for Energy Efficiency Provides Resources for Homebuilders and Homeowners

The Appalachian Residential Consortium for Energy Efficiency (ARCEE) is a collaborative industry education project of the Home Builders Association of West Virginia (HBAWV) Charitable Fund. ARCEE was established to assist HBAWV members meet the requirements of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for new homes. ARCEE was founded in 2013, and initially funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and 84 Lumber Company.

Sheila Coleman-Castells, Project Manager for ARCEE said, "We wish to ensure that our industry has the most up-to-date knowledge available to help families get the best value for their hard-earned dollars, from the building, materials and appliances, and financing of the home." Coleman-Castells also maintains that "improved temperature-regulation and purified airflow in the home often play a large role in health issues such as asthma, COPD, and diabetes, where ambient temperatures and the ease of airflow are extremely important." "When planning new housing, HBAWV members believe that building to the 2009 IECC provides the best quality housing, saving money and providing a healthy environment for years to come," she said.

The ARCEE site is expected to go "live" with energy efficiency videos and content by June 2015. Training for members has already begun. To learn more about the ARCEE program or become a partner contact Sheila at 304-982-8010, x101, or at sheila@arc-ee.org. To learn more about joining the HBAWV, contact Regina at 304-342-5176, or regina@hbawv.org.



## PEOPLE & PLACES CONTINUED

### Homer Laughlin China and Toyota Manufacturing Receive Awards for Efficiency and Reuse Practices

Commerce Secretary Keith Burdette and WVU Professor Dr. Carl Irwin officiated the 2015 Governor's award ceremony for industrial energy efficiency and green manufacturing. These awards are presented annually at the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Day at the State Capitol.

- **Governor's Award for Leadership in Industrial Energy Efficiency - Homer Laughlin China.** This award is based on significant implemented energy efficiency measures and resultant savings from assessments and projects with WVU research and Industrial Assessment teams. Homer Laughlin's initiatives include capture of waste heat for reuse, reduced natural gas consumption, installation of computer-controlled air compressors, energy efficient lighting and variable frequency drive electric motors.

- **Governor's Award for Excellence in Green Manufacturing - Toyota Motor Corporation.** This award recognizes companies that use and promote advanced manufacturing technologies such as nanotech, robotics, additive manufacturing, computer models and controls. Recipients are selected in consultation with WVMA, WVDO, WVDE, previous winners, and research organizations. Toyota's recent initiatives include installation of a compressed air metering system and replacement of halide lights with fluorescent lights.

SOURCE: The State Journal, WV Industries of the Future

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