



**Welcome  
October 18<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA**

**Dean Van Vleet,  
President - Solar Washington**

Greetings and welcome.  
Thank you all for being here.



### **Presented by Solar Washington**

- **501(c)3 Non-Profit**
- **Founded June 2000**
- **Advancing Solar Energy in Washington State**
- **Organizing Community Outreach and Educational Activities**
- **8 Volunteer Board Members**
- **1 Executive Director**

I would like to welcome you to the 20th annual Washington solar Summit, brought to you by Solar Washington.



## **Solar in Washington**

- **Our past**
- **Our present**
- **Our Future**
- **Our Partnerships**

For two decades now solar enthusiasts and utilities have come together at summits to discuss the future of solar, but more importantly, how it can play a role in the Washington energy mix and the climate we live in.

In that time a lot has changed. Back then Solar was mostly a hobby or an interest that a few played with to make an environmental statement. Some made businesses out of these interests. And some talked of making an incentive to continue this adoption of solar.



## **Solar in Washington**

- **Incentives – they changed all of us**
- **Everyone played a role – Utilities, Colleges, Manufacturers, the State, etc.**
- **Did they get us ready for what's next?**

At Summits long ago we discussed how incentives could be used to grow a new solar industry for the State. The utilities were on board, with actually the majority of them volunteering and joined in.

Colleges prepared classes for a new generation of installers. And all seemed good.

Along this path we've heard lots of opinions if the incentives were structured right, and if they would have the Washington Solar industry ready to survive in a post incentive world as we experienced this year.

But likely more importantly now, is being ready to play a role in the 100% Clean Energy Law.



### **100% Clean Energy Law**

- **Solar will have its place, but how much?**
- **Solar will have competition**
- **“Net Zero” doesn’t cut it anymore –  
“Getting to Zero” is the requirement**
- **We need to work together**

The Clean Energy Transformation Act, as it’s formally known, will put solar head to head with other qualifying renewables in the effort to provide the lowest cost clean energy for the State. But keep in mind that “net zero” doesn’t cut it anymore, “getting to zero” is the new requirement. Past differences aside, now’s the time to put our collective efforts together and move forward with the best solutions.



### **Incentives – Part Three?**

- **Do we need to repeat the same incentives?**
- **Did we have Consumer Protection issues?**
- **How did we score on Equity issues?**
- **Are Utilities having fun yet?**

I've heard a few say we need to repeat the same incentives, but is another round of identical incentives the right thing? There were a few issues that came up with the incentives that lead to a slippery slope of consumer protection and equity issues.

Unfortunately, and unfairly, some utilities are getting dragged into these issues simply because they have the continued monthly business relationship with these customers. Utilities also get dragged into the equity question, as only a certain class of people could participate in the incentives by the simple nature of their structures.

Incentives are great to help motivate people into doing something, but when they become a quick cash grab on the sales side and broken promises later, requires us to reevaluate what we proposed.



### **Incentives – Why the first one?**

- **Washington was a leader in the Power Electronics – aka the inverters**
- **Started by Trace Engineering**
- **And followed by Xantrex, OutBack Power, and Magnum Energy**

Those 14 years ago when we created the first incentive, it was functionally to attract clean-tech companies to Washington. Less than 50 miles north of here, Arlington was a major center of inverter design and manufacturing as started by Trace Engineering 30 years ago. Later Xantrex bought Trace and was busy building and testing inverters as big as 1MW every day, and then shipping them off to the US and European PV markets.



## Incentives – Why the first one?

- Washington was alive with competition



Also in Arlington, Outback, founded by a group of former Trace employees, was ramping up about the same time, but with smaller, scalable, battery based, bidirectional, grid-tie inverters. And in Everett, Magnum Energy had similar battery based Inverters for the off grid and mobile power markets, but with plans for grid tie products eventually.

For those of you that don't know what "battery based" means, today's hip kids are calling it "energy storage"





## Incentives – Why the first one?

- Washington had the intellectual capital

 This is a screenshot of a document titled "The Tracer - Fall, 1997" with a "Power Education" logo in the top left. The document is about a "Trace Engineering and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Renew Working Agreement". It contains a paragraph of text, a diagram of a typical line-tie application, and a photograph of a solar system.
 

**The Tracer - Fall, 1997**

**Trace Engineering and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Renew Working Agreement**

Trace Engineering has been selected to provide SW-series grid-connected inverters for the largest single photovoltaic grid-tie solar program in history!! Continuing its ongoing working relationship with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, this agreement includes the delivery of over eight megawatts of Trace line-tie inverters for use in alternative energy applications as part of SMUD's five-year solar energy residential plan. Trace will supply SMUD with SW5548PV line-tie inverters as part of a complete line-tie, balance-of-system utility package.

Diagram of a typical line-tie application.

SMUD 200kW Solar system in Sacramento, CA.

I know not everyone is interested in this history... but actually for a period of time, every grid tied PV system in California used Trace inverters. Washington clearly had its place in the US and international PV markets, which at the time, laid the foundation for these very incentives.

History can show things that are only history and won't be coming back, or we can look at them and review what we had, and possibly rekindle something similar.



## Incentives – Did manufacturing work?



Who did manufacturing in WA...

The incentives got us up to 4 PV companies and 5 inverter companies,



## Incentives – Did manufacturing work?



Who's still manufacturing in WA - 2019

But today most are gone or not “building” products in Washington.



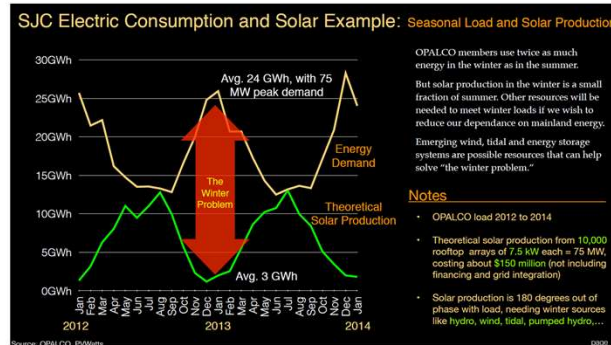
## Incentives – Did Installing work?



However, on the flipside we now have a much larger and well-advertised installation industry. And to the installers benefit, the global PV industry has innovated and pushed hardware costs to mere fractions of what we paid during the first Summits, as well as greatly reducing the installation time. But uncertainty of working in this post incentive situation weighs heavy on the minds of installers'.



- **We still need to acknowledge our electrical load history – and how solar fits into it**



Graph by Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (OPALCO)

History can also show information and trends. Utilities use history all the time to establish and forecast how we consume energy, and now, actually how customers produce it. And despite climate change happening, we are still in a winter peaking market and solar will clearly have competition for its slice of the 100% Clean Energy pie.

Storage has been a buzzword lately, but storage won't automatically bailout solar by itself in our markets, but it will begin to play a changing role in all of our lives.

So with that, we've added a new topic and session at the summit this year, and that is Storage.



- **Breaking News! – Storage industry ready to come to Solar’s rescue!!**



Whoops – wrong kind of storage...

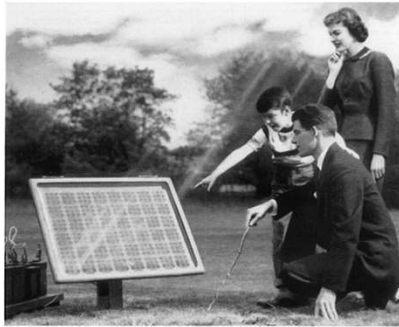


- **Breaking News! – Storage industry ready to come to Solar’s rescue!!**



Welcome to the new kind of storage... Either by lead acid, pumped hydro, or billions of cordless tool batteries, storage will come. Eventually...

- Or is it yesterday's news?



**Something New Under the Sun.** It's the Bell Solar Battery, made of thin discs of specially treated silicon, an ingredient of common sand. It converts the sun's rays directly into usable amounts of electricity. Simple and trouble-free. (The storage batteries beside the solar battery store up its electricity for night use.)

**Bell System Solar Battery Converts Sun's Rays into Electricity!**

*Bell Telephone Laboratories invention has great possibilities for telephone service and for all mankind*

Actually Solar's heritage was battery based, and solar's future will undoubtedly go back there, but the big question is when. Particularly in Washington.

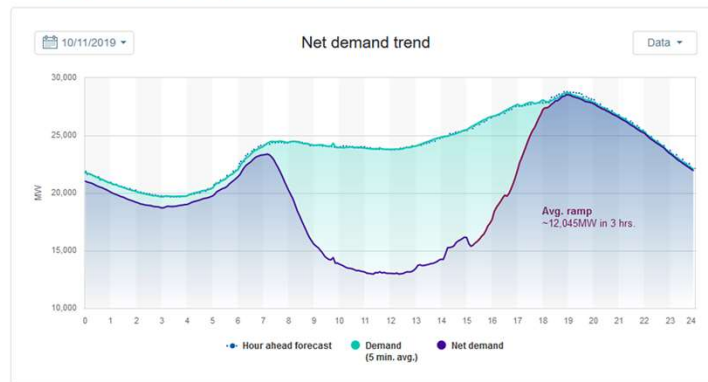




- **Why California is using Storage now**

Net demand (demand minus solar and wind)

This graph illustrates how the ISO meets demand while managing the quickly changing ramp rates of variable energy resources, such as solar and wind. Learn how the ISO maintains reliability while maximizing clean energy sources.



But while battery-less inverters have solved one problem on the sales and install side, they realistically will create a new one when everyone has them. Such is with the growing issues in California



## • Why Washington has a good future

2019 Supply Side Table (2018\$)

Fuel	Description	Resource Characteristics				Costs		
		Elevation (ft)	Net Capacity (MW)	Commercial Operation Year	Design Life (yrs)	Base Capital (\$/kW)	Var O&M (\$/MWh)	Fixed O&M (\$/MWh-yr)
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Idaho Falls, ID, 50 MW = 10 MW X 20 MWb (30% ITC)	4,700	50	2021	25	1,628	0.00	23.48
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Idaho Falls, ID, 200 MW = 50 MW X 100 MWb (30% ITC)	4,700	200	2021	25	1,470	0.00	22.91
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Idaho Falls, ID, 50 MW = 10 MW X 40 MWb (30% ITC)	4,700	50	2021	25	1,756	0.00	25.03
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Idaho Falls, ID, 200 MW = 50 MW X 200 MWb (30% ITC)	4,700	200	2021	25	1,614	0.00	24.24
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Idaho Falls, ID, 50 MW = 10 MW X 80 MWb (30% ITC)	4,700	50	2021	25	1,992	0.00	26.46
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Idaho Falls, ID, 200 MW = 50 MW X 400 MWb (30% ITC)	4,700	200	2021	25	1,897	0.00	25.36
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Lakeview, OR, 50 MW = 10 MW X 20 MWb (30% ITC)	4,800	50	2021	25	1,706	0.00	23.48
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Lakeview, OR, 200 MW = 50 MW X 100 MWb (30% ITC)	4,800	200	2021	25	1,543	0.00	22.91
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Lakeview, OR, 50 MW = 10 MW X 40 MWb (30% ITC)	4,800	50	2021	25	1,844	0.00	25.03
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Lakeview, OR, 200 MW = 50 MW X 200 MWb (30% ITC)	4,800	200	2021	25	1,699	0.00	24.24
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Lakeview, OR, 50 MW = 10 MW X 80 MWb (30% ITC)	4,800	50	2021	25	2,098	0.00	26.46
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Lakeview, OR, 200 MW = 50 MW X 400 MWb (30% ITC)	4,800	200	2021	25	2,004	0.00	25.36
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Milford, UT, 50 MW = 10 MW X 20 MWb (30% ITC)	5,000	50	2021	25	1,626	0.00	23.48
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Milford, UT, 200 MW = 50 MW X 100 MWb (30% ITC)	5,000	200	2021	25	1,447	0.00	22.91
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Milford, UT, 50 MW = 10 MW X 40 MWb (30% ITC)	5,000	50	2021	25	1,754	0.00	25.03
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Milford, UT, 200 MW = 50 MW X 200 MWb (30% ITC)	5,000	200	2021	25	1,612	0.00	24.24
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Milford, UT, 50 MW = 10 MW X 80 MWb (30% ITC)	5,000	50	2021	25	1,990	0.00	26.46
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Milford, UT, 200 MW = 50 MW X 400 MWb (30% ITC)	5,000	200	2021	25	1,895	0.00	25.36
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Rock Springs, WY, 50 MW = 10 MW X 20 MWb (30% ITC)	6,400	50	2021	25	1,623	0.00	23.48
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Rock Springs, WY, 200 MW = 50 MW X 100 MWb (30% ITC)	6,400	200	2021	25	1,444	0.00	22.91
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Rock Springs, WY, 50 MW = 10 MW X 40 MWb (30% ITC)	6,400	50	2021	25	1,751	0.00	25.03
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Rock Springs, WY, 200 MW = 50 MW X 200 MWb (30% ITC)	6,400	200	2021	25	1,609	0.00	24.24
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Rock Springs, WY, 50 MW = 10 MW X 80 MWb (30% ITC)	6,400	50	2021	25	1,987	0.00	26.46
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Rock Springs, WY, 200 MW = 50 MW X 400 MWb (30% ITC)	6,400	200	2021	25	1,892	0.00	25.36
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Yakima, WA, 50 MW = 10 MW X 20 MWb (30% ITC)	1,000	50	2021	25	1,704	0.00	23.48
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Yakima, WA, 200 MW = 50 MW X 100 MWb (30% ITC)	1,000	200	2021	25	1,541	0.00	22.91
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Yakima, WA, 50 MW = 10 MW X 40 MWb (30% ITC)	1,000	50	2021	25	1,842	0.00	25.03
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Yakima, WA, 200 MW = 50 MW X 200 MWb (30% ITC)	1,000	200	2021	25	1,697	0.00	24.24
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Yakima, WA, 50 MW = 10 MW X 80 MWb (30% ITC)	1,000	50	2021	25	2,097	0.00	26.46
Solar = Storage	PV = Stor, Yakima, WA, 200 MW = 50 MW X 400 MWb (30% ITC)	1,000	200	2021	25	2,002	0.00	25.36

So while incentives have come and gone, and our climate and power prices make it a challenging market, there is still a strong desire within Washington to address how clean our energy is and that undoubtedly contributed to the passage of the 100% Clean Energy Law. So in seeing this month that Portland-based Pacific Corp announced approximately 3,000 Megawatts of PV projects, with ~800MW of that installed Washington, as well as knowing the world PV market is aggressively driving down the installed costs, gives me great hope that Washington's solar adoption will continue to grow at a strong rate after a renewed approach to the market.



- **Todays topics**
  - **National trends in Solar**
  - **How storage will play in a WA market**
  - **How Solar will help with Grid resiliency**
  - **Prepping for the PV recycling law start**
  - **Solar's role in the 100% CETA**

Today we will discuss the national trends.

How and where storage is becoming a part of that.

Solar's role to help with grid resiliency.

Our soon to start PV recycling law.

And how solar will play a part in scaling up to a 100% fossil free grid.



- **What is a Summit? – It gives us a new vantage point to look from**



At times you might not agree with what you hear today, and hopefully not yet, but this is a good time to remind you of what a Summit is.

Similar to the summit of a mountain top, one can look down upon the many valleys below.



- It can be a long way from our comfort zones



A view from Seattle

Photo credit – Jay Huang Photography

Each of us likely calls one of those valleys our home, because we are most comfortable there...



- But we have to make the effort



A view from SW Washington

Photo credit – Anthony Koopman  
Storm King Photography

Those valleys can represent **our** expertise, **our** views, **our** beliefs... **our** stubbornness.



- Including listening to others



A view from Olympia

However when you are at a summit and meet with others, you learn **their** expertise, **their** viewpoints, **their** beliefs. And maybe **their** stubbornness too...



- **Together we can become stronger by learning from each other**



A view from Eastern Washington

Photo credit – PSE

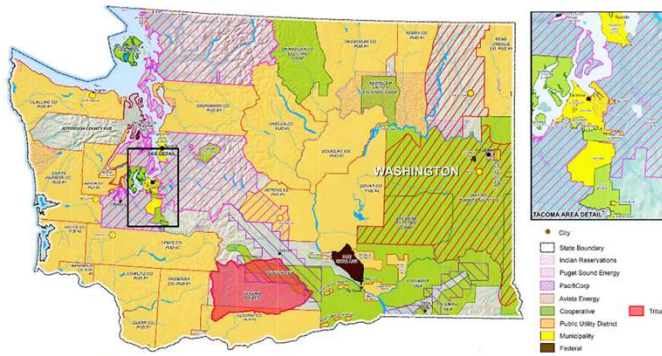
A Summit is a place to learn more about your neighbor and the challenges they face. Together we can become stronger by learning from each other.

History shows that great societies come from those who learn to work with each other for a common goal.





- **Together we can become stronger by learning from each other**



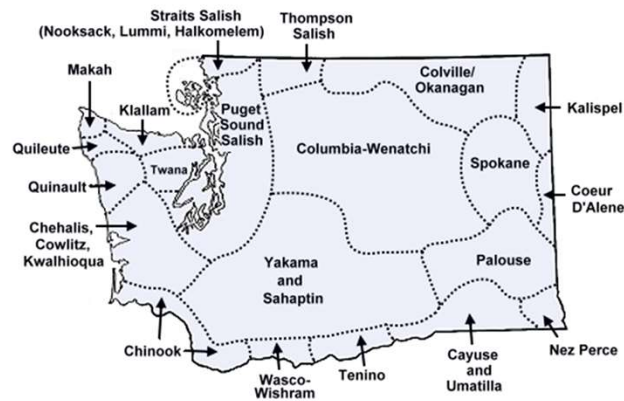
Map credit – WSU

Before much of this land was called Washington, it consisted of many different tribes for centuries. We have much to learn from these tribes as they likely found times of challenge too, but clearly found ways to work together in this region, based from the history passed down to us.

Today the Meydenbauer Center stands on land of the Coast Salish People, and I ask you to consider their history, and wisdom today, as we discuss ways to work together for returning to a sustainable environment that they were able to maintain for centuries.



- **Together we can become stronger by learning from each other**



Map credit – native-languages.org

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So with that, let's begin our summit and continue working together to make solar the lowest cost renewable on the roadmap to a 100% renewable Washington.



**Thank you  
And enjoy the Summit**



Next up is Sarah Vorpahl of the Washington State Department of Commerce who will be our emcee for the day and will share her thoughts to frame the conversations for us.

Thank you, and enjoy the Summit.