

U.S. DOE Intermountain Clean Energy Application Center

Newsletter
March 2010

In This Issue

[Congrats to Utah on its New Interconnection Rules](#)

[Utah Energy Forum Next Wed: "The Other Clean Energy"](#)

[CHP Webinars Quickly Approaching \(and we do mean quickly\)](#)

[Recent Report on Standby Rates](#)

About Us

The [U.S. DOE Intermountain Clean Energy Application Center](#) facilitates greater adoption of recycled energy technologies like combined heat and power (CHP), district energy, and waste heat recovery in the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

The Center provides education and outreach on recycled energy to businesses, policy makers, and regulators. We also provide free economic and technical feasibility screenings to help businesses evaluate if recycled energy is right for their facilities. In addition, we work with the clean energy industry and other stakeholders to advance policy development initiatives supportive of clean energy.

Visit us at
www.intermountainCHP.org



Big News for Recycled Energy in Utah: Interconnection Rules

We are pleased to report that Utah has adopted a standardized and streamlined interconnection rule. The new rule, R746-312 Electrical Interconnection, will become effective on April 30, 2010.

The U.S. DOE Intermountain Clean Energy Application Center was very active in helping get the rule in place and ensuring it is based on state-of-the-art model standards.

Standardized and streamlined interconnection rules are crucial to clean energy markets. They provide clear and uniform processes and technical requirements for safely connecting clean energy to the electric utility grid. They reduce uncertainty, prevent delays, and ensure that the requirements are appropriate for the size, scope, and technology of the system. Standard rules also assure that the interconnection meets the safety and reliability needs of both the energy end-user and the utility.

There are now only 13 states (including Arizona and Wyoming) that do NOT yet have statewide interconnection rules (although there are more that need further improvement and updating).

Next Utah Energy Forum: "The Other Clean Energy"

WEDNESDAY MARCH 24TH 7:45-10:00am
STATE OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM, SALT LAKE CITY, UT
(FREE)

Please join us next Wednesday at the next Utah Energy Forum, which will focus on recycled energy (CHP, waste energy recovery, and district energy).

Often overlooked in the clean energy, energy security and climate change discussion, combined heat and power, waste heat and district energy systems offer significant potential to help address pressing issues and challenges for our energy future. The presentations will focus on the technologies, incentives, and regulations for new projects, and will feature a panel of Utah businesses sharing their experiences with recycled energy. Presenters include the [U.S. DOE Intermountain Clean Energy Center](#), the EPA Region 8 (representing the [EPA CHP Partnership](#)), the University of Utah, ATK Launch Systems, and Kennecott Utah Copper.

The Utah Energy Forum is held monthly by the Utah Governor's Energy Advisor, and covers a changing roster of topics. Attendance is free and open to everyone. Please RSVP to Cherie Anderson at cherylvanderson@utah.gov or call 801-538-8652.

Two CHP Webinars TOMORROW (Thursday May 18th)

- FEED-IN TARIFFS, 12pm MDT
- CAPTURING NEW CHP OPPORTUNITIES -- MAYBE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD, 1pm MDT
(BOTH FREE)

Sorry for the late notice, but there are TWO sure-to-be-outstanding webcasts TOMORROW, and both are free and open to the public.

The first, at **12pm MDT**, is a discussion with leading policy experts on the current state of **Feed in Tariffs in the US**, their legal considerations, and how they could shape the future of clean energy. Presenters include:

- * Laurel Varnado, Editor of IREC's Connecting to the Grid Newsletter
- * Kevin Fox, Keyes & Fox, LLP Distributed Generation Law
- * Keith McAllister, Director of the US DOE Southeast Clean Energy Application Center

Reserve for this webinar at

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/879243523>

The second, at **1pm MDT**, is part one of a Webinar series focused on **capturing new CHP opportunities and project development strategies** and is intended for entities who have heard about CHP's energy efficiency potential but not sure how to pursue these opportunities in their own "backyards." Topics of discussion will include:

- * Overview of why CHP continues to make even more sense today
- * Summary of CHP market development from 2000-2009
- * Current markets and applications best suited for CHP development and prospects for the future
- * Federal and State policies and funding developments shaping the CHP industry

Presenters for this second webinar include:

- * Claudia Tighe, Program Manager of the EPA CHP Partnership
- * John Cuttica, Director of DOE's Midwest Clean Energy Application Center
- * Bruce Hedman, Vice President of ICF International, an expert in the US CHP market

Register for this webinar at

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/565034514>.

We encourage you and your colleagues to attend these webinars.

EPA Standby Rate Report Suggests Remedies to CHP Barriers

In case you missed it, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a report a couple months ago detailing utility standby rate configurations that encourage recycled energy.

In some states, utilities can impose stiff rate structures that outweigh the economic benefits of a CHP installation, such as steep standby or back-up charges assessed when a CHP installation requires additional power from the grid or goes offline (for maintenance or technical difficulties). On the contrary, effective utility rate designs, according to the report, share the following characteristics:

- * Contract demand or reservation charges that are small in relation to variable charges for peak demand and energy;
- * Peak demand charges that are not ratcheted (i.e., not more than monthly as-used demand charges);
- * Daily as-used demand charges (in lieu of energy-based charges to collect capacity costs, which utilities and regulators are reluctant to accept over some form of peak demand charge); and
- * A rate structure that yields a high value of retail rate savings per kWh purchased on site versus from the grid.

A state's Public Utility Commission, in setting appropriately designed electric and natural gas rates, can support clean CHP projects and remove unintended barriers, while also providing appropriate cost recovery for utility services on which consumers depend.

Resources:

- * EPA [Standby Rates Report](#)
- * US EPA CHP Partnership [web page on utility rates](#)

This article was reprinted from the U.S. DOE Gulf Coast Clean Energy Application Center.

As always, the U.S. DOE Intermountain Clean Energy Application Center is available to answer any of your questions or provide various types of CHP project assistance, all as part of our mission to advance clean energy in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Let us know if we can help.

Sincerely,

[U.S. DOE Intermountain Clean Energy Application Center](#)

Patti Case, 801-278-1927, plcase@etcarp.com

Tom Broderick, 928-527-8036, tbroderick@swenergy.org

Christine Brinker, 720-939-8333, cbrinker@swenergy.org

Visit us at www.intermountainCHP.org

More About Recycled Energy

Recycled Energy is significantly more efficient than generating cooling, heating, and power separately, and results in far fewer climate change emissions.

Recycled Energy already provides almost 9 percent of our nation's electricity needs, but the potential is much greater.

The U.S. Department of Energy believes that **by 2030, recycled energy can supply 20 percent** of U.S. generating capacity. The U.S. DOE Clean Energy Application Centers are working to help meet that target by working to advance clean energy at the state, regional, and local level.