In This Issue

APPLIED SOLUTIONS NEWS

- Local Clean Energy Projects Library Captures Economic Impacts
- Victory Bonds Offer Possible New Funding Mechanism for Clean Energy

WEBINARS

- Technical Advisory Council to Discuss Allegheny County’s Strategic Facilities Plan
- Milwaukee Improves Upon Traditional PACE Model

CURRENT EVENTS

- Project Profile: Lancaster, CA Installs 27 Megawatts Solar - Now For The Schools!
- Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory Highlights Clean Energy Financing Policy Briefs
- Colorado County Consortium Releases Energy Master Plan Framework
- PACE Pushes Onward through Sign-On Effort
- Virginia Provides Legal Analysis of District Energy Systems
- New Guidebook: Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities

APPLIED SOLUTIONS NEWS

Local Clean Energy Projects Library Captures Economic and Energy Impacts

Last month we ran an article announcing an effort by Applied Solutions to perform economic impact assessments of local government clean energy projects in order to give policy makers full cycle accounting including the energy and financial return realized from clean energy systems. The initial projects announced were analysis of two programs in Sonoma County, California. Since that time a number of Applied Solutions local government members have joined the effort with economic assessments of municipalization, community choice aggregation, smart grid and a sustainable energy utility project. We will keep you updated as this library builds. Please contact Amy Bolten if you have any questions at amy.bolten@scwa.ca.gov.
Victory Bonds Offer Possible New Funding Mechanism for Clean Energy Projects

HR 6275, the Clean Energy Victory Bond Act, was introduced on August 2 in the House of Representatives. This bill aims "To promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies required for the 21st century," and will allocate $7.5B for Americans to invest in Treasury Bonds for as little as $25 each to fund clean energy programs that support wind, solar, geothermal, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles in the United States.

To learn more about Clean Energy Victory Bonds click here.

WEBINARS

Technical Advisory Council Focuses Support on Allegheny County's Strategic Facilities Plan

The Applied Solutions Technical Advisory Council (ASTAC) is a network of highly skilled local government professionals who together serve as a technical support network on clean energy and sustainability work to counties and cities across the country. This network provides assistance, best practices and "what works" knowledge to accelerate clean energy, efficient water, and low impact transportation development. By sharing real time experiences through facilitated peer exchange, the understanding of clean energy project design and implementation of clean energy projects will increase to move the nation into a clean economy. For more information see the article titled Applied Solutions Launches Technical Advisory Council on the homepage.

If you are a local government and interested in submitting a clean energy project to the ASTAC for peer evaluative support, please contact us at info@appliedsolutions.org. The webinar is only open to local government participation, if you are a local government and would like to join the webinar, please contact Amy Bolten at amy.bolten@scwa.ca.gov.

Milwaukee Improves Upon Traditional PACE Model

Milwaukee Shines is teaming up with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to launch a pilot solar purchase program called the Milwaukee Power Pack. The Milwaukee Power Pack program, the first of its kind in the United States, will market solar in a new way while utilizing existing modified PACE financing to provide no upfront cost installations. The program supports local manufacturers, builds a customer base for local installers, and makes solar more affordable for customers. Utilizing funding sourced from local credit unions while supporting local manufacturing and simultaneously dramatically lowering installation costs, the Milwaukee Power Pack program is worth learning about. Please join us for a webinar on Wednesday, September 26 at 12pm PDT/3pm EDT to learn about the Milwaukee Power Pack.

Reserve Your Webinar Seat Now

CURRENT EVENTS
Project Profile:
*Lancaster, CA Installs 27 MegaWatts Solar - Now For The Schools!*

Since July 2010 the City of Lancaster, CA has facilitated approximately 27 megawatts of solar installations including a baseball field, a performing arts center, Lancaster City Hall, a city park, and many businesses and residences. Inspired by this success, the City of Lancaster set out to solarize its school districts. Two of Lancaster's school districts are projected to save in excess of $325,000 annually for the next 25 years. To continue financing these type of projects the City formed the California Clean Energy Authority with the goal of facilitating tax-exempt financing of public solar systems through a power purchase agreement structure. This business model offered by the California Clean Energy Authority could be applied anywhere and allows the opportunity to have low cost solar while avoiding the upfront costs and ownership risks. To learn more about the California Clean Energy Authority click [here](#).

Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory Highlights Clean Energy Financing Policy Briefs

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs) is a special type of federally-supported state and municipal bonds that can be used to finance clean energy projects at extremely low interest rates. QECBs are meant to help local governments invest in their communities, save energy, and create jobs. The Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory recently highlighted QECB Clean Energy Financed Projects through a series of policy briefs- here are some of the latest approaches to financing clean energy projects using Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds:

**The City of San Diego**
The City of San Diego used their $13.1 million QECB award from the U.S. Department of Treasury as leverage to replace 29,000 street lights. This project is expected to save the city over $2.5 million in avoided energy and maintenance costs.

**The City of Philadelphia**
The City of Philadelphia leveraged $6.25 million of its QECB allocation to finance half of a $12.6 million City buildings energy efficiency upgrade initiative. The upgrades are expected to deliver over $10 million of net savings, and are a major step towards achieving the city's goal of reducing government energy consumption by 30% by 2015.

See all of these stories in full [here](#).

For a guide to better understanding QECBs and how your community might be able to benefit from using them see the Applied Solutions Guidebook, or contact Applied Solutions Chief Economist Jim Barrett at [Jim.Barrett@appliedsolutions.org](mailto:Jim.Barrett@appliedsolutions.org).

Colorado County Consortium Releases Energy Master Plan Framework

The Colorado Counties of Larimer and Weld, with assistance from the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, published a draft Regional Energy Master Plan Consortium. The purpose of the draft proposal is to engage energy stakeholders (individuals, companies, organizations, and governments) in Northern Colorado in a collaborative process to achieve common goals focused on energy. While specific to Colorado, this framework serves as a useful reference to local and regional governments anywhere and makes the case for the value of regional
collaboration.

The Regional Energy Master Plan Consortium (REMPC) intends to establish a process that will result in reduced energy demand, improved energy production and performance from traditional sources, and the advancement of energy sources that are replenished naturally. The purpose of the REMPC is to demonstrate how investment flows to communities that collaborate and strategically utilize resources, which advances a clean economy locally, regionally and nationally.  

Click here to view the Framework Proposal

# PACE Pushes Onward with National Sign-On Effort

On August 10 the Federal District Court ruled against the Federal Housing Financing Agency (FHFA) and in favor of the State of California, Sonoma and Placer Counties, the City of Palm Desert, and the Sierra Club. The proposed rule gives the FHFA the power to decide whether or not municipalities can use the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to finance community energy improvements.

PACE can be a valuable tool for municipalities to facilitate development for residential energy improvements in various communities. With this ruling, local municipalities would be constrained from developing residential PACE financing programs. Currently, the FHFA is required to complete the public rulemaking process that started in January.

As part of the court-directed public rulemaking process, the ruling is presently in the state of public comment under the FHFA. If your community would like to sign on to a joint comment letter led by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Vote Solar, contact Ramona Willis at rwillis@wsgr.com. Municipalities can also send a personal letter using the template letter to RegComments@fhfa.gov with "RIN 2590-AA53" in the subject line. The letter can also be sent to the FHFA here. All comments are due by September 13.

To see the FHFA's rule in full visit this website. If you have questions, please contact us at info@appliedsolutions.org.

# Virginia Provides Legal Analysis of District Energy Systems

District Energy Systems: An Analysis of Virginia Law, while written for Virginia, is very relevant to local governments across the County as a current resource for illustrating the legal structure within which public and private organizations can develop, own and operate district energy systems.

The document provides a legal analysis of district energy systems (DES) in Virginia - the statutory authority for creating them; local, state, and federal regulatory processes; the ownership structures that are possible; operational issues; and financing considerations, among other things. It starts however, with a basic introduction to district energy systems. Overviews are also provided of a number of DES’s in operation in major cities in the US and abroad.

Click here to view the document in full.

# New Guidebook: Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities
The Partnership for Sustainable Communities, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to publish *Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities*. This guide to HUD, DOT, EPA, and USDA programs highlights federal resources rural communities can use to promote economic competitiveness, protect healthy environments, and enhance quality of life.

Through a set of guiding livability principles and the partnership agreement that will guide the agencies’ efforts, resources are provided for communities to give information on funding and technical assistance opportunities available from the partnership and examples of how rural communities have put these opportunities into action.

Find the report [here](#).

Click here for Applied Solutions membership information.