

# The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Nov. 23, 2022 / Cheshvan 29, 5783 Volume 57, Issue 23

## Explore solar solutions for all

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign has a two-pronged plan to expand solar energy in the state by both houses of worship and individuals.

### CONGREGATIONS

Inspired in part by the solar installation at Temple Beth Shalom in Salem (see story page 11), the interfaith group has gathered resources to expand the use of solar power by congregations. The campaign collaborates with synagogues, churches, mosques and other houses of worship to help them find funding and other resources to add solar projects to their buildings.

"Many congregations start to move in that direction, and then they get bids and get sticker shock and put solar on the back burner," says Lou Stagnitto, Project Manager of OIS ([oregon-interfaithsolar.org](http://oregon-interfaithsolar.org)). "We can help them find funding sources people are not aware of."

In collaboration with CollectiveSun LLC, OIS helps congregations access tax incentives. Other funding options include programs from the Energy Trust of Oregon and grants from utilities such as Portland General Electric.

Temple Beth Shalom received a PGE grant to include battery backup in their solar project, which enables the synagogue to serve as a resilience center during extended power outages.

"They're one of our inspirations, and a lot of these religious communities are looking to be centers of resilience in the face of natural disaster," says Stagnitto. "What that means is that when and if the grid goes down, they will have some reserve energy that can power some parts of the building."

## JFCS, volunteers spread Thanksgiving joy (and food!)

Jewish Family & Child Service ran its 21st Thanksgiving Food Box program Nov. 20 with the help of generous community partners, donors, 65 volunteers (including Ralph Leftwich, pictured) and agency staff. Volunteers commandeer the Mittleman Jewish Community Center to pack 150 boxes of Thanksgiving meal fixings for about 600 individuals and then hand them off to drivers who deliver them throughout Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. This year's partners include five synagogues, four Jewish communal organizations, four grocery stores and four retail outlets. For some families, volunteering is an annual tradition.



### CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

*The Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign Present:*

#### Solar Energy Information Meeting

**WHY:** To raise awareness of the issue of climate change and available solutions for both organizations and individuals.

**WHEN/WHERE:** 5 pm, Dec. 8, on Zoom

**EMAIL:** [strategicsolarguy@gmail.com](mailto:strategicsolarguy@gmail.com) for link

He says that power allows the congregation to provide resources such as refrigeration for medicine and foods, meal preparation and warm shelter after a natural disaster.

### HOMEOWNERS/RENTERS/OTHERS

In addition, OIS is raising awareness about the Community Solar project created by the Oregon Legislature, which gives homeowners, renters, nonprofits and businesses discounts for subscribing to a solar project in their area. Community Solar is solar energy that is generated from a central location and shared by multiple owners or subscribers, similar to CSAs for farm produce.

Customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and Idaho Power can subscribe and save 5% (40% for low-income subscribers) on the cost of their power that is offset by a local solar project. For more information and to sign up, visit Community Solar at [oregoncsp.org](http://oregoncsp.org).

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