

## New fairs for new markets

Where should you go? Our overview of the most important solar events in 2016 should help answer that question



### Anti-dumping

Showdown for lobbyists: Will European anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures expire?

### Redox flow battery

An Italian company is bringing a new type of battery based on organic materials to market

### France in focus

Several initiatives have been launched to support the solar sector – and initial results are now in

### No reliable figures

Even 10 years ago, PV was suffering from a lack of accurate and reliable market data

## New York shouldn't let its solar strengths weaken

New York is embracing new ways to generate, distribute and consume electricity, which is translating into an expansion of clean energy and improved consumer choice and affordability. Thanks to these forward-looking and smart efforts – such as community net metering and wholesale distributed generation – solar energy is thriving in New York. The state ranks seventh in the nation for total installed solar electric capacity, but a looming federal policy decision in Congress could impact the state's innovativeness.

Under the federal solar investment tax credit (ITC), which provides a 30 percent tax credit to commercial and residential solar users, total U.S. solar capacity is expected to double over the next two years. This is because demand for solar energy in America is now higher than ever, with solar capacity cracking 22 gigawatts (GW) for the first time this summer.

Already, 40 percent of all new power generation capacity connected to the grid in the first half of 2015 was based on solar. Smart government policies, like the ITC, have been crucial in helping the industry reach this level.

As one of the fastest-growing solar markets in the country, New York is expected to double the amount of solar capacity it installed last year to reach more than 300 megawatts (MW) by the end of the year. This would bring cumulative installed solar capacity in the state to over 700 MW – enough to power nearly 120,000 New York homes.

It's not just savvy homeowners or electric utilities that are taking advantage of solar. It's also good for business. To see how solar energy is improving industry in New York, the state's Finger Lakes wine country provides a good example.

Just this summer, a family-owned and operated vineyard situated off Keuka Lake invested in solar to make their business even more self-sufficient. Hunt Country Vineyards installed a roof-top system with more than 300 panels.

The Hunt family's new solar system has a capacity of 109 kilowatts and meets 70-80 percent of the winery's electricity needs.

Thanks to the ITC and state incentives, New York's wineries are increasingly going solar with the help of a group of local companies that make up the Finger Lakes Solar Co-Op.

However, at the end of 2016, the ITC is scheduled to drop from 30 percent to 10 percent for commercial users and down to zero for residential users, which will make it much more difficult for these innovative businesses to thrive and invest in solar.

According to a new analysis by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, the expiration of the ITC will cause a 71 percent decline in solar installations nationwide between 2016 and 2017. This could lead to the loss of more than 100,000 jobs nationwide. A dramatic drop in this magnitude would force new solar installation activity down to its lowest annual level since 2012.

Nor is New York immune.

Instead of solar becoming a growth engine throughout Finger Lakes Wine Country and Chautauqua-Allegheny, a loss of these new, high-tech career opportunities in these regions is expected should the ITC be allowed to expire.

When compared with current policy, a five-year ITC extension would yield 29 percent more solar in New York from 2016-2022, equaling \$1.4 billion in additional investment in the state.

A follow-up analysis by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) found that there would be 27 percent more jobs directly in the state's solar industry if the ITC is extended for five years than if it is not. With an ITC extension, over 10,000 people will be working in the New York solar industry by 2021.

2016's deadline for renewal of the federal ITC for solar energy will arrive sooner rather than later. As an industry, we strongly urge New York lawmakers and the state's Congressional delegation to support the extension of the ITC for five years. By then, analysts predict solar will reach grid parity in most electricity markets.

America's energy producers deserve a level playing field so that we can continue diversifying our power sources, offering consumers more choices and boosting the state and national economy.

New York is setting an example for the future of American energy by updating its electricity industry using 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies such as solar. Please tell Congress not to do anything to compromise this progress. ● rr



Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

▲ Rhone Resch, president of the US Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) writes a monthly column on PV in the US.

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