

Arkansas Clean Energy News – 02.22.2021

[Arkansas school district goes solar, boosts teacher pay](#)

February 17, 2021 | Diana Madson, Yale Climate Connections

In Batesville, teachers are getting raises – thanks, in part, to solar power. Nearly 1,500 solar panels and energy efficiency measures are saving the district more than \$300,000 a year, savings that the district is using to boost teachers' salaries. "We want to be the best in the area for teachers, because that means that our kids are getting the best," said Megan Renihan, district communications coordinator.

[Central Arkansas Water announces move to solar power](#)

February 16, 2021 | KARK TV

A 4.8-megawatt solar power plant will help the state's largest drinking water utility save more than \$7M over the next 30 years. "This solar facility is one part of CAW's ongoing efforts to remain environmentally and economically sustainable for the benefit of customers we serve today and those we will serve in the future," CAW CEO Tad Bohannon said.

[Arkansas' clean-energy future](#)

February 15, 2021 | Gary Moody, Guest Writer, Northwest Arkansas Business Journal

A renewed national focus on clean energy gives Arkansas the opportunity to build on our earlier successes and aid the post-pandemic economy by stimulating jobs. Investing in clean energy will not only keep Arkansas the natural state but will allow us to lead in the transition to a clean-energy economy. (see p. 15)

[The sun rises on economic growth](#)

February 15, 2021 | Heather Nelson, Guest Writer, Northwest Arkansas Business Journal

In 2021, solar has the potential to be an even stronger anchor for our state's economy. Recent market activity shows solar, storage, electric vehicles (EV) and EV chargers will continue to dominate. To capitalize on these growth areas, we must focus on building public awareness and buy-in for these technologies. Specifically, we should reinforce how solar panels and batteries can help strengthen the electrical grid by providing reliable, cost-effective power during peak demand and in times of emergencies, such as severe storms or widespread outages.

[Entegrity developing first net zero, mixed use building in Fayetteville](#)

February 9, 2021 | Arkansas Money & Politics

The under-construction "Network" building will be home to energy services company Entegrity's Fayetteville headquarters as well as 28 luxury apartments. The structure will be equipped with six electric car charging stations, dimmable LED lighting, and HVAC controls that are enabled through the building's free WiFi platform and can be controlled via smartphone. A 115-kilowatt rooftop solar array is expected to meet 100 percent of the building's energy needs. Entegrity's Little Rock office was the first LEED Net Zero Certified building in the United States.

[State paving way for electric cars](#)

February 16, 2021 | Ashton Eley, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Arkansas launches a state program to fund the installation of electric vehicle chargers as part of a bid to improve its last-in-the-country ranking for electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure. "Really, the purpose of our program is to leverage what was about \$2 million, and hopefully that will bolster a lot more investment," said Becky Keogh, secretary of the Arkansas Dept. of Energy and Environment.

[Don't Blame Wind Turbines for Texas' Massive Power Outages](#)

February 16, 2021 | By Will Wade, Naureen S. Malik and Brian Eckhouse, Bloomberg

While ice has forced some turbines to shut down just as a brutal cold wave drives record electricity demand, that's been the least significant factor in the blackouts, according to Dan Woodfin, a senior director for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the state's power grid. The main factors: Frozen instruments at natural gas, coal and even nuclear facilities, as well as limited supplies of natural gas, he said.

[Texas governor walks back Fox News comments on Green New Deal, says gas, coal failed in Texas freeze](#)


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Prior to his interview with conservative talk show host Sean Hannity, Gov. Abbott told our sister station in Dallas, WFAA, that the main problem was natural gas being frozen in the lines.



No, wind and solar power are not the main causes of Texas's power outages des...
Prior to his interview with conservative talk show host Sean Hannity, Gov. Abbott told WFAA that the main problem was natural gas being frozen in the lines.
[thv11.com](#)

1:20 PM · Feb 17, 2021 · SocialNewsDesk

Greg Abbott 
@GregAbbott_TX


The Texas power grid has not been compromised.

The ability of some companies that generate the power has been frozen.

This includes the natural gas & coal generators.

They are working to get generation back on line.

ERCOT & PUC are prioritizing residential consumers.

Greg Abbott  @GregAbbott_TX · Feb 15
I have gathered information all day from ERCOT & the Public Utilities Comm. & will provide a detailed update shortly.

Many power generation companies facilities froze overnight and shut down their ability to generate power.

They are working to get power back on line.

More soon

1:35 PM · Feb 15, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone