



State of Idaho
August 2022

Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) is responsible for coordinating energy and mineral resource planning and policy development for the State of Idaho.

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Idaho Minerals

The DeLamar project is an open-pit mine being developed in southwestern Idaho approximately 100 miles from Boise in the Owyhee mountains. The project is expected to produce approximately 1.6 million ounces of gold and 100 million ounces of silver over its lifespan. Click [here](#) for additional details regarding this historic mine.

Electric Vehicles

As of late July, Idahoans have registered over 2,300 electric vehicles this year. Yet, less than 1% of the 250 million vehicles in the United States are electric. Delivery of traditional gasoline fueled vehicles remained flat this year according to the New York Times. Ford has recently sold out of their 2022 models of both its electric F-150 Lightning Pickup and Mustang Mach-E vehicle. Click [here](#) for additional information.

Brainteaser:

How well do you know Idaho energy?

Answer three energy trivia questions to get your day off to a good start.

1) Did you know that Idaho is sitting on one of the most important elements on earth? The Salmon-Challis sits on top what is known as the Idaho Cobalt Belt, a 34-mile-long geological formation of sedimentary rock that contains some of the largest cobalt deposits in the country. What makes cobalt so valuable?

- A) It is an essential mineral used for batteries in electric cars, computers and cell phones.
- B) It is an essential mineral used for lead-acid batteries and flame retardants.
- C) It is an essential mineral used for fiber optics, optical amplifiers, lasers, and glass colorants.
- D) It is an essential mineral used for integrated circuits and optical devices like LEDs.

2) In what year did the first commercial geothermal power plant come online in the U.S. northwest, specifically in south-central Idaho? How much power does it produce?

- A) 2002, 20 MW
- B) 2008, 10 MW
- C) 2005, 10 MW
- D) 2008, 20 MW

3) Hydropower is one of the oldest sources on the planet, generating power when flowing water spins a wheel or turbine. The Greeks used water wheels for grinding wheat into flour more than 2,000 years ago, while the Egyptians used Archimedes water screws for irrigation during the third century B.C. What is the largest hydropower project in Idaho that produces 1,167 MWs of electricity?

- A) Dworshak Dam
- B) American Falls Dam

Renewable Energy

Idaho Power has commissioned a study that finds the rate it pays customers who send their power back to the grid should be lowered. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is considering whether its net metering rates should be lowered by as much as 60%. Select the [link](#) for more information regarding how this may affect utility customers with solar panels.

Energy Efficiency

The Inflation Reduction Act should lower electricity bills for consumers and prices on energy efficient appliances. The bill was signed into law earlier this week. Click [here](#) for more information on how individuals may benefit from this legislation.

Nuclear Energy

The United States Department of Energy selected Idaho for a proposed nuclear test reactor that would dramatically reduce the components needed for a new generation of nuclear reactors. Click the link for more information on the [versatile test reactor](#) (VTR).

C) Cabinet George Project
D) Hells Canyon Complex

**Answers are listed on the bottom of this newsletter.*

Energy Outlook

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has released a short-term outlook on the energy industry for the month of August. The report looks at estimated gasoline retail prices, a forecast in natural gas prices and consumption, predictions on electricity generation from renewable energy sources and coal and the expected residential electricity prices in the United States. [View the full report here.](#)

- U.S. crude oil production averages 11.9 million barrels per day in 2022 and 12.7 million barrels per day in 2023, which would set a record for the most U.S. crude oil production in a year. The current record is 12.3 million barrels per day, which occurred in 2019.
- U.S. regular gasoline retail prices averaged \$4.56 per gallon in July, and the average retail diesel price was \$5.49 per gallon. EIA forecasts that retail gasoline prices will average \$4.29 a gallon in the third quarter of 2022 and fall to \$3.78 a gallon in the fourth quarter of 2022. U.S. diesel prices are predicted to average \$5.02 per gallon in the third quarter of 2022 and \$4.39 per gallon in the fourth quarter of 2022.
- EIA forecasts that natural gas consumption will average 83.8 Bcf/d in 2023, about 1.3 Bcf/d or 2% lower than in 2022, but 3% higher than in 2021.
- EIA anticipates U.S. sales of electricity to ultimate customers to increase by 2.5% in 2022, due to rising economic activity but also because of hot summer weather across the country. EIA expects the sales price to decline by .3% in 2023.
- EIA expects the largest increases in U.S. electricity generation will come from renewable energy sources. Renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, should provide 22% of U.S. generation in 2022 and 24% in 2023, up from 20% in 2021.
- EIA predicts the U.S. residential electricity price will average 14.6 cents per kWh in 2022, up 6.1% from 2021.
- U.S. coal production is likely to increase by 21 million short tons to 599 million short tons in 2022 and to 601 million short tons in 2023. Coal consumption is expected to decrease by 9% in 2023 as a result of constraints on coal generation and mine shutdowns as well as coal transportation limitations.

ChargeWest Kickoff Event-September 15, 2022

The Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR), in partnership with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Transportation Department, Parks and Recreation, Department of Commerce's Tourism Office,

EPA's Clean School Bus Program

School districts or their contractors are eligible to apply for the \$5 billion program that runs through 2026. This year, \$500 million will be distributed to school districts and contractors in a rebate process. Half of the funding is for zero-emissions

Treasure Valley Clean Cities Coalition, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities Coalition, the State of Montana and the State of Wyoming will host a ChargeWest kickoff event in Island Park, Idaho.

When: September 15th

Time: 12:00-2:00

Location: Island Park City Building-
3753 US-20 Island Park, ID 83429

The purpose of ChargeWest is to provide EV charging on corridors throughout the intermountain states with the goal of providing infrastructure to gateway rural communities, recreation areas, scenic by-ways, monuments, and state and national parks. ChargeWest benefits Idaho's economic development by enabling EV drivers to access rural areas in state, increasing tourism and local economic development.

The event will launch the ChargeWest brand and celebrate the completion of OEMR and DEQ's Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) program, which will fund three new charging stations around the area in Driggs, Island Park, and Ashton. The event will promote EV travel, showcase Idaho's ability to adopt EV infrastructure, reduce range anxiety, and demonstrate the collaborative effort among intermountain states to support interstate travel.

Governor Little is scheduled to speak at the event, along with other leaders promoting EV travel through the West.

For additional information on the [ChargeWest initiative](#) please click on the link.



vehicles, like electric school buses. The other half can be used for either zero-emissions buses or low-emissions buses, including CNG, hydrogen and propane fuels.

Eligible applicants include:

- 1) High-need school districts and low-income areas
- 2) Rural districts
- 3) Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school districts
- 4) School districts that receive basic support payments under section 7703(b)(1) of title 20 for children who reside on tribal land.

Click on the link to access prioritized school districts for the [2022 CSB Rebate Program](#).

For additional information regarding the program and how to apply, please refer to the links below.

Application deadline:

August 19, 2022

Additional Information:

[Clean School Bus Application](#)

[Clean School Bus Program Guide](#)



CONSIDERING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE TO OFFSET OPERATING COSTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

Idaho Power is hosting the **Electric Avenue** event Tuesday, August 23rd for those looking for ways to lower operating costs and promote sustainability. The open house will allow

VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT RECEIVED FEDERAL RAISE GRANT!

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program (RAISE) grant was awarded to Valley Regional Transit to complete transportation improvements along a

attendees to learn about electric fleet options, best applications, benefits and costs and how to fuel with various businesses who are currently using electric technologies in their everyday operations. Vehicles on display include:

Electric Forklifts

Electric Fleet Vehicles

Small Electric Utility Vehicles

Electric Garbage Trucks

The Open House will be held at Idaho Power Boise Operations Center from 9:00-1:00. RSVP is not required but appreciated.

When: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Where: Idaho Power Boise Operations Center-10790 Franklin Rd. Boise, ID 83709

RSVP at ev@idahopower.com

six-and-one-half mile section of State Street and State Highway 44. The \$8.5 million federal grant provides:

Bus stop enhancements

On-route electric bus charging

Multi-use path

Accessibility improvements

Additional street crossings for bicycles and pedestrians

Valley Regional Transit is one of 166 recipients nationwide to receive RAISE grants from this year's \$2.2 billion program.

Valley Regional Transit anticipates project design to begin next spring and hopes to start construction the following summer. Click on the link for more information regarding the [grant](#)

OEMR Programs in Action



Governor Little Presents Anheuser-Busch with The Idaho Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award

Congratulations to Anheuser-Busch Idaho Falls Malting Plant for receiving the Idaho Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award! Anheuser-Busch's Idaho Falls Malting Plant conserved over 310,000 kilowatt hours of electricity for the plant in 2021 and approximately \$250,000 in cost savings by completing two retrofit projects focused on replacing an aged water pump and reducing water consumption through behavior modification.

The organization will continue to implement energy conservation projects at its Idaho Falls facility by piloting a program to use water treatment waste and processing waste to produce electricity and thermal energy.

Governor Little presented the award to the Anheuser-Busch-Idaho Falls team in August. The Governor recognizes and appreciates their past accomplishments and future aspirations to continue to conserve energy for the state.



Government Leading by Example Participant

Owyhee County Historical Museum

The Owyhee County Historical Museum has recently completed a retrofit in their annex building with assistance from OEMR's Government Leading by Example program. Eriks Garsvo, Director of Owyhee County Historical Museum, has been passionate towards reducing energy consumption throughout the facility since he began his service as Director of the museum three years ago. "Reducing energy saves Owyhee County taxpayers money," says Garsvo.

Owyhee County completed the lighting retrofit in their annex building in August. The 6,000 square foot multi-use building is a warehouse style building that started out with four (4) small fluorescent fixtures in the center of the building that would not produce enough light for the entire building. The county removed the older light fixtures and installed new lighting and conduits. The warehouse is now equipped with nine (9) LED fixtures and operates on a sensor that automatically shuts off every fifteen minutes, saving energy and overall utility costs for the museum, allowing the museum to put funding towards enhancing their museum and their visitors' experience.

The Owyhee County Historical Museum captures the old technology and incorporates the new technology to continue to highlight Idaho's history in an energy efficient manner. Congratulations to the Owyhee County Historical Museum for continuing to work towards saving energy and costs for Idahoans!



Back to School Shopping Can Be Cost Effective and Conserve Energy

August is here and for many that means back to school shopping. Start the new school year off right by saving money and saving energy with these simple tips.

1) **Reusable Items:** 180 brown lunch bags and plastic water bottles per year can add up both from a cost standpoint and an energy standpoint. Replace the brown lunch bag and plastic water bottle with a reusable lunch bag and water bottle.

2) **Reduce:** Eliminate buying multiple school supplies you already have from the previous year. If you need to replace electronics look for Energy Saving electronics to conserve energy and overall cost for the life of the electronic devices.

3) **Recycle:** Purchase supplies that are either made from recycled materials such as recycled paper, clothing, pens, pencils and bags.

Click the [link](#) for additional tips to conserve energy and money this school year.

Thermoelectric Coolers: A Different Approach to Refrigeration from Standard Compressors

Thermoelectric cooling is known as a solid-state cooling, because there is no liquid refrigerant running through the machine. Thermal energy is transferred through the use of solid metal. Below is a list of products that rely on thermoelectric cooling.

1) **Small refrigerators and wine coolers**

2) **Portable and personal air conditioning and other small cooling appliances**

3) **Cooled seating**

For a comparison on which is better, a compressor cooler or a thermostatic cooler, refer to the link below for a breakdown.

[Compressor cooler vs. thermostatic cooler](#)



Federal Funding Opportunities

OEMR staff track and monitor energy related federal funding opportunities and post notifications to [our website](#). Please contact OEMR with questions regarding the following federal funding opportunities.

- [Funding Notice: Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment](#)
- [\\$2.3 Billion Formula Grant Program Opened for States, Tribal Nations, and Territories.](#)
- [Advancing Equity Through Workforce Partnerships](#)
- [Exploring Place-Based Energy Generation](#)
- [Geothermal Heating and Cooling Technologies at Federal Facilities](#)
- [\\$12.2 Million Available for Innovations in LED Technology](#)
- [Registration is Open for the National Community Solar Partnership \(NCSP\)](#)

Additional funding opportunities

- [DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office's Funding Opportunity Exchange](#)
- [USDA Funding Opportunity websites](#)
- [Local Infrastructure Hub.](#)

Recent Articles

["Biden wants minerals, but mine permitting lags."](#) (EE news)

["Staying Safe in Hot Weather."](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

["Idaho Power's plan to keep the power on amid the heat."](#) (Idaho News)

["NRC to Certify NuScale Small Modular Reactor Design for Use in the US"](#) (Utility Dive)

[Idaho National Lab and Bloom Energy Produce Hydrogen at Record-Setting Efficiencies."](#) (Bloomenergy)

["Secretary of Energy Visits Idaho Falls to Talk Gas Prices, Climate Change and Zero-Carbon Emissions."](#) (EastIdahoNews.com)

["Idaho Building Officials Could Make Major Cutbacks to Energy Code Regulations."](#) (Boise Development)

["Inflation Drops to Zero in July due to Falling Gas Prices."](#) (Axios.com)

["Department of Energy Announces \\$44 million in Advance Enhanced Geothermal Systems."](#) (Department of Energy)



Meet OEMR Staff

Richard Stover- Administrator

George Lynch- Legal Counsel/Minerals Program Manager

Marissa Warren- Energy Program Manager

Tammy Japhet- Financial Manager/Loan Program

Amanda Galvez- Fiscal Specialist

Emily Her- Policy Analyst

Alexa Bouvier- Policy Analyst

Andrew Mentzer- Policy Analyst

Brenna Garro- Policy Analyst

OEMR Programs

OEMR offers the following programs:

Energy Efficiency Awards

**Application Period is Now Closed*

Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency – Energy and Mineral Resources

Government Leading By Example

**Application Period is Now Closed*

Government Leading by Example – Energy and Mineral Resources (idaho.gov)

State Energy Loan Program

**Reduced interest rates and flexible payment plans are now available. Apply today!*

State Energy Loan Program – Energy and Mineral Resources (idaho.gov)



Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Program (EVSE)

**Application period is Now Closed. Received applications are currently under review and final decisions will be posted on DEQ's Volkswagen and Diesel web page.*

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Program – Energy and Mineral Resources (idaho.gov)

Answers to the Brainteaser:

1) A-

*Source: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/us-geological-survey-releases-2022-list-critical-minerals>

2) B-

*Source: <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=ID#:~:text=In%202008%2C%20the%20first%20commercial,state's%20only%20geothermal%20power%20plant>

3) D-

*Source: <https://oemr.idaho.gov/sources/re/hydropower/#:~:text=Idaho's%20largest%20hydroelectric%20projects%20are,Project%20owned%20by%20Avista%20Corporation>

State of Idaho- OEMR | 304 N. 8th St. Suite 250, Boise, ID 83720

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