



State of Idaho
May, 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.

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Idaho Minerals

Idaho Champion signs MOU on its Cobalt Properties with far east Asian Battery Group, JV, to include an expansion project in order to advance the four cobalt projects located in the heart of the Cobalt Belt, as the Biden Administration adds cobalt to the list of covered items under the Defense Production Act. [View Idaho Champion Signs MOU on Its Cobalt Properties.](#)

Hybrid and Electric Vehicles

According to data from the U.S. Department of Energy, as of October 2020, there are approximately 2,300 electric vehicles registered in Idaho. As electric vehicles become more popular among commuters, many may be asking what it entails to own an electric vehicle in Idaho.

Brainteaser:

How well do you know Idaho energy?

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

- 1) In 2021, renewable energy generated 74% of Idaho's total in-state electricity. What is our national ranking for the share of electricity generated from renewable energy?
A) Fourth
B) Twelfth
C) Eighteenth
D) Twenty-fourth
- 2) In what year did Idaho first begin its commercial natural gas production?
A) 2010
B) 1992
C) 2015
D) 2017
- 3) About two-fifths of Idaho is covered by forests. Biomass, primarily wood waste from our forests, provided what percent of the state's total in-state electricity generation in 2021?
A) 1%
B) 3%
C) 5%
D) 7%

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

[Are electric vehicles worth it in Idaho?](#)

Renewable Energy

Idaho Power has asked the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to approve expanding Idaho Power's clean and renewable energy options. [View the Modified Procedure Order.](#)

Energy Efficiency

Light bulb efficiency standards will phase out incandescent and halogen bulbs in favor of LEDs. The efficiency standard should save consumers nearly \$3 billion annually and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 222 million metric tons over 30 years. Retailers will be able to sell the inefficient bulbs until July 2023. [U.S. Lightbulb Standards Will Cut Utility Bills and Climate Emissions.](#)

Nuclear Energy

The Department of Defense has announced that a new nuclear design is going to be assembled at Idaho National Laboratory. "Project Pele" aims to produce a mobile nuclear microreactor that can travel in up to four shipping containers and should provide resilience and clean power. [The Pentagon is Sending a New Nuclear Design to Idaho.](#)



Energy Outlook

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has released a short-term outlook on the energy industry from estimated GDP growth, crude oil prices, the forecast in natural gas production and consumption and a forecast of electricity generation from renewable energy sources and coal. [View the full report here.](#)

-EIA predicts U.S. GDP will grow by 3.1% in both 2022 and 2023, following growth of 5.7% in 2021.

-Crude oil prices remain above \$100/b following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

-EIA forecasts that global consumption of petroleum and liquid fuels will average 99.6 million b/d for all of 2022 and increase 1.9 million b/d in 2023, to average 101.5 million b/d.

-It is expected that U.S. consumption of natural gas will average 85.7 Bcf/d in 2022, up 3% from 2021. EIA predicts dry natural gas production will average 96.7 Bcf/d, which would be 3.2 Bcf/d more than in 2021.

-EIA forecasts U.S. electricity generation from renewable energy sources will rise from 20% in 2021 to 22% in 2022.



Monthly Tips to Save Money on Energy Cost!

Here are a few simple low to no cost energy conservation tips that will save you money on energy costs.

- 1) Replace your shower head with a low flow shower head to save you up to \$145 on your electricity bill each year.
- 2) Cleaning the lint trap in your dryer is a critical safety measure and also one of the easiest things you can do to increase drying efficiency. By cleaning the lint trap after each load you can save up to \$34 a year.
- 3) Replace your five most commonly used light fixtures with certified LED light bulbs to conserve up to 90% less energy, last 15 times longer than standard light bulbs and save roughly \$45 a year in energy costs.

[Find additional energy efficiency measures you can implement around the house.](#)

Announcing New Interest Rates and Flexible Payment Plans for The State Energy Loan Program!

The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) State Energy Loan Program offers low-interest loans to develop energy projects for homes and businesses located within Idaho. Effective June 1st, 2022, OEMR will offer reduced interest rates and flexible payment plans. See more information on OEMR's website link below.

Link: [State Energy Loan Program – Energy and Mineral Resources \(idaho.gov\)](#)



EV Action in Idaho



Heavy Duty Electric Volvo Truck

In April, Northwest Equipment Sales, Inc. offered a demo to see and test drive a heavy duty electric Volvo truck at their Boise location. The Volvo VNR Electric Truck offers a range of up to 275 miles and 565 kWh battery capacity with a 90 minute 80% charge. [Check out information on the Volvo VNR Electric Truck.](#)



Idaho's EV Charging Efforts

OEMR's Policy Analyst, Emily Her, presented on the state's EV charging efforts earlier this month. The presentation covered Idaho's Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Program (EVSE), the funding Idaho can expect to receive from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and EV Programs and Incentives for potential EV buyers and EV charging site hosts. Please find a link to [all EV stations located in Idaho](#) and a link to access the [presentation.](#)

Idaho's Energy Gem: Hydropower

The Magic Dam Hydroelectricity Facility

Water powers Idaho's economy. OEMR's Policy Analyst, Brenna Garro, recently attended the Big Wood Canal Company's tour of the Magic Dam Hydroelectric facility in Blaine County. Hydropower continues to provide the largest share of Idaho's total in-state electricity generation. About half of Idaho's electricity generating capacity is at hydroelectric power plants and 7 of the state's 10 largest power plants (in terms of electricity generation) are hydroelectric facilities. [Select the link for more information regarding Idaho's renewable energy production.](#)



Safety Tips for Summer

May is National Electrical Safety Month! As summer approaches and our kids are home from school, be sure to follow these simple tips from Idaho Power to encourage electricity safety. For additional safety tips visit Idaho Power's Safety Information webpage.

- 1) Never play with outlets or power cords.
- 2) Never use any electric appliance near water-filled sinks, bathtubs or toilets.
- 3) Dry your hands before touching electric appliances.
- 4) Fly kites and drones away from power lines.
- 5) Never climb or play on electrical equipment, such as green transformer boxes in neighborhoods.

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. For additional funding opportunities please visit the [DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office's Funding Opportunity Exchange](#) and the [USDA Funding Opportunity websites](#).

- [\\$60 million for Second-life Applications for Batteries](#)
- [\\$3.16 Billion from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Boost Domestic Battery Manufacturing and Supply Chains](#)
- [DOE Searching for Nuclear Energy Partners to Connect with Communities](#)
- [USDA Rural Energy Pilot Program](#)
- [\\$12.2 Million Available for Innovations in LED Technology](#)
- [Registration is Open for the National Community Solar Partnership \(NCSP\)](#)

Recent Articles

["U.S. Department of Energy Seeks Nuclear Energy Partners to Connect with Communities."](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

["Fueling Innovation: New Collaboration with University of Utah tackles nuclear waste."](#) (News Wise)

["Gateway South Transmission Line Receives Nod to Proceed."](#) (Wyoming's Local News 8)

["Idaho Falls Power Celebrates Completion of New Substation and Transmission Line."](#) (East Idaho News)

["Funding Notice: Foundational Agrivoltaic Research for Megawatt Scale."](#) (FARMS) (U.S. Department of Energy)

["Idaho Power announces Plans for State's First Large Scale Battery Storage Project."](#) (Magic Valley)

["Biden Administration Announces \\$3.16 Billion from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Boost Domestic Battery Manufacturing and Supply Chains."](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

["May is National Wildfire Awareness Month. Take Steps to Prepare with an Outage Kit."](#) (The World)

["New Report Available on Smart Grid Technology Trends."](#) (U.S. Department of Energy)

["Wyoming Starts Nuclear Energy Partnership with Idaho Laboratory."](#) (Wyoming's K2 Radio Station)



Meet OEMR Staff

Lori Wolff- Interim Administrator

Marissa Warren- Energy Program Manager

George Lynch- Legal Counsel/Minerals Program Manager

Tammy Japhet- Financial Manager

Amanda Galvez- Fiscal Specialist

Emily Her- Policy Analyst

Alexa Sakolsky-Basquill- Policy Analyst

Andrew Mentzer- Policy Analyst

Brenna Garro- Policy Analyst

OEMR Programs

OEMR offers the following programs:

Energy Efficiency Awards

**Applications are being accepted for 2022 Idaho Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards until May 31, 2022- Apply today!*

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

Government Leading By Example

**Applications are being accepted for 2022 until May 31, 2022- Apply today!*

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

State Energy Loan Program

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

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Program (EVSE)

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



Answers to the Brainteaser:

- 1) A- Fourth, after Vermont, South Dakota and Washington
- 2) C- 2015
- 3) B- 3%, Idaho's biomass resources provide feedstock for the state's wood pellet manufacturing plants, which have a combined production capacity of 75,000 tons per year.

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