



State of Idaho
November 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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Minerals

The Perpetua Resources Stibnite Gold Project, approximately 40 miles east of McCall, is currently expanding two existing open-pit gold mines. The Forest Service recently released a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and has scheduled public meetings in early December to discuss the project. For more information click on the [link](#).

Electric Vehicles

Idaho school districts received \$5 million from EPA's Clean School Bus Program. The grants will help two school districts purchase over 13 clean school buses to work towards producing cleaner air in and around schools and communities. For more information click on the [link](#).

Renewable

Brainteaser:

How well do you know Idaho energy?

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

1) Idaho has a rich mining history known to produce various types of minerals including silver, phosphate, gold, cobalt and other minerals. The discovery of gold established the Idaho territory in 1863. In what year was phosphate discovered in Idaho?

- A) 1903
- B) 1863
- C) 1898
- D) 1905

2) In 1949, the Idaho National Laboratory was established in Idaho as the National Reactor Testing Station to host nationwide nuclear research and innovation. Since then, 52 innovative reactors have been designed and tested at the Idaho National Laboratory. Which industry does nuclear energy serve?

- A) Aviation transportation
- B) Aquatic transportation
- C) Medical technology
- D) All of the above

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

Energy

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission held two public hearings in November discussing a fair and equitable net metering program where customers who generate their own solar power can get paid for the excess energy they send back to the grid.

Idaho Power has proposed a new credit to customers to ensure pricing is fair for all customers. The utility provider currently has 12,000 customers generating power from panels on their homes. For more information on how the hearings went click on the [link](#).

Energy Efficiency

In November, the Idaho Building Code Board met to consider eliminating certain energy efficiency requirements for commercial and residential buildings. After discussing the proposed amendments to the Building Code the board determined that additional information is necessary before acting on the issue. The board is expected to reconvene in February. For more information, please click on the [link](#).

Nuclear Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy announced its plan to upgrade a network of national laboratories. Some funds will go towards major equipment projects such as high-energy physics, fusion energy, nuclear physics, and science laboratories. The investment comes to ensure the labs are able to play a major part in clean-energy and climate-related work. For additional information click on the [link](#).

Energy Outlook

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has released a short-term outlook on the energy industry for the month of November. The report looks at macroeconomic conditions and its effect on energy markets in the future, estimated natural gas inventories, predictions on electricity generation from renewable energy sources, expected oil and diesel prices and production. [View the full report here.](#)

- Based on the S&P Global Macroeconomic model, EIA expects U.S. GDP will decrease slightly in 2023, which will contribute to a drop in total U.S. energy consumption next year.
- U.S. natural gas inventories fell 4% below the five-year average. If inventories continue to fall, EIA predicts inventories will be 8% below the five-year average at the end of March 2023.
- EIA expects natural gas prices will decline after January.
- EIA predicts renewable resources will provide 22% of U.S. electricity generation for the remainder of 2022 and 24% in 2023, as generation from natural gas declines 2%.
- Retail heating oil and diesel prices will continue to average more than \$5 per gallon for the rest of 2022. Due to the EU's ban on seaborne imports of petroleum products from Russia, EIA expects supply uncertainty for distillate markets in the beginning of 2023.
- EIA forecasts that the average U.S. home that uses heating oil as its primary space heating fuel will see expenditures increase by 45% compared to last winter.
- EIA predicts OPEC crude oil production will fall for the remaining part of 2022, however production should increase .3 million b/d in 2023.
- Growth in OPEC and non-OPEC oil production, production in the United States, keeps the Brent crude oil price lower on an annual average basis in 2023 than in 2022.
- Distillate fuel inventories were 104 million barrels at the end of October, the lowest end-of-October level since 1951.
- In 2023, distillate fuel inventories are forecasted to average 17% below the five-year average in 2023.

Let Us Know About Your Energy Experience

The Office of Energy and Mineral Resources is seeking feedback from residents and businesses about their energy experience. This information will help our office better understand opportunities, priorities and perceptions regarding how we keep the lights on. Please take a few minutes to share your feedback about energy in Idaho through the following survey links:

Consumer: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVFVGDS>

Industry: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PXSXVJT>

Governor Little Presents 2022 Energy Efficiency Award to Clearwater Paper



Congratulations to Clearwater Paper for receiving the Idaho Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award! Clearwater Paper conserved approximately 940,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in 2021 and approximately \$47,000 in cost savings by completing over 11 different lighting projects in their Lewiston office alone.

Clearwater Paper's industry is energy intensive. The company is currently planning to replace their direct current motors with more efficient alternating current motors in the near future. The company has set a 20% energy reduction goal over a three-year period as well.

Governor Little presented the award to Clearwater Paper in Lewiston at the end of October. The Governor recognizes and appreciates their past accomplishments and future aspirations to continue to conserve energy for the state.

Idaho Mining Association Conference



The Office of Energy and Mineral Resources attended the Idaho Mining Association (IMA) conference in October, alongside partner agencies and hundreds of industry experts, NGO's and other interested parties. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to coordinate and connect with industry over best practices, emerging trends and policy updates. OEMR's Administrator, Richard Stover, provided remarks during a session on how state agencies are expanding their efforts to coordinate on mineral projects and create efficient methods for permitting and review that enhance environmental outcomes and lower administrative burdens. Our office looks forward to attending the 2023 event.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Update

As of November 2022, over \$1.1 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced with over 100 specific projects identified to receive funding. Idaho is set to receive approximately \$975 million for transportation, over \$85 million for clean water and more than 27,000 households have received access to affordable internet. For more information on projects expected to be delivered to Idahoans through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, click on the [link](#) and view the [one-page overview](#).

Tips to Conserve Energy and Save Money This Holiday Season

Before you leave town for the holidays, consider these energy saving tips that are useful,

Energy Saving Options to Consider this Holiday Season

regardless the season.

1) Turn down the water heater to "vacation mode." Water heating can account for 14%-25% of the energy consumed in a home. Just remember to turn it back on when you return from your trip.

2) Lower your temperature in the winter and increase your temperature in the summer with a programmable thermostat.

3) Set the water heater to 120 degrees.

4) Unplug unused electronic appliances. Electronic appliances even in the off mode use small amounts of electricity.

5) Make sure all lights are turned off. For lights on a security timer, use LED bulbs.

Click the [link](#) for additional tips to conserve energy in your home when you are on vacation.

1) Home weatherization: Complete an energy assessment to identify ways your home could save up to 30% in annual energy costs.

2) Energy Efficient Home Applicant Rebate Offers: Check with your local utility provider or the government for available rebate opportunities.

3) Energy-efficient lighting: Energy-efficient LED lightbulbs use up to 80% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and can last up to 25 times longer.

4) Programmable thermostats: You can save up to 15% by lowering the temperature to heat your home when you are away and asleep.

5) Public Transportation: Transportation is responsible for approximately 70% of gas and oil use. Consider carpooling with neighbors or friends as an alternative option to get around town this season.

Click on the [link](#) for additional energy saving options.

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.

- [Advancing Equity Through Workforce Partnerships](#)
- [Geothermal Heating and Cooling Technologies at Federal Facilities](#)
- [Registration is Open for the National Community Solar Partnership \(NCSP\)](#)
- [Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs](#)
- [Funding Notice: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Rare Earth Element Demonstration Facility](#)
- [Funding Notice: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Carbon Capture Demonstration Projects Program](#)
- [Funding Notice: Carbon Storage Validation and Testing](#)

Additional funding opportunities

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

Recent Articles

["NuScale Power, LLC and Idaho State University Open Energy Exploration Center."](#) (Idaho State University)

["High Gas Prices are not Caused by a Lack of American Oil."](#) (Montana Standard)

["Idaho Gas Prices Still Falling."](#) (Coeur d'Alene Press)

["Idaho National Lab Spearheading Cyber-Informed Engineering Action Plan for Electric Grid."](#) (FedScoop)

["Idaho Power Supports Rooftop Solar but wants to Ensure Fair Prices for Everyone."](#) (Idaho Statesman)

["Could Crypto Miners Raise your Electricity Bills? Idaho Power says yes. What to Know."](#) (Idaho Statesman)

["Novel Waste Treatment Efficiently Converts Sewage to Biogas."](#) (Washington State University Insider)



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- Senior Policy Analyst

Alexa Bouvier- Policy Analyst

Andrew Mentzer- Policy Analyst

Brenna Garro- Policy Analyst

Steve Vinsonhaler-Grants/Contracts Officer

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

**Accepting Applications*

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! **Application period will close*

December 31, 2022.

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



Answers to the Brainteaser:

1) A- 1903

Source: [Education • Idaho Mining Association \(mineidaho.com\)](http://mineidaho.com)

Source: [U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis](https://www.eia.gov)

Source: [About Mining - Department of Lands \(idaho.gov\)](http://idaho.gov)

2) D- All of the above-

Source: [Idahos-Expanding-Energy-Economy.pdf](#)

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