

Source: USDA Forest Service

Energy

Continued from A11

"The market is driving the boom," said Mark Zwieg, Hecate Energy's development manager in charge of the Bonanza project and other proposals. 'Our cost of materials is going down every year."

A megawatt of solar power capacity requires about 5 to 10 acres and costs about \$780,000 to \$910,000 to install at the utility scale, depending on the technology. The Bonanza project alone is projected to increase Oregon's solar capacity by 150-300 megawatts, depending on the configuration of the final design. Though installation has grown cheaper, siting remains a challenging aspect of the solar development process. Projects require suitable land that's close enough to transmission lines and substations to make economic sense.

facility was approved there by Oregon's Energy Facility Siting

Rain

8888 8888

T-storms

Showers

Snow

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Council nearly 20 years ago. The many objections to the project — including the loss of irrigated land, wildlife habitat and cultural heritage - will be worked through as the company discusses the details with stakeholders, Zwieg said.

"We want to be good neighpors. We want to minimize ou impacts," he said. "You don't want to look at all the projects the same. Your approach to opposition needs to evolve with each project."

figure this out."

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Cold Front

Flurries

Solar projects are among the most commonly approved nonresidential uses in farm and forest zones, according to the state Department of Land Conservation and Development.

At 966 megawatts, solar capacity in Oregon grew by more than 30% in 2020 alone, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. The industr is expected to expand by 1,646 megawatts during the next five years. A megawatt is enough to power about 190 homes for a year, according to the association. "Solar energy development is rapidly growing in Oregon," said the state Department of Land Conservation and Development. "Many utility scale solar facilities are opting to locate on land zoned (exclusive farm use) due to proximity to high-voltage powerlines and substations with interconnection opportunities, lower land acquisition or lease costs, availability of unobstructed sunlight, and ease of development due to flatter slopes."

Bayer, the organization's policy counsel.

Stationary Front

Madrid

Manila

Warm Front

Co-locating new solar facilities with continued agricultural uses - known as agrivoltaics offers one possibility for compromise.

Chad Higgins, an associate professor at Oregon State University, began studying the subject after noticing some sheep

AstraZeneca

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Vienna

Warsav

75/59/0.00

90/77/0.14

Continued from A11 It ordered \$1,872,000 in noneconomic damages for emotional distress and harm to reputation and \$510,423 for lost wages after a weeklong trial before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jolie A. Russo in the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courtmedicines to treat pulmonary disease, Bevespi and Daliresp.

83/68/0.00

81/68/0.00

92/65/t

86/64/t

79/63/s

72/59/

She said she faced retaliation in response. She was removed from leadership jobs, wrongly accused of not completing a certain number of hours of coaching her sales representatives, pressured to work weekends ind had her bonus reduced,

'You may start seeing clusters of solar facilities in one area because of those attributes," Zwieg said.

Resistance from surrounding landowners is a less tangible but very real impediment to developing a solar facility.

Hecate Energy is still conducting its due diligence on the Bonanza site, which was chosen partly because a natural gas

'Really big problem'

Even so, the controversies repeatedly encountered by solar projects in Oregon have taken a toll on the industry, experts say.

"Anecdotally, we're hearing" from developers that it's a really big problem," said Max Greene, regulatory and policy director for the Renewable Northwest nonprofit, which advocates for solar, wind and geothermal projects.

Unless Oregon comes up with a way to make the public more comfortable with solar projects, it will be difficult or even impossible to build new facilities in the state, he said.

"I don't think we're there yet. We're at this flashpoint," he said. "It's a sign we need to do something to get people together and

Statewide inventory

The Oregon Farm Bureau believes a statewide inventory or map of lands available for solar development could expedite those projects that are broadly beneficial, said Samantha

congregating under solar p at a campus installation.

His research has determined that grass below the panels grows slower but reaches dormancy later in the season, consuming less water while extending the pasture's productivity in summer.

The growth rate of sheep isn't reduced if they graze beneath the panels, which they preferred to do because of the shade.

Higgins is now comparing several agrivoltaic arrangements at another site, though he acknowledges the co-location strategy may face obstacles and limitations.

"Any grower who looks at an array, their first question is: How do I get a tractor in there?" he said.

Farmland preservationists say the idea is worth exploring, though they're concerned that solar panels may permanently hinder the types of crops and equipment a property can support.

house.

"Suzanne alerted Astra-Zeneca to bad behavior and, instead of fixing the problem, the company punished her," said Anita Mazumdar Chambers, one of her lawyers. "Today, a jury of regular people told Astra-Zeneca that's not acceptable in our society."

The jury did not find the company had discriminated against Ivie based on her age, as she had alleged. She was one of the older staff members at 51. Nor did it find AstraZeneca liable under the False Claims Act after Ivie had alleged her supervisor encouraged the use of prescription drugs for unapproved, or off-label, purposes.

Ivie said she complained in December 2018 that a supervisor appeared to be promoting "off-label marketing" for two prescription she said.

AstraZeneca's lawyer Melinda S. Riechert countered that Ivie was fired because she wasn't doing the work expected of her as a district sales manager.

She said the company's compliance unit found that Ivie's allegations regarding off-label drug marketing of the two drugs were "unsubstantiated."

"Ms. Ivie was fired for not meeting the expectations of the job," Riechert said.

Áfter the jury was dismissed, Reichert, Astra-Zeneca's lawyer, raised to the judge the company's previously unsuccessful argument that Oregon whistleblower law shouldn't apply to Ivie, who is not an Oregon resident. Ivie's lawyers countered that Ivie performed some work in Oregon, entitling her to relief under the law.

Restaurants

Continued from A11

In the Tampa, Florida, area, restaurateur Ändrew Koumi bumped up his menu items by 2% to 4%.

Koumi, founder of a six-location chain called Green Market Cafe, tries to keep food and paper costs below 35% of his menu prices, but lately his computers keep flagging items that go above that parameter. He's paying twice as much to buy chicken as he was in January, and other meats and paper products have gotten more expensive, too.

Koumi isn't too worried about standing out with his price increases, because "everyone's doing it. Some people are doing it really drastically," he

said. "Could it go up more? It's scary. I'm hoping that it levels." For now, there's no sign of

abating.

Chipotle recently raised menu prices by as much as 4%, after increasing average pay to \$15 an hour and hiring thousands of workers to keep up with demand. American homestyle chain Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Inc., which earlier this year raised menu prices by 2.8%, is bumping up that increase to about 3% amid continued pressure from wage and commodity expenses, including pork for sausage and bacon.

McDonald's Corp., which raised its hourly wage by about 10% in May, hasn't announced any jump in prices yet but said early this year that franchisees

could handle labor inflation "between judicious pricing on the menu as well as just thinking about productivity savings."

Historically, restaurant operators tend to raise menu prices a few times a year. Between 2015 and 2019, that amounted to increases of about 2.5%, according to BTIG analyst Peter Saleh. This year, the rate may reach about 4%, Saleh wrote in a note to investors.

Although food costs will likely moderate once supply bottlenecks are resolved, higher wages and labor shortages will persist even after pandemic relief has dried out, because people are yearning for greater work-life balance and flexibility in a post-COVID-19 world, Saleh wrote. That will create "inflation that in our

view is not transitory," Saleh said.

Some chains are coming up with creative solutions to avoid raising prices.

Wingstop Inc., for one, is only planning its typical 1% to 2% menu price increase this year. To save costs, the company is now buying whole birds instead of cut-up legs and breasts, selling less-used thigh pieces from a new delivery and takeout brand.

"The big price increases the 4% price increases you're seeing other chains do, that won't be us," Chief Executive Officer Charlie Morrison said in an interview. "Large price increases that are promoted and then passed on to the consumer tend to have a negative reaction."

Big Tech

Continued from A11

The legislation, passed 29-12 and sent to the full U.S. House, would increase filing fees for proposed tech mergers worth more than \$500 million and cut the fees for those under that level.

A second bill would give states greater powers over companies in determining the courts in which to prosecute tech antitrust cases. Many state attorneys general have pursued antitrust cases against big tech companies, and many states joined with the U.S. Justice Department and the FTC in their antitrust lawsuits against Google and Facebook, respectively, last year. The measure

drew many Republican votes and was approved 34-7.

The panel then dug into a complex measure that would require online platforms to allow users to communicate directly with users on rival services. Proponents said it also would give consumers more power to determine how and with whom their data is shared.

The advance of the massive, bipartisan legislation comes as the tech giants already are smarting under federal investigations, epic antitrust lawsuits, near-constant condemnation from politicians of both parties, and a newly installed head of the powerful FTC who is a fierce critic of the industry.