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As we enter the second month of shelter-in-place, our work at CIEE continues. In this issue, we are pleased to share several updates on current and upcoming project activities. Read on for some important notifications regarding date changes for research opportunities, an introduction to the Environmental Change Research Network, and the selection of the Pilot Oakland EcoBlock.

upcoming **EVENTS**

May 8h

[BECC Call for Abstracts Close](#)

May 20th

[BECC Webinar "Maximizing Impact of Energy Affordability Assistance Programs"](#)

in the **NEWS**

[Coronavirus and Climate Change](#)

[Let's Flatten the Curve on Climate Change](#)

ciee News



Center for Law, Energy &
the Environment

Request for Qualifications Interconnection Dispute Resolution Panel: Technical Advisor

The California Institute for Energy and Environment (CIEE) and the Center for Law, Energy & Environment (CLEE) at UC Berkeley Law are looking to identify and recommend for California Public Utilities Commission selection a group of Technical Advisors to conduct research and/or provide expertise in support of the expedited dispute resolution technical panel and its members as needed.

Electric Rule 21 is a tariff that describes the interconnection, operating and metering requirements for generation facilities to be connected to a utility's distribution system. The tariff provides customers wishing to install generating or storage facilities on their premises with access to the electric grid while protecting the safety and reliability of the distribution and transmission systems at the local and system levels.

In recent years, growth in the number of requests to interconnect solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to the utility grid has raised new issues and challenges for PV installers, utilities, and ultimately the PV customers who absorb the costs of interconnection challenges. The increased volume of interconnection requests and the evolving market for distributed energy resources (DERs) has led California to revisit and revise Rule 21 interconnection requirements and have caused utilities to streamline and automate interconnection processes.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2861 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 672), signed into law in September 2016, authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish an expedited

dispute resolution (EDR) process that will issue binding determinations to electric distribution grid interconnection disputes based on the recommendations of a technical panel within 60 days of the Commission receiving the Application regarding a particular dispute.

The deadline to apply is **June 15th**, and the full RFQ, including requirements for the position and instruction on how to apply, can be found on our [website](#).



Call for Abstracts: BECC Conference 2020 Deadline Extended to May 8th

The [Behavior Energy and Climate Convention](#) (BECC) has extended its deadline to submit abstracts to **Friday, May 8th**. Although the convention is still scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6 - Wednesday, Dec. 9 in Washington, DC, we are considering delaying or moving to a virtual conference if necessary.

Mitigating climate change is more urgent than ever, and major leaps in systems and behaviors are needed to address this critical issue. For more than a decade, BECC has presented behavioral research on nudging people and organizations to make these changes. Now is the time to move from nudges to leaps.

BECC invites you to present your work, and is seeking innovative research and applied work from people and organizations working to create a sustainable future. Attend and learn more ways to encourage behavior change for energy and carbon savings, such as:

- Leveling up programs or moving them to more effective roles or platforms.
- Understanding why individuals and groups change.
- Making these transitions in fair and equitable ways.

Submit an abstract for a chance to present a poster, individual display, or group panel at the convention. If your work creates efficiency using behavioral principles or research, we

encourage you to submit a presentation abstract instead. Your participation in BECC 2020 helps build an informed and empowered community at the nexus of energy, behavior, and climate - submit by May 8th!

[Submit an individual abstract](#)

[Submit a panel abstract](#)

The logo for ECRN @ Berkeley is centered on a grey rectangular background. The letters "ECRN" are in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below "ECRN", the text "@ Berkeley" is written in a blue sans-serif font, with the "@" symbol and "Berkeley" in the same blue color.

Announcing the Environmental Change Research Network

CIEE is proud to announce the formation of an interdepartmental research collaborative, with the goal of building collaboration between the various units on campus that are hard at work addressing climate change.

UC Berkeley is home to some of the greatest intellectual leaders addressing global environmental challenges across multiple disciplines. Unfortunately, we are not living up to our full potential for positive impact in the world, largely because of a lack of coordinated, interdisciplinary collaboration in both our research and educational missions.

In order to realize UC Berkeley's potential, CIEE and other centers have created a collaborative body of ORU's/Centers aligned with the Environmental Change, Sustainability

and Justice Initiative. By design, the campus Signature Initiatives are highly interdisciplinary, and this is also reflected in the member body of the ECRN.

The 14 participating ORU's/Centers are the: Berkeley Education Alliance for Research in Singapore, Berkeley Water Center, California Institute for Energy and Environment, Center for the Built Environment, Center for Environmental Public Policy, Center for Law Energy and Environment, Center for Resource Efficient Communities, CITRIS and the Banatao Institute, Energy Biosciences Institute, Environmental Resilience Accelerator, Energy Institute at Haas, the Berkeley Natural History Museum, the California-China Climate Institute, and the Transportation Sustainability Research Center.

If you'd like to learn more about ECRN and its member organizations, you can do so on our brand new [website!](#)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

CITRIS 2020 SEED FUNDING

CITRIS 2020 Seed Funding: Deadline Extended

The CITRIS Seed Funding Program invites Principal Investigators at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Davis Health, UC Merced, and UC Santa Cruz to apply for seed funding that advances CITRIS and the Banatao Institute's research thrusts, strengthens UC campus connections, and drives novel technology applications.

New Application Deadline: Thursday, September 10th, 2020 at 5:00 PM (PDT) via the application portal: https://citris.smapply.org/prog/2020_citris_seed_funding/

More information: To download the RFP, view detailed areas of interest, eligibility, requirements, and FAQs, please visit the 2020 CITRIS Seed Funding webpage: <https://citris-uc.org/core-seed-funding/>

Contact seeds@citris-uc.org with questions.

2016 Berkeley Cleantech University Prize Winner Nelumbo Raises \$14 Million in Series A Funding

In 2016, the California Institute for Energy and Environment hosted the Cleantech University Prize (CUP) competition, a regional competition sponsored by the Department of Energy aiming to support individuals involved in cleantech efforts and advancements. The first Berkeley CUP grand prize winner was Nelumbo, a startup developing nanocoating to significantly increase the efficiency and performance of air conditioning systems.

Since winning the regional grand prize for CUP, Nelumbo has undergone significant growth as a business, securing new partnerships and a tremendous increase in revenue. This month, Nelumbo has raised more than \$14 million to fund its development of cooling units and aims to continue expanding how their platform can change products and lives.

You can read more about their achievement [here!](#)

Upcoming Events

BECC Webinar: "Maximizing Impact of Energy Affordability Assistance Programs"

BECC will be hosting another free webinar on Wednesday, May 20th, from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT!

According to a 2018 report by the ACEEE, 24% of all American families carry a high energy burden – defined as spending more than 6% of household income on their energy

bills. The reality behind this statistic is that 24% of Americans are living in dangerously warm or cold homes every day, and making tough choices about whether to pay their energy bills or buy food for their families. High energy burdens have also been linked to respiratory health problems, increased stress, and utility disconnections (ACEEE, 2019).

In this webinar, Drs. Michelle Hilscher and Sarah Carpentier, two behavioral scientists at BEworks, will discuss the psychological and behavioral drivers behind enrollment in energy affordability assistance programs, including how the barriers of negative social stigma and hassle costs can be exacerbated by the so called “scarcity mindset”. They will present evidence-backed strategies to increase enrolment in these programs among the people who need them most, and will provide behaviorally-informed recommendations for policy makers hoping to effect maximal change to reduce residential energy burden.

If you would like to tune in, registration is free, and can be done so [here](#).

Monthly Spotlight



ecoblock

Oakland EcoBlock Announced

The Oakland EcoBlock Project is a California Energy Commission-funded research project led by UC Berkeley, motivated by urgent societal questions and California legal mandates related to climate change and urban vulnerability. For example, the SB-32 requires the state of California to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990

levels by 2030. Other mandates include:

- 50% renewable energy by 2026, 100% renewable energy by 2045
- SB 606: Water efficiency measures
- AB 1668: Drought preparedness
- SB 1339: Boost/streamlining microgrids

EcoBlock has taken the initiative to implement integrated systems that would apply existing renewable technologies to a block of 30 to 40 adjoining residences to help reduce their fossil fuel and water consumption, ultimately reducing carbon emissions by 85%. The affected area will produce close to zero net energy on an annual basis and lower the amount of greenhouse gases emitted suburban areas.

The Pilot EcoBlock site is located in Oakland's Fruitvale District. This will be the first-of-its-kind block to demonstrate neighborhood-scale solutions to urban resilience, including energy and water efficiency, a communal solar-powered microgrid, and shared electric transportation. The project, led by UC Berkeley, will run from 2020 to 2023, with efficiency retrofits and microgrid construction planned for 2021-22. CIEE will be working with a variety of different organizations for this project, including but not limited to Franklin Energy, Siegel and Strain Architects, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Stanford University, Berkeley Law, the Transportation Sustainability Research Center, and the City of Oakland.

To learn more about our EcoBlock project and how it seeks to transform how we approach sustainability at the residential level, you can visit the project's [website](#).



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