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Carbon-Free Energy: Veyo Heat Recovery Project Passes 4-Year Birthday

UAMPS members are strongly committed to providing clean, carbon-free power to customers. One example of the fulfillment of this goal is the Veyo Heat Recovery Project in southwestern Utah.



Veyo Heat Recover Plant

The 7.8-megawatt project began generating electricity in May 2016 and recently passed its four-year anniversary. A brief routine maintenance outage was also recently completed and the plant is now back on-line. Electricity is generated using heat produced by large compressors on an adjacent Kern River natural gas pipeline. Otherwise, the heat would be discharged into the atmosphere and wasted.

"It has been an excellent project," said Jack Taylor, public services director for Santa Clara and a UAMPS board member. "It pretty much runs itself." Santa Clara has a contract with UAMPS to maintain the Veyo project.

Taylor and his power superintendent, Gary Hall, said it has been a positive experience for the Santa Clara utility staff to learn the plant's technology and how to maintain it. They visit the site twice a week to check on it and do minor maintenance. Twice a year, the plant is taken off-line for a few days for more extensive maintenance.

Taylor said UAMPS has been very helpful in training the Santa Clara technicians, especially the staff at UAMPS Nebo natural gas plant. The heat recovery plant has some processes and technology in common with the Nebo plant.

Taylor noted that the Veyo plant uses no fuel and needs no water to cool. "It's pretty awesome. We're not burning fossil fuel, or any fuel at all, so we have no fuel to buy or haul, and we don't have any waste to dispose of."

Nathan Hardy, UAMPS director of resource strategy and environmental compliance, said the Veyo project has performed well. "The Santa Clara staff is well-trained and do a fine job maintaining it." He said the only small downside of the plant is that generating capacity declines when Kern River reduces the flow of natural gas through the pipeline. But, with few exceptions, the plant produces consistent, clean, carbon-free energy.

Seven UAMPS members receive electricity from the project, including the cities of Kaysville, Lehi, Logan, Spring City, Santa Clara and Washington and Truckee Donner Public Utility District.

Member Highlight: Mayor Rebecca Casper Receives APPA Public Official Award

Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper received the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award during the recent American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. The award recognizes elected or appointed local officials who have greatly contributed to the goals of the American Public Power Association.



Mayor Rebecca Casper

Casper has been a strong supporter of UAMPS and a participant in many UAMPS activities. She has been mayor and chair the Idaho Falls Power Board since 2014. She is a passionate advocate for public power on the local, state and national levels and has been an active member of the APPA since 2014. Her goal while attending national conferences and legislative rallies for APPA is to educate legislators on the importance of local control and help draft legislation in support of public power and run-of-the-river hydroelectric infrastructure.

To read the full text of the APPA press release, [click here](#). Learn more about the American Public Power Association at www.publicpower.org.

Articles & Updates

[State of Nuclear Webinar: Nuclear Power is Indispensable to Decarbonize World](#). The 2020 State of the Nuclear Industry webinar, hosted by the Nuclear

Energy Institute on June 24, attracted more than 1,800 viewers and featured nuclear experts, conservationists and Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

In a speech, NIE President & CEO Maria Korsnick said she has never been more optimistic about the future of nuclear energy, especially as it is poised to play a key role in the global battle against climate change. She said world leaders have an ambitious goal to greatly reduce carbon emissions by 2050, while at the same time energy output must increase by at least 50 percent. Those goals won't be reached without a significant increase in nuclear energy. Korsnick said NuScale Power's design certification for its small modular nuclear reactor is expected to be approved in September. That will enable UAMPS' Carbon Free Power Project to move forward.

Ken Kimmell, representing the Union of Concerned Scientists, said to reach carbon goals by 2050, the entire electrical grid must be decarbonized, and end users of energy, such as the transportation industry and manufacturing, must be electrified. And that must happen in all developed countries. Electrical consumption will double, while also being decarbonized. Nuclear will need to play a key role, he said.

Sen. Joe Manchin said the United States safely operates the world's greatest military might on nuclear, so it should also play a large and safe role in domestic use. If we want to decarbonize, he said, we can't shut down nuclear plants and advanced micro-nuclear projects must be developed. Nuclear technology and innovation must not be ceded to Russia and China as a matter of national security, he said.



*Sen. Joe Manchin
West Virginia*

Doug Hunter, UAMPS' CEO and general manager, watched the webinar and responded to it: "It is exciting for UAMPS to be on the forefront of next-generation nuclear. As is evident from the webinar, a lot is riding on our CFPP project. But we are really in this so our members can provide steady, affordable, carbon-free energy to their customers. It will complement and enable more renewable wind and solar projects and help our members decarbonize their portfolios." Click [HERE](#) to watch the webinar segments.

[Nuclear Power in a Global Clean Energy System: Delivering Results.](#)

EnergyCentral.com recently published a guest opinion by Ross Holden as part of The Energy Collective Group, which brings together the best thinkers on energy and climate.

Excerpts:

Nuclear is the second-largest low-carbon power source in the world today, after hydropower, accounting for a reduction of over 60

billion tons of CO2 emissions in the past five decades. But reluctance on the part of governments to invest in lifetime extensions of existing nuclear power plants, or build new plants, could result in an additional 4 billion tons of CO2 released into the atmosphere in the next decade unless low-carbon energy sources make up the difference, instead of coal or natural gas.

Despite an increase of 580 gigawatts of wind and solar PV capacity in advanced economies in the past 20 years, nearly five times that amount would need to be added over the next 20 years, at a cost of \$1.6 trillion, to make up for the looming shortfall in nuclear – a goal even beyond that of the IEA’s Sustainable Development Scenario. The IEA admits that such a “drastic” increase in renewable power generation “would create serious challenges in integrating the new sources into the broader energy system,” not the least of which would be the impact on consumers through higher electricity bills....

Simply put, without increased investments in nuclear power it will be extremely difficult (if not impossible), and certainly very expensive, for the world to meet its CO2 emissions reduction targets by 2050 with renewables alone.

Two-Thirds of Americans Think Government Should Do More on Climate.

PEW Research Center recently took a deep dive into American opinions about climate change, including attitudes about different forms of energy. Strong majorities support government policies aimed at reducing the effects of climate change.

High percentages say the priorities for the country’s energy supply should be developing alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar, rather than giving priority to expanding the production of oil, coal and natural gas. There are differences of opinion among political parties, ages, gender and geography.

In Other News . . .

The UAMPS 2020 Annual Member Conference is coming up August 16-19 at Zermatt Resort in Midway, Utah. This year’s conference will be a hybrid event allowing attendees and speakers to participate in person or virtually. It is an opportunity for UAMPS and its members’ representatives, mayors, city council members, governing board members and other utility staff to discuss the changes and challenges in the public power industry. Register and obtain more information at www.events.uamps.com.

If you have questions about UAMPS’ plans for a carbon-free future, please email them to jackie@uamps.com.

