

February 2017  

# Connections

**Cover**

Customers Opt-in for Green Technology

**Page 2**

Green Power Gets Green-e Certification

**Page 3**

New Solar Pilot Project Unveiled

**Page 4**

How to Prepare for Cold Weather Power Outages



## A Company's Commitment to Sustainability

Chris Cawthra "fills up" at one of United Heritage's new EV charging stations in Meridian, installed with support from an Idaho Power program designed to encourage accessibility and availability of EV charging stations throughout our service area.

## Electric Vehicles Are Just One Driver in the Clean Energy Movement

**For United Heritage CEO Dennis Johnson, electric vehicles (EVs) are more than a step toward a greener economy — they are good business.**

"We are focused on EVs because, as we look to the future, we think there are going to be more and more of them," Johnson said. "It brings a lot of technology into the insurance world, particularly when we think in terms of autonomous cars."

Some projections show 60 percent of new cars being autonomous (or self-driving) by the year 2040, he said.

Technology is changing the energy industry, too, giving consumers more choices when it comes to using electricity. For example, electric energy is increasingly being recognized as a clean, low-cost transportation fueling option that will help support the continued growth in EV popularity.

Supporting EV infrastructure is just one way that Idaho Power provides our customers with options for using electricity wisely. Our Community Solar Pilot Program and Green Power Program give our customers more power to choose where their electricity comes

from. And that energy can be used in wise ways, like fueling EVs.

Energy efficiency benefits our customers by saving them money on electric bills and helping to delay the need for expensive new generation resources, which also impacts electric bills.

Customers who participate in the Green Power Program support the development of renewable resources like wind and solar energy in our region. Community Solar Program subscribers will help fund the pilot construction and

*(continued on page 2)*

# News Feed

## Green Power is Now Green-e Certified

The Green Power Program is a popular choice if you are interested in supporting renewable energy.

Now, Idaho customers participating in the program can be assured their purchase meets the environmental and consumer protection standards established under the Green-e Energy Standard, which certifies that:

- They are supporting new renewable resources.
- There has been no double selling. Program participants are the only ones who can claim the benefits of the renewable energy they purchase, ensuring that energy produces little or no greenhouse gas emissions.
- Participants are helping expand the production of renewable energy in the U.S.



[idahopower.com/greenpower](http://idahopower.com/greenpower)

## What's With All the Solar Panels?

Several large solar projects have been built in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon over the past few months. Large solar farms like Simcoe Solar, which is visible from I-84 east of Boise, or ID Solar 1, located off of Cloverdale Road south of Boise, are privately developed projects with contracts to sell energy to Idaho Power.



Idaho Power has sufficient resources to serve our customers' projected energy needs well into the next decade. However, federal law requires utilities to buy energy from these projects under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, or PURPA. Idaho Power currently has contracts with 17 solar projects that can generate up to 298.25 total megawatts under ideal conditions.

Since Idaho Power does not own the Renewable Energy Certificates associated with these resources, we cannot and do not represent that electricity produced by these projects is being delivered to retail customers.

## EVs (continued from page 1)



**Dennis Johnson (left), President and CEO of United Heritage Financial Group and Life Insurance Company, with Idaho Power President and CEO Darrel Anderson (right).**

ongoing operation of a solar array, and they will receive a small monthly bill credit for the energy produced.

### Driving Progress

United Heritage took advantage of an Idaho Power incentive to install three EV charging stations at its Meridian campus last year. Each station can serve two vehicles at once, allowing United Heritage employees, customers and vendors to plug in and fuel up.

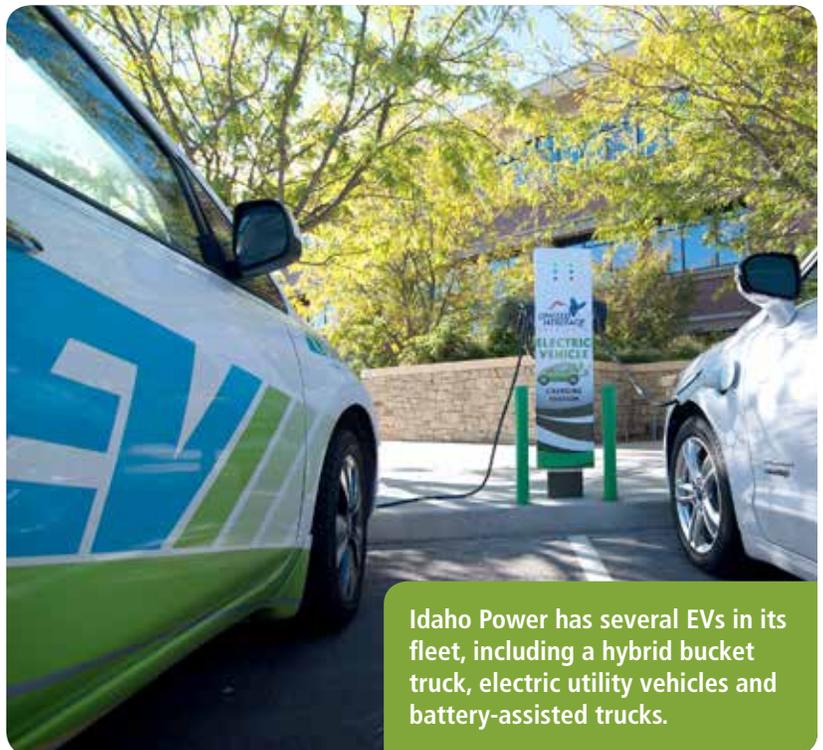
“Idaho Power was a very gracious partner in this, helping to offset some of our costs,” Johnson said.

United Heritage was one of nine Idaho businesses or municipalities to apply for and receive an incentive from Idaho Power to help offset the cost of charging station installation in 2016. With this support, 31 new charging stations were installed at 15 sites including city offices, college campuses, retail offices and public parking garages.

Beyond providing the charging stations, United Heritage is electrifying its vehicle fleet. The company has a plug-in hybrid vehicle used by the company's sales manager, Chris Cawthra, and they recently purchased five plug-in hybrids for company executives from a local dealer.

“Future company fleet vehicle purchases will all be either plug-in hybrid or all-electric,” added Johnson, who also serves on the board of Idaho Power.

For Cawthra, driving the company-owned Ford Fusion has been a pleasure, both professionally and personally.



Idaho Power has several EVs in its fleet, including a hybrid bucket truck, electric utility vehicles and battery-assisted trucks.



**Brian Thom and Ardele Hanson check out the type of solar panel that will be installed as part of Idaho Power’s Community Solar Pilot Program.**

“When I drive customers around, it’s an opportunity to talk about why United Heritage is investing in EVs and other green technology,” Cawthra said. “At home, my children understand the car runs on electricity — they nicknamed it ‘White Lightning.’”

### **Commitment to the Future**

Besides giving the company insight into what its EV-owning customers need in terms of insurance, the commitment to electric cars greens the company’s image, too.

“It has a really positive impact environmentally, and also from a public relations standpoint,” Johnson said. “United Heritage got its start in Nampa more than 80 years ago, and although insurance is still seen as an old industry, EVs, along with the

solar panels on our company’s headquarters, help dispel that image.”

The company adopted a corporate ethos in 2016 focused on sustainability, insurance and technology. According to Johnson, EVs and solar energy, supported by Idaho Power’s grid, work at the intersection of those three areas.

“When we think of solar and we think of EVs — Idaho is such a great, green state. So much of our energy comes from clean resources.”

With continued emphasis on renewable energy, electric cars and energy efficiency, the region’s energy future looks greener than ever.

[▶ idahopower.com/ev](http://idahopower.com/ev)

## **Customers Warm to New Solar Power Pilot Option**

**Brian Thom and Ardele Hanson of Boise were among the first customers to sign up for the Community Solar Pilot Program.**

They were eager to support sustainable energy development in Idaho by helping to fund construction and ongoing operation of a 500-kilowatt solar array.

In exchange for the \$562 subscription fee, the couple will get a monthly bill credit based on the amount of energy the project generates. It will add up to about \$23 per year initially; the credit amount will be adjusted as electricity rates change in the future.

Participants may recoup their initial subscription cost over the 25-year life of the project. But the payback is not as important as the “moral investment,” Thom said. Supporting long-term development of renewable energy is “like planting trees under whose shade we will never sit,” he added.



**YouTube Watch “Idaho Power Community Solar Pilot Program”**

For Idaho Power, the project is about measuring interest in community solar. The company heard from many customers who wanted to see a utility-owned solar option. To provide that additional choice, the pilot project was designed to be partially funded by participants, along with a 15-percent contribution from company shareholders.

It’s a good option for people who aren’t ready to invest in a private solar installation. Hanson wasn’t sure if their homeowners association would allow rooftop solar, anyway.

Signing up was easy; they downloaded the application, called the company with questions, and mailed their subscription fee. Now all they have to do is wait for the project to begin generating energy in late 2017.

Go online for details and sign-up instructions.

[▶ idahopower.com/solar](http://idahopower.com/solar)

## Be Prepared in Case of Cold-Weather Outages

Idaho Power crews work hard to keep weather-related outages as infrequent and as brief as possible.

However, outages do occur, and with the frigid temperatures we've experienced in much of our service area this winter, it's important to be prepared.

To help keep your family safe and comfortable in the event of an outage, we encourage customers to have an emergency kit with several days worth of items, such as:

- Food that requires no cooking or refrigeration
- Bottled water in case pipes freeze
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Medicines
- Extra blankets

More information on preparing a home emergency kit is available at [idahopower.com](http://idahopower.com).

If you experience an outage, you can use your mobile device to access our online Outage Center where you can view a map with current outages. To report an outage or provide Idaho Power with information about the cause of an outage, call our Customer Service Center at 208-388-2323 or toll-free at 1-800-488-6151 (outside the Treasure Valley.)

▶ [idahopower.com/outage](http://idahopower.com/outage)

▶ [idahopower.com/safety](http://idahopower.com/safety)



## If a Power Line Falls on Your Vehicle

1. Stay inside until help arrives.
2. Warn others not to touch the vehicle, and ask them to call for help or use your cell phone.
3. If you must leave the vehicle because of fire or other life-threatening situations, jump out and as far away as possible with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle away from the scene. DO NOT touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

### From The Electric Kitchen

February 2017

#### Wilted Spinach Salad with Crispy Prosciutto

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 bag (approx. 3 cups) spinach       | 1 large avocado, cubed   |
| 6 slices prosciutto, cut into strips | 1 medium pear, cubed     |
| 5 Tbsp olive oil                     | 1 oz shredded parmesan   |
| 3 Tbsp white wine vinegar            | 2 Tbsp pistachio kernels |
| 1 large shallot, minced              |                          |
| 1 Tbsp honey                         |                          |

Heat 1 Tbsp oil in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Add prosciutto slices and cook until crisp, approximately 8 minutes. Remove prosciutto and drain on paper towel. Reduce heat to medium and add shallot, stirring and cooking until translucent. Whisk in remaining oil, vinegar and honey and bring to a simmer. Remove from heat. Pour warm dressing over salad mixture of spinach, pear and avocado. Add nuts, cheese and crispy prosciutto just before serving. Makes 5 servings.

#### Side Dish

##### Dietary information per serving:

Calories: **242**  
Protein: **7g**  
Carbohydrates: **15g**  
Fat: **16g**  
Sodium: **342mg**  
Fiber: **4g**

*Connections* is published monthly to inform our customers about services we provide, programs we offer and industry issues impacting our service area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Our goal is to engage and inspire you to learn more about Idaho Power and how we are working together to meet your energy needs today and tomorrow.

Comments or questions are welcome at [idahopower.com/contactus](http://idahopower.com/contactus) or Corporate Communications P.O. Box 70, Boise, ID 83707



Recipes are selected for nutritional value and low energy use in preparation. They are approved by Registered Dietitians Holly Hutchinson and Erin Green from the Central District Health Department in Boise, Idaho.