

From the Pacific Business News:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/blog/2015/12/hawaii-makes-top-10-in-u-s-in-solar-pv.html>

Hawaii makes top 10 in U.S. in solar PV installations rankings

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Hawaii continues to be ranked as one of the top states in the United States when it comes to solar photovoltaic installations, according to a new report.

The Aloha State ranked ninth in the country in the third quarter of 2015, holding steady from its same ranking in the same quarter last year, the **Solar Energy Industries Association/GTM Research U.S. Solar Market Insight** report said.

Hawaii also ranked eighth in terms of cumulative installations.

In non-residential PV, the state was one of only a few markets to see positive growth in the third quarter.

The nixing of the net energy metering program, which pushed the industry to record-level heights, will certainly slow down this industry in Hawaii.

However, at least on Oahu, the biggest solar PV market in the state, has seen a rather positive year in 2015, in terms of permits issued.

Thus far this year, there were 6,658 permits issued on Oahu, up nearly 13 percent from the 5,914 permits issued during the first 11 months of 2014.

California, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Nevada and Arizona filled out the top five spots in the third quarter when it came to solar PV installations in the new SEIA/GTM Research report.

Looking ahead, the report noted that the market would have another record year in 2015, with installations reaching 7.4-gigawatts, a nearly 20 percent increase over 2014.

But the looming reduction in the federal tax credit, which is expected to drop to 10 percent from 30 percent on Jan. 1, 2017 for third-party-owned residential, non-residential and utility-scale solar projects, could have a negative effect on the market.



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Hawaii is ranked as one of the top states in the United States for solar photovoltaic installations.

“Given that, solar installers and developers will aim to bring as much capacity online as possible before the scheduled step-down,” the report said. “Solar development will continue, but some markets will fare better than others, and resumption of growth after 2017 will look different from the growth seen over the past eight years.”

For all market segments, the market will shrink post-2016, some states will fall off the solar map entirely and resumption of growth at a national level will be due to several states with strong economics, according to the report.

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