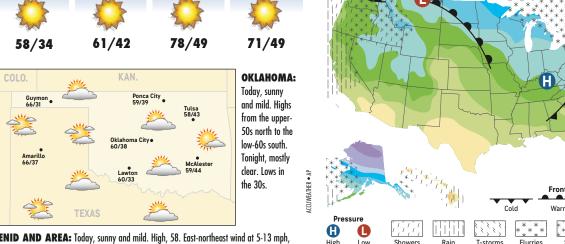
WEATHER **■** NATION **■** WORLD



Sunrise: 7:40 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

SATURDAY

ENID AND AREA: Today, sunny and mild. High, 58. East-northeast wind at 5-13 mph. switching to south in the afternoon. Tonight, mostly clear. Low, 34. South wind at 8-10 mph.

YEAR AGO TODAY RECORD THIS DATE TODAY

High: 69 in 1916

Low: -10 in 1989

THURSDAY

TODAY

ENID ALMANAC

YESTERDAY

Precipitation: None

Low: 19

FRIDAY

30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s **MOON PHASES EXTENDED FORECAST:** Sunny through the weekend. Highs are expected to range from the 50s today into the 70s Friday

WEATHER PHOTO OF THE DAY:

Snow covers the city center with the Christmas tree and St. Sonhia Cathedral in view Tuesday in Kyiv, Ukraine. (AP Photo)

GOT A WEATHER PHOTO? SUBMIT IT AS OUR PHOTO OF THE DAY. INCLUDE NAME, HOMETOWN AND PHOTO LOCATION. SEND THE 3-INCH-WIDE BY 2-INCH-DEEP. 200 RESOLUTION. .JPG PHOTO TO ENIDNEWS@ENIDNEWS.COM.

WEATHER TRIVIA:



On this date in 1961, strong winds brought down a 75-foot section of a brick wall in Enid and toppled an oil rig near Hennessey.

WATCH KOCO AT 5/6/IOP.M.



Low: 42

Precipitation to date: 26.56 inches

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Biden administration moves to expand solar power on U.S. land

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) - U.S. officials announced approval Tuesday of two large-scale solar projects in California and moved to open up public lands in other Western states to potential solar power development, as part of the Biden administration's effort to counter climate change by shifting from fossil fuels.

The Interior Department approved the Arica and Victory Pass solar projects on federal land in Riverside County east of Los Angeles. Combined they would generate up to 465 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power about 132,000 homes, according to San Franciscobased developer Clearway Energy. Approval of a third solar farm planned for 500 megawatts is expected in coming days, officials said.

The Interior Department also Tuesday issued a call to nominate land for development within "solar energy zones" in Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico that combined cover about 140 square miles.

The invitation to developers comes as officials under Democratic President Joe Biden promote renewable wind and solar power on public lands and offshore to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet. That's a pronounced change from Republican President Donald Trump's emphasis on coal mining and oil and gas drilling.

Biden suffered a huge blow to his climate agenda this week, as opposition from West Virginia Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin tanked the administration's centerpiece climate and social services legislation. The administration also has been forced to resume oil



Solar arrays line the desert floor of the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone as part of the 179 megawatt Switch Station I and Switch Station 2 Solar Projects north of Las Vegas in this file photo. (AP Photo)

and natural gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and numerous western states, after a federal judge sided with Republican-led states that sued when Biden suspended the sales.

During a Tuesday conference call with reporters, Interior Secretary Deb

Haaland did not directly address a question about the faltering climate bill and instead pointed to clean energy provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure bill signed into law last month.

"We fully intend to meet our clean energy goals," Haaland said. She

said the Trump administration stalled clean energy by shuttering renewable energy offices at the Bureau of Land Management and undermining long-term agreements, such as a conservation plan tied to solar development in the California desert.

"We are rebuilding that capacity," Haaland said.

But without the climate bill, tax incentives to build large-scale solar will drop to 10% of a developer's total capital costs by 2024, instead of rising to 30%, said Xiaojing Sun, head solar researcher at industry consulting firm Wood Mackenzie.

Incentives for residential-scale solar would go away completely by 2024, she said.

"It will significantly slow down the growth of solar," Sun said.

However, she added that

streamlining access to federal land could help the industry, as large solar farms on non-federal lands face growing local opposition and cumbersome zoning laws.

The Bureau of Land Management oversees almost a quarter-billion acres of land, primarily in Western states. Agency director Tracy-Stone Manning said boosting renewable energy is now one of its top priorities.

Forty large-scale solar proposals in the West are under consideration, she

The agency in early December issued a draft plan to reduce rents and other fees paid by companies authorized to build wind and solar projects on public lands. Officials were unable to provide an estimate of how much money that could save developers.

