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Week of April 12,
2010

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Green Power

Is Texas Writing the Book on Wind Power?

Feb. 28, 2010, was a banner day for Texas wind to set the clouds—and electrons—flying.

In the Panhandle, gusts reached 47 miles per hour and wind generators delivered a record 6,242 megawatts of power to Dallas, Austin and other population centers. At 1 p.m., 22 percent of all the electricity consumed in the Texas grid was coming from wind. [Read more](#). *Source: New York Times, 4/8/10*

Too Green, Too Soon? Renewable Power May Destabilize Electrical Grid

Boy, that was fast. Only five years into the world's renewable energy push, many utility companies are so concerned about grid instability that they're saying they can't accept any more electricity from intermittent sources of power. Translation: Solar power only runs in the day time and can't be relied on for so called "baseload" capacity. Wind power primarily produces current at night and, likewise, can't be relied upon for baseload capacity. Geothermal, meanwhile, is perfect for providing baseload. But geothermal projects take an excruciatingly long time to build out. And then there have been the recent spate of earthquake scares around geothermal sites. [Read more](#). *Source: Daily Finance, 4/6/10*

Green Power Leadership Awards call for nominations

EPA co-sponsors the Green Power Leadership Awards in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS). The awards serve to recognize the leading actions of organizations, programs, and individuals that significantly advance the development of green power sources. [Read more](#). *Source: Green Power Partnership, 3/29/10*

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

United States Renewable Energy Sector Is Falling Behind The Rest Of The World

If the United States doesn't take drastic measures to engineer new clean energy policies and investment initiatives, it will continue to take a back seat to China and Europe, which are driving the clean energy market toward a profitable future.

Both clean energy companies and a skilled workforce are heading overseas, where government policies are creating a more welcoming and promising market for clean energy products. [Read more](#). *Source: NuWire Investor, 4/5/10*

DuPont to Supply Materials for PlanetSolar, the Largest Solar Boat Ever Built

DuPont will provide innovations in photovoltaic modules and high-performance marine coatings to PlanetSolar, the largest solar boat ever built. PlanetSolar is a 31 meter-long and 15 meter-wide catamaran covered by 500 square meters of photovoltaic solar panels that will power an electric motor. In 2011, the boat will undertake the first world tour powered by solar energy—demonstrating that renewable energy and technology can be applied today to achieve sustainable transportation. [Read more](#). *Source: Dupont, 4/6/10*

New PV methodology identified at Univ. of Mass.

Researchers at the [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) have identified a promising new polymer-based method for creating PV devices. According to lead researcher Sankaran Thayumanavan, "Our method is inspired by an energy-harnessing process that plants use in nature, which evolved over millions of years to be efficient in terms of capturing a lot of energy and transporting it short distances without power loss. In the future, photovoltaic devices may no longer rely on slower, less efficient human-made semiconductors." (Source: UMass, April 1, 2010)

Contact: [Sankaran Thayumanavan](#), University of Massachusetts, 413-545-1313; Dendritic and linear macromolecular architectures for photovoltaics: A photo-induced charge transfer investigation Details. *Source: EP Overviews, 4/5/10*

NREL to Help California Tackle Solar Energy Grid Integration

The California Public Utilities Commission has tapped experts at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to help the state stimulate solar energy research and build a sustainable solar industry.

The commission awarded NREL \$2,785,000 in California Solar Initiative (CSI) Research, Development, Deployment and Demonstration program grants.

The CSI program will invest \$50 million to fund research and demonstration projects that will measurably reduce the cost and accelerate the installation of solar and other distributed energy technologies for power generation or

storage, or that could reduce the use of natural gas. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/30/10*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Wind Powering America releases two new online tools for Wind for Schools

New resources for planning wind projects are available from Wind Powering America:

1. Find school wind projects for K 12, community colleges, universities and more with a Google Map that shows the [location of installed and planned school wind energy projects](#) in the United States.
2. Find programs at community colleges, universities and other institutions with a Google Map that shows the location of [wind energy educational programs and training](#) in the United States.

Wind Powering America also released a Google Map that shows the location of [installed and planned New England wind projects](#), including windfarms, community scale wind projects, customer sited wind projects, small wind projects and offshore wind projects. Source: *Wind Powering America, 4/7/10*

Nebraska Power Association Publishes Wind Integration Study

The Nebraska Power Association's Board of Directors on March 5 published results of a year-long, statewide study that determined various cost and operational impacts of adding large amounts of wind-powered generation to the state's electric power grid. [Read more](#). Source: *Utility Wind Integration Group, March 2010*

UCS Scientist Defends Facts on Colbert Report

Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, a climate scientist with the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) went head to head with a skeptical meteorologist during "couples counseling" on the Colbert Report on Comedy Central April 6.

Both sciences are indeed "married" through their focus on the atmosphere, but they differ when it comes to identifying short term trends, such as storms, versus long term trends, such as human induced climate change.

If you missed the program, check out the [video on Comedy Central](#). Source: *Union of Concerned Scientists, 4/7/10*

Wind Powering America 2009 Activities Summary now available

The report reflects the accomplishments of state Wind Working Groups, Wind Powering America programs at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and partner organizations. [Download the report](#). Source: *Wind Powering America, 3/22/10*

Fort Collins Utilities Publishes Second Annual Sustainability Report

Fort Collins Utilities has published its second annual [Sustainability Report](#), further documenting its progress to establish the organization as a 21st century utility. The report discusses such challenges as securing water supplies, modernizing the electric distribution system and managing infrastructure now and into the future. *Source: Fort Collins Utilities, 3/31/10*

[Guide to Purchasing Green Power Updated](#)

Through the collaborative efforts of EPA's [Green Power Partnership](#), the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program, the World Resources Institute, and the Center for Resource Solutions the Guide to Purchasing Green Power has been updated to include new and updated information on green power purchasing. The guide provides current and potential buyers of green power with information about the different types of green power products, the benefits of green power purchasing, and how to capture the greatest benefit from a green power purchase. [Download the guide](#). *Source: Green Power Partnership, 3/30/10*

[National RES will trigger clean jobs, help secure energy independence](#)

No matter their political party, lawmakers agree the U.S. must begin generating millions of jobs if it is to regain its economic vitality. As for President Obama, he considers jobs "our No. 1 focus in 2010."

That's why it's hard to believe Congress hasn't yet passed legislation essential if America is to continue attracting many tens of thousands of clean-energy jobs. Moreover, the right bill would reduce our dependency on foreign oil. [Read more](#). *Source: Electric Light & Power, 3/30/10*

[Heat Pump Centre Newsletter now online](#)

The U.S. National Team IEA Heat Pump Program has released No. 3/Volume 27 of its newsletter, "[Heat pumps are renewable](#)." *Source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 3/30/10*

Learn more about [legislative activities](#).

News from Washington

[Wellinghoff: FERC May Rule On Who Builds Transmission](#)

Weighing in on a divisive electric industry policy debate, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff said last week the commission likely will decide soon whether to significantly alter national transmission policy to allow independent power line companies to compete more easily with incumbent utilities for the right to build new transmission. [Read more](#). *Source: The Energy Daily, 3/31/10*

[EPA Formally Announces Phase-in of Clean Air Act Permitting for GHGs](#)

Under a final decision issued Monday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), no stationary sources, including power plants, will be required to get Clean Air Act permits that cover greenhouse gases (GHGs) before

January 2011.

The EPA has pledged to take sensible steps to address the billions of tons of greenhouse gas pollution that threaten Americans' health and welfare and is providing time for large industrial facilities and state governments to put in place cost-effective, innovative technologies to control and reduce carbon pollution. This week's announcement is the first step in the EPA's phased-in approach to addressing GHG emissions laid out by Administrator Lisa P. Jackson earlier this month. [Read more](#). Source: *Power*, 3/31/10

Energy Tax Law Alert: Treasury Revises Guidance Concerning "Beginning of Construction"

The Treasury Department recently revised its guidance concerning the "beginning of construction" requirement for qualifying for the cash grant in lieu of tax credits (the Treasury Grant) for certain renewable energy projects placed in service after 2010. The revised guidance is generally favorable to applicants. [Read more](#). Source: *Stoel Rives*, 3/30/10

Learn more about [legislative activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Connecticut Mulls Rollback on Clean Energy

Connecticut could become the first state to roll back its renewable portfolio standard, which is the amount of electricity that, by state mandate, must come from renewable sources.

Legislation that has passed through committee in the current legislative session, which ends May 5, would cut by nearly half the state's relatively ambitious goal of obtaining 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020. [Read more](#). Source: *New York Times Green Inc. blog*, 4/8/10

Green Energy Feed-In Tariffs Discussed in Carson City

Have you ever hear of "fits" or "feed-in tariffs" - where tariffs are a price paid, not a tax?

It dominated talks at a renewable energy meeting in Carson City Monday.

The idea is to pay homeowners, businesses and schools who use renewable energy and contribute some of it to a power grid.

Some analysts believe "fits" guarantee immediate and measurable results because there would be more energy at no cost for the government or power companies.

Some analysts believe "fits" guarantee immediate and measurable results because there would be more energy at no cost for the government or power companies.

Plus, contributors also get some extra cash for the energy they create for the grid. "We've seen it happen in

Europe, successfully, our laws are a little different here but we see there is a path forward, and Nevada is a state with a lot of renewable energy resources," says John Hadder of Great Basin Resource Watch.

Hadder says another benefit would be that renewable energy development would stay in places already developed and wouldn't require the use of more open landscape. *Source: KTVN-Channel 2 News, 4/6/10*

Culver touts renewable energy

Gov. Chet Culver spoke about Iowa's accomplishments in renewable energy at a conference on wind energy Tuesday at Iowa State University.

Speaking to the Iowa Alliance for Wind Innovation and Novel Design, Culver said the state's commitment to alternative energy sources has helped it recover from the recent recession.

"We are out of this recession, we are moving Iowa forward, and it has a lot to do with our focus on renewable energy and wind energy," Culver said.

He said the state has taken "dramatic action" to show its commitment to renewable energy over the last two years. Renewable energy sources made up 5 percent of the state's total energy 40 months ago, he said, and that number has grown to 20 percent today

The number of wind farms in the state of Iowa also grew from 35 to 78 in that period, Culver said.

"In Iowa, our goal is to lead the nation in renewable energy," Culver said. "We would like Iowa to become the silicon prairie of the Midwest." *Source: Omaha World Herald, 4/6/10*

Colorado Has the Right Mix for Incredible Clean Energy Development

Colorado recently instituted a very aggressive renewable portfolio standard (RPS), which makes the state's renewable energy growth potential monstrous.

Last month the Colorado State Senate passed a bill increasing the Colorado's RPS to 30 percent by 2020. Currently, the state only generates 6 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources.

However, state policy-makers will have to stay very strong in their clean energy resolve in order to meet this ambitious target, especially considering Colorado's population is expected to double in the next ten years, which will increase energy demand by 2 to 4 gigawatts.

Colorado definitely has the renewable resources to make their goal a reality. With over 300 sunny days, the state has the fifth greatest solar potential in the U.S. Companies such as [SunPower](#) and [Trina Solar](#) are staking claim to this potential hotbed.

Additionally, Colorado ranks 11th in wind power potential and 4th in geothermal potential. So, with the right policy in place to take advantage of its immense resource base, Colorado's clean energy development is definitely worth keeping an eye on. Read the full story at Greenchip Review: [How to Profit from Colorado's New Renewable Energy Law](#). *Source: Energy Boom, 4/6/10*

NextEra to expand North Dakota Wind project (Ind.Report)

[NextEra Energy Resources](#) plans to expand its Ashtabula Wind Energy Center north of Valley City, North Dakota, by up to 40 turbines by the end of 2010. The \$120 million expansion to the 244-turbine development requires approval from the Barnes County Zoning Board. (Source: AP, April 5, 2010)

Contact: Mitch Davidson, CEO, NextEra, 561-691-7171. *Source: EP Overviews, 4/6/10*

\$175 million Solar Panel facility slated for Mississippi (Ind. Report)

San Jose, California-based Twin Creeks Technologies is planning a \$175 million, 250,000 square-foot solar panel manufacturing facility in Senatobia, Mississippi. The state of Mississippi is providing \$50 million in loan assistance through the Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority, and both the state and the city of Senatobia will provide a further \$4 million for site and infrastructure improvements.

"Twin Creeks was the first major economic development project to utilize Mississippi's new clean energy incentives program, which will open the door for new job opportunities in the clean energy sector for all Mississippians," [Mississippi Development Authority](#) Executive Director Gray Swoope said. (Source: Clarion Ledger, April 2, 2010)

Contact: Gray Swoope, Exec. Dir. Mississippi Development Authority, 601-359-3449; Andrew Girardi, Director, Business Development, Twin Creeks Technologies, 408-894-0747. *Source: EP Overviews, 4/5/10*

Calif. Peaker to Go Combined Cycle, Perhaps with a Side of Solar

The California Energy Commission has approved converting a San Joaquin County peaker plant to a combined-cycle plant. The 169-MW Tracy Peaker Plant would become the 314-MW Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant.

The decision last Wednesday was seen as opening the possibility of integrating solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation—to be built on city land—with the plant, owned by GWF Power. The power company said the solar component could add [40 MW of capacity](#).

Construction on the combined-cycle plant is expected to [begin this fall](#).

If built, the PV addition to the gas-fired generation would be yet another addition to the list of facilities pairing combined-cycle plants with renewable generation to maximize infrastructure and grid connections while lowering the overall environmental impact of burning fossil fuels. (See these stories on the trend from *POWER* magazine: [Fossil Fuels + Solar Energy = The Future of Electricity Generation](#), [The Power of Light: U.S. Solar Energy Trends](#), ["Top Plants: El Dorado Energy's Solar Facility](#), and the forthcoming May story on the integration of desalination in solar hybrid and conventional fossil power plants.)

Another recent example of this configuration surfaced last week when Sithe Global Power announced that its planned coal-fired plant near Mesquite, Nevada, would instead be a 700-MW gas-fired one and would integrate an additional [100 MW of solar generation](#). *Source: Power Magazine, 3/31/10*

Governors' Coalition Recommends Federal Initiatives for Wind Power

The Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, a bipartisan collection of 29 U.S. governors, released a report on March 16

that provides recommendations for developing wind energy across the country. The document, "Great Expectations: U.S. Wind Energy Development, the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition's 2010 Recommendations," calls for sweeping measures to accelerate the deployment of wind energy—measures that will also boost the deployment of renewable energy in general. The coalition says that accelerating the use of renewable resources would reduce the U.S. dependence on imported energy sources and help the environment, while stimulating state and national economic development. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 3/31/10

Kaiser Permanente to Energize 15 California Facilities with Solar Power

Committed to improving the health of the communities it serves, Kaiser Permanente has agreed to deploy 15 megawatts of solar power in a deal that will put solar power systems at 15 facilities across the state by the summer of 2011. The agreement with Recurrent Energy, an independent power producer and a developer of solar power projects, launches one of the largest sustainable energy programs in U.S. health care. [Read more](#). Source: *PR Newswire*, 3/30/10

SD law deciphers small renewable energy incentives

South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds has signed a bill streamlining the state's complex maze of tax incentives for small renewable energy projects.

The new law makes the first \$50,000 of the assessed value of a small to medium renewable energy property, or 70 percent of the assessed value if that figure is greater, exempt from real property tax.

That means residents won't have to do anything to get the tax benefit, and assessors won't have to revisit properties because of a few rooftop solar panels or a small wind turbine.

Supporters of the change say the existing structure was a confusing mess of tax credits.

The new law applies to renewable energy facilities of less than 5 megawatts of capacity. Source: *Business Week*, 3/29/10

Colorado's New Renewable Energy Standard Among Nation's Strongest

Though the pace of federal action on climate and clean energy issues continues to lag, states across the nation are keeping up the momentum with strong legislation on a diversity of clean energy fronts.

Colorado topped the list this week by adopting a renewable energy standard (RES) that requires 30 percent of the state's energy to come from renewable sources like solar and wind by 2020. Colorado's RES, which also promotes rooftop solar by requiring three percent of the renewable energy to be acquired through distributed generation, is among the strongest in the nation. [Read more](#). Source: *Apollo Blog*, 3/29/10

Distributed energy storage pilot project installed in Austin

Ice Energy, a provider of advanced energy storage for the electric utility industry, has completed the installation of a distributed energy storage pilot project, in conjunction with Austin Energy, at the South Austin Recreational Center, located in South-Central Austin.

The project represents the first installation of Ice Energy's Ice Bear distributed energy storage technology in the state of Texas.

Storing cleaner, more efficient and more abundant energy off peak, and delivering it on peak, at the site of consumption, Ice Energy's Ice Bear distributed energy storage system is an energy storage solution specifically developed for deployment on small to mid-sized commercial buildings. [Read more](#). Source: *Electric Light & Power*, 3/11/10

Deadline looms for San Francisco's green power program

Negotiations between city government and Power Choice LLC, a contractor selected to implement San Francisco's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, began Feb. 9. Almost seven weeks later, there's still no end in sight—but if a deal isn't secured soon, San Francisco could risk losing an opportunity to implement a cutting-edge green power program that would significantly reduce the city's reliance on fossil fuels and give customers an alternative electricity provider. [Read more](#). Source: *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, 3/29/10

Ohio Offshore Wind pilot project planned (Ind. Report)

The Lake Erie Energy Development Corp (LEEDCo), a newly-formed non-profit economic development corporation spun off from the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force is seeking developers to build four to eight offshore wind turbines in Lake Erie at an estimated cost of \$100 million. Interim head of LEEDCo, Richard Stuebi released a request for proposals for the 20 MW project planned for offshore downtown Cleveland with a deadline for submissions of April 30, 2010, and a pre-response conference set for April 12, 2010. (Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 29, 2010)

Contact: Editor's Note: LEEDCo. is located at the [Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition](#) (NorTech) in Cleveland. Richard Stuebi, Advanced Energy Initiative, NorTech, 216-363-6883, Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force, Details. Source: *EP Overviews.com*, 3/30/10

We Energies Turbine Order for Glacier Hills Will Bring Vestas Facilities Online

A just-announced 81-turbine order for utility We Energies' Glacier Hills wind farm in Wisconsin will help bring new [Vestas](#) manufacturing facilities online in Colorado, the turbine manufacturer said this week.

The 1.8-MW turbines will be delivered in early 2011, with commissioning for the 145-MW project expected by the end of that year. The order includes a two-year service and maintenance agreement. [Read more](#). Source: *Wind Energy Weekly*, 3/26/10

Texas Weighs Efficiency, Solar Mandates

Texas regulators may soon ramp up mandates requiring tougher [energy-efficiency standards](#) and [development of renewable energy sources other than wind power](#).

Earlier this year, the state's Public Utility Commission [proposed requiring](#) utilities to offset 50 percent of their growth in electricity sales with energy-efficiency measures by 2014. That would be well above the current requirement of 20 percent. (Separately, [another state agency](#) last week proposed [strengthening Texas's building codes](#).) [Read](#)

[more](#). Source: *New York Times Green Inc. Blog*, 3/26/10

Corporate sustainability is reshaping Virginia's iconic industries

In 2002, when Dennis Treacy went to work for Smithfield Foods Inc., there was no question in his mind that the nation's largest pork producer had "environmental issues." The biggest challenge? Keeping millions of tons of hog manure out of the water each year.

Between 1995 and 2000, Smithfield suffered three separate spills of more than 1 million gallons each. The company faced lawsuits in multiple states, including Virginia. Then in 1997 it was fined \$12.6 million — the largest civil fine ever, at the time, in the history of the federal Clean Water Act — for illegal discharges into the Pagan River in Smithfield, a tributary of the James River and part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. [Read more](#). Source: *Virginia Business*, 3/29/10

We'll pay now or pay later

The mayor's proposal to raise DWP rates isn't popular, but something must be done to wean the city from fossil fuels.

Everyone, it seems, is angry at Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa over his stalled bid to raise utility rates in the service of ending the city's fossil fuel addiction.

Local business leaders said the higher rates from the Department of Water and Power would have forced them to lay off workers. Outraged citizens complained in droves. And the City Council, reluctant to impose steep rate increases during a recession, rejected the mayor's proposal Friday, kicking it back to the DWP's board for reconsideration. [Read more](#). Source: *Los Angeles Times*, 3/29/10

Learn more about [marketing and research](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Find Renewable RFPs online

The DOE Green Power Network site posts [solicitations for renewable energy generation, renewable energy certificates, and green power](#) as a courtesy to Web site visitors. Unless otherwise noted, these requests for proposals (RFPs) and solicitations are neither supported nor endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy, Green Power Network. Source: *DOE Green Power Network*, 4/6/10

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

This news item comes to you as a service of Western's [Renewable Resources Program](#).

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