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Week of August 30,
2010

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Green Power

Green Supply Chains

With increasing frequency companies are taking on “green” initiatives

Some of the impetus is from the marketplace: customers are increasingly demanding that their trading partners become more socially responsible with respect to the environment. If a company's products and/or practices aren't "green" enough, trading partners and consumers may seek alternatives. An important example – the various initiatives announced over the past year by Wal-Mart, including merchandise green tags supplied by their vendors.

[Read more.](#) Source: *Food and Drink Digital*, 8/27/10

Proposed California Public Utilities Commission decision would end moratorium on tradable renewable energy credit transactions

On Aug. 25, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a proposed decision (PD) that would end the CPUC's moratorium on approval of tradable renewable energy credit (TREC) transactions and increase the cap on such transactions for large investor-owned utilities to 40 percent.

Previously at its March 11, 2010 meeting, the CPUC authorized the use of TRECs for compliance with California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), subject to certain limitations. CPUC Dec. 10-03-021 (Mar. 15, 2010). [Read more.](#) Source: *Stoel Rives*, 8/27/10

Large Hydro Fully Green in Vermont

All clean energy is not created equal, but Vermont has taken a major step to lessen some of the differences. The major utilities in the state have just signed a contract for large hydropower from Canada, with a twist.

Cross-border trading of electricity in the Northeast is nothing new - it's gone on for decades - but Vermont has taken the path to qualify large hydropower's environmental attributes for its renewable energy goals. In short, it doesn't have to rely just on green energy produced in Vermont or neighboring states. [Read more](#). Source: *Renewablesbiz*, 8/20/10

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

Wind-Energy Purchases Lead California Power Agency to Borrow \$533 Million

Southern California Public Power Authority, provider of electricity to almost 5 million people, plans to sell \$533.1 million of municipal bonds in the biggest scheduled tax-exempt sale of the week.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. will lead marketing of the debt, which is rated fourth-highest by both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings, at AA-. The authority expects to sell the biggest tranche, \$40.8 million in 20-year maturities, at 40 basis points, or 0.40 percentage point, above AAA rated municipal bonds, said Vernon Oates, finance and accounting manager. [Read more](#). Source: *Bloomberg*, 8/22/10

IKEA Geothermal System Could Inform Others

It will take less energy and money to make the IKEA store opening next year in suburban Denver feel pleasant when the sun bakes or when the snow drifts, thanks to 130 holes dug into the Earth, where the temperature remains about 55 degrees all year round.

IKEA, the Swedish home furnishings retailer, has teamed with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory to showcase and study the advantages of a geothermal heating system currently under construction in Centennial, Colo. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 8/19/10

Alaska home to 90% of US tidal sources, yet funding slow to materialise

Alaska has been coined the U.S. ocean energy state, accounting for 90 percent of the country's tidal power source potential, according to current estimates. **Elisabeth Jeffries** looks into this tidal region to see which areas have the best chances for success; the players that have been scouting for projects and why funding is the only thing holding the U.S. tidal energy industry back. [Read more](#). Source: *Tidal Today*, 8/16/10

Full Steam Ahead For California Geothermal Plans?

Right below your feet is enough potential clean energy to keep the whole country humming with electricity for 30,000 years, according to Department of Energy calculations. And this geothermal energy could play a big role in California as the state strives to reach an ambitious clean energy target by 2020.

But there is a catch: We have to get to it. [Read more](#). Source: *National Public Radio*, 8/19/10

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

SRP Unveils Community Solar for Public Schools

Customers Can Invest in Solar Energy Without Incurring Upfront Capital Costs

SRP is proud to announce the launch of SRP Community Solar—a pilot program that allows public schools in the utility's service territory to purchase energy from a solar photovoltaic power plant to be built in 2011. School districts will purchase a portion of the output from the solar facility for a fixed price of 9.9 cents per kilowatt hour for 10 years. Eighteen megawatts of energy will be allocated to this program, and each school's share of the solar plant will be individually metered. The advantages to the program are that schools can invest in solar energy without the upfront costs of purchasing and installing solar panels and will not incur any maintenance or repair costs that may be associated with a rooftop system. In addition, the kilowatt hour costs for the energy produced by the solar system is locked in for ten years. If the costs for electricity increases, the energy purchased through the Community Solar program will remain the same. [Read more](#). *Source: Salt River Project, 8/3/10*

UWIG Meeting Attendance Scholarship Program for Co-ops, Public Utilities Extended

In 2010, the [Public Renewables Partnership](#) effort led by [Western Area Power Administration](#) (Western) and funded through the [U.S. DOE Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program](#) will offer thirty \$500 scholarships to employees of electric cooperatives and public power utilities to attend [Utility Wind Integration Group](#) (UWIG) meetings. The scholarships can be applied to any UWIG workshop or user group meeting and can be used to help defray travel expenses or registration fees. The applicant's employer must be a member of [National Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#) or [American Public Power Association](#) and there is no limit on the number of scholarships per utility. To apply for the scholarship, please contact [Randy Manion](#) at 720-962-7423.

In addition, UWIG offers financial assistance for registration fees for college students interested in attending UWIG workshop events. For more information, please contact [UWIG](#). *Source: UWIG Connected, 8/19/10*

Details Posted on UWIG Fall Workshop

The Utility Wind Integration Group's (UWIG) 2010 [Fall Technical Workshop](#) will take place Oct. 13-15 at the Loews Le Concorde in Quebec City. This will be UWIG's first meeting in Canada and is being held in partnership with sponsors Hydro Quebec, MSE Power Systems, OSIsoft, GL Garrad Hassan, GENIVAR, Alstom Grid, and the Canadian Wind Energy Association. This event was located to recognize UWIG's large Canadian utility membership base, and is co-located with the [Ninth International Workshop](#) on Large-Scale Integration of Wind Power into Power Systems as well as on Transmission Networks for Offshore Wind Farms. *Source: UWIG Connected, 8/19/10*

Seats Still Available for Wind Integration Short Course

In partnership with the American Wind Energy Association and Energynautics, Utility Wind Integration Group

(UWIG) will hold the 2010 presentation of Wind Generation in Power Systems: A Short Course on the Integration and Interconnection of Wind Power Plants into Electric Power Systems September 21-23 in Austin, Texas.

This course addresses issues related to interconnecting wind generation to electric utility power systems. Covered topics include wind turbine generator technology, modeling for power system analysis, and conducting planning and operating studies. [Read more](#). Source: *UWIG Connected*, 8/19/10

UWIG Announces Availability of Online DG Evaluation Toolbox

Utility Wind Integration Group is pleased to announce the availability of its [online DG Evaluation Toolbox](#). Created as a follow-on effort to the Distributed Wind Impacts Project completed in 2007, UWIG worked to make the tools for analysis of wind generation on utility distribution networks easier to use and versatile enough to handle distributed solar applications.

The DG Evaluation Toolbox is available to UWIG members, American Public Power Association DEED members and participants in the [Centre for Energy Advancement Through Innovation's](#) (CEATI) Distribution Assets Life Cycle Management Interest Group (DALCM). For more information, or to request access to the toolbox, contact [Sandy Smith](#), Conference & Communications Coordinator, Utility Wind Integration Group, 865-218-4600, ext. 6141. Source: *UWIG Connected*, 8/19/10

Solar Roadways: The Prototype

Watch the [YouTube video](#) on this "out-of-the-box" idea for generating power. Source: *Your Environment Road Trip*, 6/2/10

Learn more about [education and outreach activities](#).

News from Washington

Vice President Biden Releases Report on Recovery Act Impact on Innovation

Vice President Joe Biden today unveiled a new report, "The Recovery Act: Transforming the American Economy through Innovation," which finds that the Recovery Act's \$100 billion investment in innovation is not only transforming the economy and creating new jobs, but helping accelerate significant advances in science and technology that cut costs for consumers, save lives and help keep America competitive in the 21st century economy. [Read the full story](#). Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy*, 8/24/10

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

IREC State and Stakeholder News for Aug. 25

The IREC State & Stakeholder Newsletter is a foremost resource for current information on green workforce training, credentialing programs, state activities and best practices on renewable energy and energy efficiency. This free newsletter is distributed semi-monthly to email subscribers and published on IREC's website. [Read the newsletter](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 8/25/10*

Tester Knows Montana Will Play A Big Role In Nation's Energy Policy

U.S. Senators will be back in session in three weeks discussing the nation's energy policies among many other hot topics. Montana's senators know any energy policy changes could have a big impact on the state. Many Senators will go on vacation, spend time with family, anything they can do to get away from work between sessions, but not Jon Tester, he comes to northern Montana to do what he knows is an equally important job, harvest his crop on his family's farm. Even though he's thousands of miles away from D.C. he's always thinking about what's going on in Washington. [Read more](#). Source: *NBC Montana, 8/22/10*

Hamilton: Nova Scotia joins Canada's green energy club

I'm sitting in the office of Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter last Tuesday and he directs me to a green-tinted glass award sitting on a coffee table.

The award, received by Dexter at the Copenhagen climate summit in December 2009, recognizes Nova Scotia for creating the first law in North America to put a hard cap on carbon emissions. [Read more](#). Source: *The Toronto Star, 8/23/10*

Offshore Wind Economic Development Act passes in NJ (Leg. & Reg.)

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has signed the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act directing the state Board of Public Utilities to develop an offshore wind renewable energy certificate program (OREC) to support 1,000 MW of wind power. The Act will also make available financial assistance and tax credits from existing programs for businesses that construct manufacturing, assemblage and water access facilities to support the development of qualified offshore wind projects. (Source: *Inquirer, August 19, 2010*)

Contact: [Chris Christie, Governor, New Jersey](#), 609-292-6000; Source: *EPOverviews, Renewable & Sustainable Energy Report, 8/23/10*

\$800 million in renewable energy coming to Montana

Wednesday morning a Spanish energy company, NaturEner, announced it has secured financing for an \$800 million renewable energy project to begin in Montana.

The 309 megawatt wind energy project called Rim Rock is being financed through San Diego Gas and Electric, which will receive renewable energy credits for their investment.

President and CEO of NaturEner Jose M. Sanchez Seara told Governor Schweitzer in a meeting, "We've discovered a new path to finance renewables, that no one has used in the past. If we succeed it is going to be a very good example for others."

NaturEner spearheaded the Glacier wind project between Shelby and Cut Bank in 2007. The new Rim Rock project will be located 25 miles north of that project. It will be complete by the end of 2012. *Source: KRTV Channel 3 News, 8/4/10*

Wind turbine company to plant 600 jobs in Michoud

In what Gov. Bobby Jindal called "a great win for the New Orleans area" and Mayor Mitch Landrieu termed an "incredibly exciting announcement," officials announced Tuesday that a British wind turbine company will begin manufacturing turbine blades and components in part of the rapidly emptying Michoud Assembly Facility in eastern New Orleans. [Read more](#). *Source: New Orleans Net, 8/18/10*

Oregon, Portland help wind turbine maker Vestas build \$66 million HQ

Wind-power giant [Vestas](#)' long-awaited decision to build its North American headquarters in Portland blew through City Hall Wednesday like a cool summer breeze.

Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski said the plan to boost Vestas Americas' work force of 400 in the city by as many as 200 could not have come at a better time, considering the state's high unemployment. [Read more](#). *Source: The Oregonian Live, 8/18/10*

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

USDA High Energy Cost Grant Program—Responses Due Sept. 8, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [High Energy Cost Grant Program](#) provides financial assistance for the improvement of energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities serving eligible rural communities with home energy costs that are over 275% of the national average.

USDA is now accepting new [applications for \\$15.5 million](#) (pdf) in competitive grants under the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) (pdf) published in the Federal Register on Aug. 9, 2010. Grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$5 million will be awarded to businesses, nonprofit entities, states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. These grants will be used for on grid and off grid renewable energy projects serving eligible communities. USDA will award approximately 20 grants with the \$15.5 million provided through this notice of funding availability.

[Grant application materials and information](#) are also available at Grants.gov. Application materials may be downloaded without registering with Grants.gov. All applications must be submitted on or before Sept. 8, 2010. *Source: EERE Tribal Energy Program, 8/30/10*

State Seeks Proposals to Develop Solar Projects at 55 Agency Sites

The Nevada State Office of Energy ("NSOE"), in cooperation with the Nevada State Purchasing Division, released

a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) this week seeking participants who wish to build and maintain solar systems on multiple university, city and state agency sites. This RFP will solicit 100 percent private sector investor funding to design, build, own and operate the projects through a long-term power purchase agreement to all agencies participating. [Read more](#) (pdf). See the [full proposal](#). *Source: Nevada State Office of Energy, 8/18/10*

REAP Feasibility Funding Available

USDA has just released the funding notice for feasibility studies under REAP. Eligible recipients for the funding are limited to agricultural producers and rural small businesses—not consulting firms. The deadline for applications is Oct. 5, 2010. [Read more](#). *Source: FarmEnergy.org, 8/18/10*

DOE paves way for additional clean energy projects and jobs through manufacturing solicitation

Recovery Act funds to support new renewable energy manufacturing projects

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today a new loan guarantee solicitation for renewable energy manufacturing projects. The Commercial Technology Manufacturing Systems and Components solicitation is supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through Section 1705 of the Loan Guarantee Program. The solicitation will support the deployment of renewable energy technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help increase employment in the nation’s green manufacturing sector, which is part of the Administration’s long-term plan to create new green energy jobs. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 8/12/10*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

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