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Week of December
6, 2010

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Green Power

Green Power Challenge boosts clean energy use

In response to EPA's nationwide [Green Power Community \(GPC\) Challenge](#) issued in September, 33 Green Power Communities are now collectively using more than 1.6 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of green power annually, equivalent to the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the electricity use of nearly 142,000 average American homes. EPA's GPCs are well on track to reach the Challenge's goal of doubling the total aggregate amount of green power used by EPA GPCs to more than 1.8 billion kWh of green power annually.

Today EPA released its first update of the [GPC Challenge rankings](#). GPCs are ranked according to the two award categories: the community that has the highest green power percentage, and the community that uses the most kWh of green power. Portland, Ore., now leads the Challenge as the top buyer of green power with a collective green power usage of nearly 676 million kWh per year. Brookeville, Md., has retained the top spot for highest green power percentage of a total electricity use with a whopping 50 percent.

The GPC Challenge has garnered significant media attention in several publications, including Environmental Leader, American City and County, and County News. [Read more](#) about the GPC Challenge.

EPA will next update the GPC Challenge rankings on March 1, 2011. At the conclusion of the Challenge, the community that has the highest green power percentage and the community that uses the most green power will receive national recognition and special attention from EPA. The winning communities will be declared in September 2011.

EPA invites communities nationwide to join and participate in the Challenge at any point. To participate, a local city, town, village, county, or tribe must join EPA's Green Power Partnership and use green power in amounts that meet the program's purchase requirements. The local government must also conduct a campaign to encourage local businesses and residents to collectively buy or produce green power on site in amounts that meet EPA requirements and [become a Green Power Community](#). Source: U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership, 12/1/10

Houston, Oil Capital, Takes Steps Toward Green

At the recently opened farmers market outside Houston's City Hall, Laura Spanjian, the city's peppy new sustainability director, was in her element.

With a reusable cloth bag tucked under her arm, she bounded around the colorful cluster of stands, shaking hands and pointing out vendors — raw foods! local ingredients! grass-fed Texas beef! — as a Latin band played.

If this does not sound like Houston's style, well, get used to it. The nation's fourth-largest city, the sprawling capital of the oil industry, has recently embarked on a variety of green initiatives in an effort to keep up with the times and, it hopes, save money. [Read more](#). *Source: New York Times, 11/27/10*

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

Green Electricity: Wind Power Project Completed by Tri-State for Duke Energy

Kit Carson windpower project operational

Eastern Colorado wind farm is Tri-State's newest power resource

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association announced today the completion of the Kit Carson Windpower Project, a 51-megawatt wind farm located in east-central Colorado. The wholesale power supplier is purchasing the output of the facility through a 20-year agreement with a subsidiary of Duke Energy Corp (NYSE:DUK).

"The Kit Carson Windpower Project is another component in the continuing diversification of Tri-State's resource portfolio to meet the power requirements of our 44 member distribution cooperatives," said Ken Anderson, Tri-State's executive vice president and general manager. "This project serves as a good example of our ability to harness one of the abundant renewable energy resources that exist in our member system service territory." [Read more](#). *Source: Rillara News, 11/29/10*

New power plant generates green power

Something different is burning at HECO's generating station in Campbell Industrial Park.

"Essentially, we're using a liquid fuel," HECO executive vice president Robbie Alm said.

But it isn't petroleum. It's biodiesel - a mixture of used cooking oil and waste animal fat.

The power from the plant will help HECO meet Oahu's energy demand during peak hours by generating up to 110 megawatts of electricity.

"It comes right at the end of the day. Everybody goes home, switches everything on. Waikiki lights up to entertain. So at that point we have a spike in our use," Alm said. [Read more](#). *Source: Hawaii News Now KGMB & KHNL,*

11/29/10

There's no evidence of health impacts from wind energy

While there are legitimate issues worth debating with regard to wind energy development, public health impacts are not among them. The Oregonian's recent coverage of such impacts does a disservice to readers by further amplifying the discredited hypothesis of a single wind opponent, Nina Pierpont, whose self-published work has been widely criticized by sound experts.

While opponents of wind energy have attempted to use self-published reports to block projects, the science is clear. Independent studies conducted around the world consistently find that wind farms have no direct impact on physical health. In fact, with no air or water pollution emissions, wind energy is essential to reducing public health impacts from the energy sector. [Read more](#). Source: *The Oregonian*, 11/26/10

Solar energy jobs growing quickly

New Hampshire's unemployment rate continues to decrease, a situation that can, in part, be attributed to the sun.

In October, the Solar Foundation, a nonprofit solar energy research organization, released an analysis of the solar energy workforce in the U.S. entitled "National Solar Jobs Census 2010: A Review of the U.S. Solar Workforce."

According to the Solar Census, as of August, there were more than 16,700 solar employment sites and 93,000 solar energy-related jobs in the U.S. [Read more](#). Source: *Fosters Daily Democrat*, 11/28/10

Solar panels rise on two North County campuses

La Costa High and Canyon Crest Academy will see a 70 percent reduction in energy costs beginning in January.

The structures that have risen on parking lots at La Costa Canyon High School and Canyon Crest Academy in recent months might look like huge carports, but they mean much more to the schools.

The "carports" are actually a pair of megawatt solar-panel systems that will produce 70 percent of the schools' energy needs. They are expected to go online in January.

Officials are excited about the new additions at the San Dieguito Union High School District schools, which they said will not only slash the district's power bill, but also provide students with an example of environmental consciousness. [Read more](#). Source: *Sign On San Diego*, 11/28/10

Boat powered by sunshine arriving in Miami

A boat resembling a flying saucer and run by the sun is making a stop in Miami.

A vessel seemingly straight out of a vintage James Bond movie will slip into Miami's Government Cut sometime around 8 a.m. Saturday.

The craft, a strange mash-up of gleaming glass arrowhead, sleek flying saucer and knife-nosed catamaran, was not designed by an evil madman plotting world domination. It's the brainchild of Raphael Domjan, a Swiss engineer

and self-described "eco-adventurer" with a not-all-that crazy scheme to circle the world using only sunshine for fuel. [Read more](#). Source: *Miami Herald*, 11/26/10

Southern California Edison Buys More Solar Power

Southern California Edison (SCE), one of California's three major utility service companies, is already a leading supplier of solar power out of any utility company in the country. And last week, in an effort to both cushion its distance between itself and the rest of the nation's utilities and help meet California's goal of 33 percent of its energy coming from renewable sources by 2020, SCE added 245 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity to its grid. [Read more](#). Source: *GetSolar*, 11/29/10

City Powers Ahead on Renewable Energy

In Columbia's Biogas Energy Plant at the city landfill, Ronnie Tennill's office is insulated from the roar of two 20-cylinder Jenbacher engines by four thick panes of glass.

With the sound dampened to a hum, he is able to explain to visitors that instead of burning off the methane and other gases generated by decomposing garbage, the city is using it to provide about 1.5 percent of the power consumed here every day.

And when the state's first bioreactor cell is operational at the landfill, that production could nearly double. As gas production increases, so will electric output because there's room for two more engines to consume the fuel.

For 13 years, Tennill was a mechanic for the city Parks and Recreation Department. He sought the new job with the Water and Light Department for the challenge, he said. "I had to learn a lot in six months," he said. "And I am still learning." [Read more](#). Source: *Columbia Daily Tribune*, 11/28/10

Natural Gas Impeding Renewable Energy Growth

Energy analysts around the U.S. were shocked when the price of wind energy per mega-watt hour (MWh) fell below the price of natural gas in Texas. According to some analyses, Texas consumers were paying \$5.55 more per MWh of natural gas than wind energy for the fiscal year 2009. This was encouraging news to many who work in the renewable energy field, because renewable energy is intermittent and can be difficult to predict how much energy will be produced. To stabilize an inconsistent energy supply, utility providers back up their renewable energy suppliers with a more reliable energy source. [Read more](#). Source: *SmartGrid TMCNet*, 11/28/10

Installation of Boulder County Jail's biomass burner underway

Unit will burn local trees thinned from open space

Workers have been busy at the Boulder County Jail framing a building that will house the facility's new biomass heating system.

The boiler, when it's up and running later this winter, will burn through about 800 tons of woody material a year, heating the jail, which houses an average of 450 people on any given day.

"What we're doing now is building a building to house the biomass burner," said Ron Diederichsen, who is

coordinating the project for the county. "It will have the capacity to heat the entire building. But we will also have a backup gas-fired boiler in case this one is down or we need a little more heat on those super-cold February days." [Read more](#). Source: *Boulder Daily Camera*, 11/28/10

Wind Energy Fall Symposium Wrap: Short-Term Challenges, Long-Term Growth

While the industry will likely continue to put up modest numbers in 2011, the outlook for the longer term remains sound in spite of the absence of long-term policy.

That was the general theme that emerged from AWEA's Wind Energy Fall Symposium this week. Taking a pause from their hectic schedules to travel to the tranquil desert setting of the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass resort outside of Phoenix Arizona, the industry's top leaders discussed the front-of-mind questions facing the industry with particular candor. Members of the industry gathered at a time when wind power is posting some of its weakest numbers since 2007. Panelists attributed that trend to such factors as reduced electricity consumption due to the economic downturn and, also related to the downturn, unusually low natural gas prices. [Read more](#). Source: *AWEA Wind Energy Weekly*, 11/19/10

Clean Energy magazine now online

See the November/December issue of [Clean Energy](#) magazine. Source: *North American Clean Energy*, 11/22/10

Standard Solar activates 701-kw solar energy system

Standard Solar, Inc., a leader in the full-service development, installation and financing of solar electric systems for commercial, government and residential customers, today announced it will officially activate a 701 kilowatt solar energy system on the Rockville Ice Arena—one of the largest single rooftop solar energy systems in Maryland.

Standard Solar executives and representatives from Rockville Blades, LLC, which owns the arena and is an affiliate of The Maven Group, will unveil the new system during a dedication event at the Arena on Thursday, Nov. 18, at 10:00 A.M. ET, 50 Southlawn Court in Rockville, Md. [Read more](#). Source: *7th Space Interactive*, 11/20/10

Non-fossil energy technologies in 2050 and beyond By Riso DTU

Long-term energy security depends on the continuing availability of fossil fuels and their potential substitution by renewable energy sources.

Coal and gas may well dominate the global primary energy supply for the rest of this century if no special effort is made to promote renewables. However, for many countries energy security concerns are accompanied by a preference for renewable options which can reduce their dependence on imported oil and gas, as well as helping to meet environmental policy objectives.

To keep the global mean temperature rise below 2°C we need, according to the IPCC, to reach global stabilisation at 450 ppm CO₂eq, which means that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be halved by 2050 and in fact reduced even more in the OECD countries. [Read more](#). Source: *EV Wind*, 11/23/10

Philadelphia Eagles to Install \$30M Wind and Solar Energy System

The Philadelphia Eagles surprised the sports world following its decision to tackle the installation of a \$30 million renewable wind and solar energy system in their Stadium.

In 2003, the Eagles set up a Go Green project. The unique innovative spiral wind turbines of the stadium, together with the solar as well as its co-generation installations will again establish a different perspective for other sporting venues to come. [Read more](#). Source: *Seedol*, 11/21/10

Oregon Sawdust Powers Homes Via Biomass

The state of Oregon has a whole lot of sawdust, thanks to its logging industry and sawmills. Now, some of that biomass will be going to good use, providing power to 18,000 homes, courtesy of Iberdrola Renewables.

The new biomass plant—located approximately 90 miles east of Iberdrola Renewables' existing Klamath Cogeneration Plant outside Lakeview, Oregon—will be a combined heat and power (cogeneration) facility, entirely air-cooled, reducing water use by more than 80 percent as compared to conventional cooling technology. [Read more](#). Source: *Earthtechling*, 11/20/10

200 MW California Solar Plant A Go

The Kern County Board of Supervisors approved a 200-megawatt photovoltaic plant proposed for California's Antelope Valley by Sempra Generation. When constructed it will be the company's fourth utility-scale solar power project—it began ramping up operations at the largest photovoltaic solar facility in the United States in Boulder City, Nev., in June, and recently announced plans to launch the first phase of a 600-MW photovoltaic solar project outside Phoenix in 2011. [Read more](#). Source: *Earthtechling*, 11/21/10

Sunvalley files SBIR grant proposal based on Efficient Solar System Technology (G&C)

Solar power technology and solar system integration company [Sunvalley Solar](#) is filing for a SBIR (Small Business Innovative Research) grant offered by the Department of Energy (DOE).

Concentrated PV structures are believed to offer a low cost solution for solar energy systems. However, current PV concentrators are focused on lowering the costs of PV systems built with bulk Si or other semiconductor materials. No currently available PV concentrators are suitable for thin film PV cells because of their thinner layer and lower manufacturing costs. Sunvalley Solar proposed a "Surface Plasmon PV Concentrator" that is designed for thin film PV cells. This will be the first PV concentrator based on surface plasmon resonance and specifically designed for thin film PV cells. This innovative design is based on Sunvalley Solar's patent pending technology. (Source: PR Newswire, Nov. 19, 2010)

Contact: James Zhang, CEO, Sunvalley Solar, 530-895-0550. Source: *EPOverviews*, 11/22/10

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

U.S. DOE's EECBG/SEP Technical Assistance Program Webinar available online

A recording of *Defining and Establishing the Role of an Energy Resource Manager*, a webinar held on Dec. 2, will soon be available on the [Technical Assistance Solution Center](#).

The webinar discussed the role a municipal Sustainability Manager can play at the city or county level. Many grantees have hired or are planning on hiring a sustainability or energy resource manager for the first time using their EECBG funds, and are still establishing roles and responsibilities. The webinar featured the Philadelphia sustainability director discussing the city's efforts, as well as an ICF expert discussing best practices from other regions, including the benefits of having a sustainability manager, coordination with other municipal offices and programs, and options for organizing and supporting a local program.

We hope that you will consider attending webinars in the future. Please visit the Technical Assistance Solution Center more information on webinars and other useful support materials. *Source: U.S. DOE EECBG/SEP Technical Assistance Program, 12/3/10*

Electricity Markets Cultivating Growth of Windpower

NYISO notes market innovations at congressional briefing

Competitive wholesale electricity markets in New York state and other regions of the country are playing a vital role in the expanded production and delivery of wind energy, according to federal regulators and energy industry officials who spoke at a congressional briefing held today in Washington, D.C. [Read more](#). *Source: ReadMedia, 10/27/10*

Research, Development, and Deployment B-Roll Footage

See video b-roll footage showing research, development, and deployment work in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy. This content is provided for use by news media and educational organizations. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. DOE EERE News, 12/1/10*

New reports from the California Energy Commission

The California Energy Commission has posted several new [reports on research projects](#) on its website. *Source: Californial Energy Commission, 12/1/10*

More than 1,500 workplaces added to California's green economy map

The Environmental Defense Fund has just completed a third major update to its California green economy mapping tool. More than 1,500 businesses have been added to the database's multiple business categories, with most falling into a new 'green practices' category. These companies are certified under programs such as the San Francisco Green Business Program and many have won green awards. [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental Defense Fund, 11/30/10*

Nominate the 2010 Wind Power Co-op of the Year

Deadline for nominations: Dec. 31, 2010

It is time to honor one electric cooperative for its leadership in wind power. All electric cooperatives that are members of the [National Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#) (NRECA) are eligible to apply to be The 2010 Wind Cooperative of the Year.

Cooperatives can nominate themselves or other systems, and there is no cost to enter. The Wind Cooperative of the Year Award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's [Wind Powering America](#) initiative in partnership with the NRECA. Deadline is close of business on Dec. 31, 2010. [Read more](#). *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 11/30/10*

EESI webinars look at role of efficiency, renewables in economic development

This fall's election campaigns clearly showed that the economy is the top concern among Americans. In tune with these concerns, the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) provided key information to Congress and the policy community on energy strategies that help create jobs, reduce imports, keep energy dollars local, and reduce health costs.

Content from EESI's recent briefings and webinars is available online:

- [Webinar Series: Clean Energy and Sustainability as a Local Economic Development Strategy](#) (Part 1)
- [Webinar Series: Clean Energy and Sustainability as a Local Economic Development Strategy](#) (Part 2)
- [Black Carbon and Its Implications for Climate Change and Public Health](#)
- [Shaping a Low-Carbon World: Lessons from Nordic Countries](#)

Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 11/23/10

Power Systems Engineering Research Center

PSERC offers a productive and stimulating collaboration between universities, industry and government to conduct research to solve challenges facing the electric energy industry. It also strives to educate the next generation of power and energy engineers who will fill job openings created by the tremendous number of retirements coming in the engineering workforce. [Papers and research project reports](#) are available to download. *Source: Power Systems Engineering Research Center, 11/23/10*

SEIA Road Trip Shows How Solar Power is Helping America

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), an industry trade group, is taking a new approach to educate the American public about the benefits of solar energy.

Yesterday, the organization introduced a new campaign entitled "The Solar Generation USA Road Trip," during which award-winning director Alan Blake took a 3-week trip from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Los Angeles, California in order to film short online and broadcast segments from different parts of the country. The shorts showcase how America's solar industry is saving property owners money on utility bills and putting everyday citizens back to work. In total, the campaign includes three "webisodes," a four-minute film and a public service

announcement. [Read more](#). Source: *Solar Energy Industries Association*, 11/20/10

Report looks at biomass potential in Montana

[Developing a Business Case for Sustainable Biomass Generation: A Regional Model for Western Montana](#) is a report from the Montana Department of Commerce that explores the feasibility of developing sustainable, woody biomass-fueled combined heat and power (CHP) plants at sawmills in western Montana to supply a portion of NorthWestern Energy's (NWE) required renewable energy portfolio. Participants in the study include NWE, led by the biomass coordinator who serves on the NWE power purchasing staff; seven Montana sawmills which provided detailed information on their mills' manufacturing and forestry operations; and Montana's major forest landowners, both public and private, who submitted data on the supply of woody biomass available to CHPs from Montana forests. Source: *Montana Dept. of Commerce*, 6/1/10

NREL handbook provides guidance for tribal renewable projects

[Renewable Energy Development in Indian Country: A Handbook for Tribes](#) is an accessible reference for those who are new to tribal energy project development or seek a refresher on key development issues as they navigate the project development process. It builds upon the wealth of feedback and experiences shared by tribal and other participants in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's tribal energy training sessions. Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 11/19/10

IREC releases first model program rules for community renewables

Best Practices for Community Solar and Wind Generation Projects

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) today released its first Model Program Rules for Community Renewables. Based on best practices, the model rules are presented to facilitate co-investment in local renewable power facilities.

IREC's new model rules consider many of the basic issues facing community renewables programs. These include: renewable system size, interconnection, eligibility for participation, allocation of the benefits flowing from participation, and net metering of system production. IREC developed the model program rules for community-scale renewable systems working closely with the Vote Solar Initiative, a California-based not-for-profit working to bring solar energy into the mainstream. [Read more](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council*, 11/18/10

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

News from Washington

Presidential Report Provides Roadmap for Transforming U.S. Energy System

The United States should prepare a federal energy policy and update it regularly, according to a report released on November 29 by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). *Accelerating the Pace of Change in Energy Technologies Through an Integrated Federal Energy Policy* provides a roadmap for the

federal role in transforming the U.S. energy system within one to two decades. In the report, PCAST calls for regular strategic Quadrennial Reviews of energy policy similar to the quadrennial reviews produced regularly by the U.S. Department of Defense. [Read more](#). Source: *U.S. DOE EERE News*, 12/1/10

Aspen Institute Highlights 10 Ways EPA Has Strengthened America Over the Past 40 Years/ List by group of environmental thought leaders unveiled as Agency commemorates 40th anniversary

The Aspen Institute—an international nonprofit dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue—today unveiled a list of 10 ways the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has strengthened America over the past 40 years. The unveiling of the Aspen Institute list—which was compiled by a group of more than 20 thought leaders—kicks off a week of events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the EPA. Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson unveiled the list today at the Aspen Institutes offices in Washington, DC, where he was joined by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. [Read more](#). Source: *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, 11/40/10

FERC Opens Rulemaking on Intra-Hour Scheduling, Forecasting Requirements, and Integration Services for Variable Energy Resources

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proposed amending its pro forma open access transmission tariff to correct practices that are unduly discriminate against variable energy resources (VERs) such as wind and solar energy generators. In the November 18, 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FERC outlines measures that, if adopted, will (a) require transmission providers to offer transmission service that can be scheduled on 15-minute intervals, (b) require interconnection customers that operate VERs to provide site-specific forecasting and meteorological data to transmission providers that are deploying and/or developing power production forecasting processes, and (c) add a new rate schedule for generation regulation (i.e., integration) services. The proposed rulemaking is the first to come out of the January 2010 Notice of Inquiry on the Integration of VERs—a docket that received well over 100 comments from industry stakeholders. [Read more](#). Source: *Stoel Rives*, 11/23/10

Interior to expedite permits for offshore wind energy

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Tuesday said his department would propose regulatory changes to simplify and speed the leasing process for wind energy development off the Atlantic coast. In addition, the department will work aggressively to process applications to build transmission lines to move the electricity produced by offshore wind farms to consumers, he said at a news briefing in Baltimore with officials from Maryland and Delaware. [Read more](#). Source: *Government Executive*, 11/23/10

Rep. Hastings wants to alter resources committee

U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings wants to make some changes in Congress when Republicans take the majority in January.

Namely, he wants to reconfigure the House Natural Resources Committee—which he's in line to lead as chairman—to bring energy policy under its umbrella.

Hastings, of Pasco, sent a letter to members of the House Republican Conference this week suggesting the move, which he said would advance Republican interests in energy development. [Read more](#). Source: *The News Tribune*, 11/20/10

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

News from DSIRE: week of Nov. 29

Find out what's new in renewable energy around the nation from the weekly [DSIRE News](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council*, 11/29/10

Wind power moving forward

Yusef Orest spent Tuesday morning watching crews prepare the way for 12 wind towers to be erected on the open landscape south of Cosmos as part of the Adams Wind project.

Yusef Orest spent Tuesday morning watching crews prepare the way for 12 wind towers to be erected on the open landscape south of Cosmos as part of the Adams Wind project.

Orest, with Juhl Wind of Woodstock, Minn., said the wind farm taking shape in Meeker County represents a \$40 million investment. When completed, the wind farm will have the capacity to feed 19.8 megawatts of electricity to the community-owned wind venture's main customer, Xcel Energy. [Read more](#). Source: *West Central Tribune*, 11/27/10

We're missing eco-opportunities

Canada is "a country that sees itself as a force for good in the world," says Andrew Heintzman, but "the dawning realization that we have landed squarely on the wrong side of the biggest issue of our time will continue to undermine our self-identity, our self-respect, and our stature on the world's stage."

Our transformation into an environmental rogue state is not just a moral and environmental failure, Heintzman notes. It's also economic stupidity. Humanity has been on an "unparalleled resource binge" that lasted 200 years, but we now realize that resources aren't limitless. With six billion people on the globe, resources are scarce. [Read more](#). Source: *The Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald*, 11/28/10

Power Line Project Faces Challenges in California Valley

The sun is so strong here that people often talk about the temperature being "in the teens," meaning 113 or above. The wind is so powerful that west of town, signs on an Interstate display the number of miles remaining in which drivers will face dangerous winds, like signs that give the distance to the next city.

And to the north, near the end of the San Andreas fault, water underground, hot enough to make steam, flows up through cracks nearly to the surface [Source: New York Times] [Read more](#). Source: *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, 11/27/10

California offers tax breaks for innovative clean energy companies (Ind. Report, Funding)

Nanosolar, Bloom Energy and Solyndra are among the list of California clean energy companies that have been awarded tax breaks totaling \$71.5 million on \$785.7 million in manufacturing equipment investment according to Energy Prospects, under new California tax policy legislation passed this year.

Clean energy tax breaks in SB71 are designed to promote the development of innovative clean energy in California by offering sales and use tax exemptions for businesses whose projects benefit the environment, several of which follow:

- ABEC Bidart Stockdale LLC, which is building two biogas capture and production facilities in Bakersfield. The company's combined tax exclusion would be \$534,132 for the two facilities, based on qualified property purchases of \$5.9 million.
- First Solar would see a tax exclusion of \$3.4 million, based on qualified purchases of \$37.7 million for a PV manufacturing facility in Santa Clara.
- Solyndra would see a sales tax exclusion of \$34.8 million, based on qualified purchases of \$381.8 million, for its Solyndra Fab 2 PV manufacturing facility in Fremont.
- Solaria can expect a tax exclusion of \$709,800, based on its \$7.8 million in property purchases for a PV manufacturing facility in Fremont.
- Nanosolar can expect a tax exclusion of \$12.8 million, based on qualified property purchases of \$140.2 million for its solar PV manufacturing facility in San Jose.
- Stion Corp. can expect a \$9.6-million tax exclusion over the three-year period, based on its qualified purchases of \$105.5 million for a PV manufacturing facility in San Jose.
- NuvoSun Inc. can expect a \$1.8-million tax exclusion based on its qualified purchases of \$20 million for a PV manufacturing facility in Milpitas.
- Calisolar Inc. can expect a tax exclusion of \$3.5 million based on its qualified purchases of \$39 million for its solar PV manufacturing facility in Sunnyvale.
- Bloom Energy can expect a \$3.4-million tax exclusion for its purchases of \$37.4 million for a solar-oxide fuel-cell systems manufacturing facility in Sunnyvale.
- The balance of the awards are covered in today's issue of our sister publication *BioEnergy & BioFuels* (Source: Nanotech, November 26,2010)

See more Energy Overviews in [Clean Energy Funding news](#). Source: *EP Overviews*, 11/29/10

Pattern Energy Announces Completion of the Trans Bay Cable Project Under San Francisco Bay

Pattern Energy Group LP today announced completion of the Trans Bay Cable project in San Francisco, California, which is owned and operated by SteelRiver Transmission Company LLC, an affiliate of SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners. Pattern Energy's transmission team conceived, developed and managed for SteelRiver the construction of the Trans Bay Cable, an innovative 53-mile, 400 megawatt (MW) High Voltage Direct Current submarine transmission line that can transmit up to 40% of the peak power needs for the city of San Francisco. [Source: PR Newswire] [Read more](#). Source: *DailyFinance*, 11/29/10

Kansas wind farms don't conflict with military operations, Army says

An Army lawyer says there aren't any conflicts between military operations and wind energy development for now.

Stanley Rasmussen told the Joint Committee on Kansas Security on Monday that Kansas has a good system for

coordinating wind development across the state. Rasmussen is the regional counsel for the office of the assistant secretary of the Army.

Rasmussen said most of the best areas in Kansas for wind development are far from regular flight patterns for military aircraft near training areas and installations.

Rasmussen said that aside from the chances of aircraft hitting the turbines, there also are issues of radar signals being blocked by turbines. The Flint Hills are considered among the best places in Kansas for wind farms because of existing power transmission lines. *Source: Kansas City Star, 11/22/10*

Idaho Wind Farm Brings Renewable Energy to Utah

Construction is beginning on a 17,600-acre wind farm in southeast Idaho that will bring wind power to seventeen Utah cities and two Utah utilities for the first time. The Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, or UAMPS, is building the Horse Butte Wind Project. Spokeswoman Lisa Davis says while most of the wind power generated in Utah is sold out-of-state, this project will serve Utah customers.

"I think it's also really great to see all these smaller cities throughout the state make a commitment to having wind and a renewable resource as part of their mix," Davis says.

The cities include some along the Wasatch Front, such as Kaysville, Brigham City and Lehi. They also include rural cities like Beaver and Blanding, and the growing St. George region.

Bonnie Christiansen with Utah Clean Energy says the project is a great opportunity for the participating municipalities and utilities to get cost-effective renewable energy. And she says it's what UAMPS customers want, according to a recent poll.

"Out of the customers polled, over 80 percent of UAMPS members actually supported renewable energy as being a part of their mix," Christiansen says. "And so I think that is fairly significant that this is a way that they can look at what their customers' needs and wants are and this is a way they can supply those."

The majority of the power generated by the Horse Butte Wind Project's 36 turbines will be purchased by Utah customers. The rest will be sold to utilities in Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming and California. UAMPS is a coalition of municipalities and utilities throughout the west that collaborate to build power projects. *Source: KPCW News, 11/19/10*

NY Public Service Commission expands, strengthens RPS

The New York Public Service Commission has expanded the state's renewable portfolio standard by modifying some provisions of the policy, which was established in 2004 and calls for 30 percent renewable electricity by 2015.

First, renewable energy projects put into service after Jan. 3, 2004, that are not already part of the RPS program will be eligible for consideration for participation by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. NYSERDA is now authorized to conduct future solicitations for RPS Main Tier resources once a year at a minimum to enhance the ability of the solicitation process to respond in a timely manner to market opportunities.

[Read more.](#) *Source: Biomass Magazine, 11/19/10*

Climate of confusion

Shortly after Atlantic Wind & Solar Inc. heard about Ontario's lucrative incentives for green energy projects, the company did an about-face.

The publicly traded alternative energy developer had largely ignored its home market for years, opting instead to focus on expansion abroad. Then Ontario's Liberal government passed the Green Energy and Green Economy Act in May 2009 and the feed-in-tariff [FIT] program was born. [Read more](#). Source: *Canada.com*, 11/20/10

Solar farm proposed for Kendall County

In a dramatic shift from 2007, when landfills were proposed in this county rich with untapped land, a new idea, in a new industry, has now been pitched for a portion of unincorporated Kendall County.

Two Illinois businessmen who are pairing as a joint venture are proposing what they say is a clean and green boon to the towns of Oswego and Yorkville. [Read more](#). Source: *Herald News*, 11/24/10

Wind-energy task force discusses turbine project

They couldn't believe something so big is in Ashtabula County.

Members of the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force met at the GaREAT sports complex Thursday afternoon and were wowed by the size, scope and implications of the nonprofit economic development engine. When Lorry Wagner, the president of the Lake Erie Energy Development Corp. (LEEDCo) addressed the task force, he drew parallels between what GaREAT visionary Ron Clutter and the people in the banquet room want to do: grow the region.

"This is the type of project we want to do," Wagner said. [Read more](#). Source: *iStockAnalyst*, 11/20/10

Editorial: Change terms of climate debate

Political leaders stymied by the partisan polarization and paralysis over energy policy could learn something from folks who gathered at the University of California, Davis, last week.

The Governor's Global Climate Summit came on the heels of the landslide defeat of Proposition 23, the initiative backed by three Texas and Kansas oil companies that would have overturned California's pioneering AB 32 law, which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more](#). Source: *Sacramento Bee*, 11/21/10

NM issues renewable energy transmission bonds

The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority Board has issued \$50 million in bonds to upgrade the state's transmission system and promote the growth of clean energy.

The work will take 100 megawatts of wind energy across Public Service Company of New Mexico lines from the High Lonesome Mesa Wind Farm in Torrance County to the Arizona state line.

The project is a collaborative effort with High Lonesome Mesa LLC, a subsidiary of Edison Mission Energy.

The 40-turbine High Lonesome Wind Farm has been in operation since July 2009, but has been awaiting upgrades to operate at full capacity.

The work is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

The bond debt will be paid for by the sale of electricity to Arizona. [Source: Associated Press] *Source: NewsWest 9, 11/21/10*

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

SCPPA issues RFP for Renewable Energy Projects

The Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) is hereby soliciting competitive proposals for renewable energy generation (as defined within the California Public Resources Code) with supporting infrastructure(s) as structured projects through (i) facility ownership, or (ii) power purchase agreement with ownership option(s), in one or more facilities including consideration for Green House Gas (GHG) reduction applications for existing facilities, and combined use technologies of existing or proposed facilities. Response deadline is Jan. 31, 2011. [Download the full RFP](#). *Source: Southern California Public Power Authority, 12/3/10*

Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings Grant, Round Two – Closes January 13, 2011

The Colorado Governor's Energy Office will award two grants of \$100,000 to \$125,000 each to two local government renewable energy projects. The projects must be located in a community that did not receive an award of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (these are generally cities of less than 35,000 in population and the smaller counties in the state). The funding may be used to install solar panels or solar thermal on a facility owned by a city, town, or county. State government, colleges and universities, schools, and special districts are not eligible for this grant. [Download applications](#). *Source: Recharge Colorado, 12/3/10*

Green Power Network Renewable Energy RFPs

We post solicitations for renewable energy generation, renewable energy certificates, and green power as a courtesy to our 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. See [full list of opportunities](#). *Source: U.S. DOE EERE Green Power Network, 12/1/10*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

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