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Week of July 6,  
2010

Responsibility for the factual accuracy of each press release rests entirely with the individuals or organizations identified on the release.

## Green Power

### ***Picnic kicks off Clayton's green community challenge***

Clayton's Board of Alderman recently passed a resolution to embark on an EPA Green Power Community.

Leading municipalities across the nation are partnering with the EPA to become Green Power Communities (GPC.) GPCs are cities, in which the local government, businesses, and residents collectively buy green power.

The city of Clayton will hold a picnic to kick off its EPA Green Power Community (GPC) Challenge on Sunday, June 27, in Oak Knoll Park at Clayton Road and Big Bend Boulevard from 4 to 5 p.m. At 5, live music begins at Musical Nights in Oak Knoll Park. [Read more.](#) (Learn more about [EPA Green Power Communities.](#)) *Source: St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 6/27/10*

### ***House of Blues Dallas Extends Green Power Purchase with Green Mountain Energy Company***

#### ***HOB demonstrates ongoing commitment to the environment by purchasing cleaner electricity for Dallas club***

House of Blues® Dallas announced today that it will continue purchasing cleaner, renewable energy to offset a portion of its yearly electricity consumption. The Dallas club renewed its contract with [Green Mountain Energy Company](#), the nation's leading competitive retail provider of cleaner energy, committing to purchase renewable energy for three more years. House of Blues Dallas is located at 2200 N. Lamar Street in the historic White Swan Building at the crossroads of Dallas' West End and the newly established Victory Park development. [Read more.](#) *Source: PR Web, 6/24/10*

### ***EPA Launches New Program to Green America's Capitals***

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) is launching a new technical assistance program to help state capital cities design more sustainable communities. Greening America's Capitals will assist state capitals, selected through a competitive application process, develop a vision of distinctive, environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green building and green infrastructure. This program is a new project of the [Partnership for Sustainable Communities](#) between EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

"EPA is excited to work with our partners at HUD and DOT to offer this new design assistance to capital cities," said Lisa Heinzerling, associate administrator for EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation. "The selected cities will offer sustainable development models for their states and for many communities around the country."

EPA will provide design assistance to up to four cities per year to help them use sustainable designs to develop neighborhoods with multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits. With funding from EPA, these design teams will assist the city staff in developing project strategies to accelerate sustainable development in priority neighborhoods and create sustainability models for other cities to follow. The projects also could be used as testing grounds for larger, city wide actions, such as changes to local codes and regulations to better support sustainable growth and green building.

Capital cities are invited to submit letters of interest to EPA by July 9, 2010. Letters of interest will be evaluated based on how well the proposed project describes the challenge, potential impact, and political and public support. A small group of applicants will be asked to participate in a follow up call to further evaluate how well the applicant meets the criteria. Final selection will be made by early fall 2010. Learn more about the [program and application process](#). Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 6/17/10

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

## Renewable Energy Technologies

### *This week's BioEnergy & BioFuels Report*

In this issue:

- Waste-to-Energy Finance & Investment Summit, July 19-21, 2010, San Diego, California (Conf. & Events)
- ZeaChem confirms Commercial Cellulosic Ethanol achievable (New Prod. & Tech.)
- *Scaling Enterprise Finance: The Future of Biofuels* - report available (Ind. Report)
- \$4.2 million for small scale western Woody Biomass projects (G&C)
- Topell, RWE Innogy win €1 million for Dutch Biomass plant (Int'l - G&C)
- New Bio-based Isobutylene developed at Iowa State (R&D - New Prod. & Tech.)
- POET snaps up Indiana Ethanol plant (M&A)
- Important Notice - Holiday Publishing Schedule

[Read more](#). Source: *Energy Overviews*, 7/1/10

### *Xcel Energy's First-Ever Solar-Coal Project is Running*

Xcel Energy is now operating a first-of-its-kind demonstration of a hybrid solar-coal approach, using parabolic-trough solar technology integrated with a coal-fired power plant. The project, located at Xcel Energy's Cameo Generating Station near Grand Junction, Colo., is designed to increase the plant's efficiency, decrease the use of coal, test the commercial viability of concentrating solar power thermal integration, and lower carbon dioxide emissions. Abengoa Solar developed the parabolic-trough technology, which concentrates solar energy to provide heat for producing supplemental steam for electric power production. [Read more](#). *Source: Market Watch, 6/30/10*

### ***Wind power on a smaller scale carries potential***

If Abigail Stutzman has anything to say about it, small wind turbines will someday dot backyards across the Midwest.

The fifth-grader at Starside Elementary School in De Soto has an interest in the environment, including helping to recycle much of her family's trash. But she has bigger plans, inspired by her school's recent installation of a turbine. [Read more](#). *Source: Kansas City Star, 6/28/10*

### ***Australia Gets Hydropower from Wastewater***

An Australian sewage plant this April began using treated wastewater falling down a 60-meter (m) shaft to produce its own power. The unique 4.5-MW hydroelectric plant, installed as part of a A\$150 million (US\$124 million) upgrade to North Head sewage treatment plant (Figure 4), is one of three new units the New South Wales government is installing in Sydney Water's water and sewerage networks. [Read more](#). *Source: Power Magazine, 7/1/10*

### ***Solar Cell efficiency boosted up to 66% by university researchers (R&D)***

Researchers from the [University of Texas at Austin](#) and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis have discovered a process that can be used to increase the conversion efficiency of solar cells up to 66 percent. The process transfers hot electrons from quantum dots to an electron acceptor, using the quantum dots to slow down the cooling process of hot electrons and then captures and transfers them. This allows the addition of energy that is currently lost as heat in conventional solar cells. According to President of [Evolution Solar](#), Robert Hines, "This has the potential to double solar power output and cut solar payback times in half." (Source: Business Wire, June 24, 2010)

Contact: [Xiaoyang Zu](#), Center Director for Materials Chemistry, University of Texas at Austin, 512-471-9914; or [Robert Hines](#), Evolution Solar, 480-366-5836. *Source: Energy Overviews, 6/29/10*

### ***EPRI and SolarCity to Install Photovoltaic Rooftop Research System***

#### ***Array to Provide Insight Into Interactivity Between Solar and Utility Infrastructure***

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and SolarCity, a national leader in solar financing, design, installation, monitoring and related services, announced a project today that will install a 187-kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) research system at the institute's headquarters.

The SolarCity PV rooftop system is expected to produce more than 7.3 million kWh over the next 30 years and offset about 11 percent of EPRI's annual power usage at its four-building research campus. When completed in

mid-August, it will be the second largest solar installation in Palo Alto. [Read more](#). Source: *SolarCity*, 6/23/10

## ***Offshore Wind Takes Off Around the World***

After more than a decade of debate, in April, U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar approved Cape Wind, a proposed 130-turbine offshore wind farm for Nantucket Sound in Massachusetts. It would be the first wind facility in U.S. waters. Despite remaining hurdles, the approval marks a shift in political winds for the nation's fledgling industry, and it could spur further development of projects proposed for relatively shallow waters along the East Coast and in the Great Lakes. [Read more](#). Source: *Power Magazine*, 6/1/10

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

## **Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies**

### ***DOE Breaks Down Market Barriers with Online Technology Commercialization Portal***

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today the launch of the Technology Commercialization Portal an online resource that will serve as a tool for potential investors to identify opportunities to invest in work being conducted by DOE laboratories and participating research institutions

Traditionally, investors, entrepreneurs, and companies have faced substantial barriers when identifying clean energy technologies to license. The Technology Commercialization Portal will help reduce these barriers to investment providing capital markets with key information on the attributes, uses, benefits, and market readiness of specific energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

The marketing summaries available online describe in detail what energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies are available for licensing, and each summary outlines a technology's applications, advantages, benefits, and stage of development. The Web site can streamline a search for specific technologies, or allow the user to browse by subject area. It can also connect investors and organizations to the proper licensing contact. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 6/30/10

### ***Wind Energy Educational Programs and Training***

This page shows the location of wind energy educational programs and training in the United States. Find programs at community colleges, universities, and other institutions. Learn how to use the Google Map and how to add your educational program and training to the map. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Wind Powering America Program*, 7/1/10

### ***IREC collecting input for net metering paper***

Interested in issues surrounding net metering and retail choice markets? If so, we need your feedback!

The [Interstate Renewable Energy Council](#) (IREC) and the [North Carolina Solar Center](#) (NCSC) will be publishing a paper later this year examining net metering in retail choice markets. Please join us for a webinar as Justin Barnes

and Laurel Varnado explain the structure of their research and take your comments, suggestions and questions. Kevin Fox will also be speaking about his experience working in states that have retail choice and why this research is important. For more information about the research, please refer to this [research outline proposal](#).

Comments may be submitted one of two ways:

1. Attend a free webinar on July 15 at 2 p.m. EDT and join a discussion about the upcoming report. [Register now](#).
2. Submit clear written comments to [Laurel Varnado](#) by July 15, 2010.

Source *Interstate Renewable Council, 7/1/10*

## ***AWEA Seeks Input on State Regulator Outreach on Wind Power Issues***

Electric utilities hold a key, critical role for the continued growth of the wind energy industry. With the economic downturn since late 2008, electric utilities are facing increasing cost pressures and resistance to rate hikes from their customers and regulators and significant flattening of load growth. One growing trend we are noting is a reluctance of state Public Utility Commissions/Public Service Commissions to approve power purchase agreements that have been negotiated in good faith between utilities and wind developers.

One action [American Wind Energy Association](#) is developing is a new effort to reach out to state PUCs/PSCs. The intent is to provide general education and awareness of state regulators, transmission authorities and their respective staff members on wind power issues. Without support of these regulators, the ability to add the incremental wind that the industry desires will likely be constrained. For the wind industry to significantly increase market share, any major transmission development has to incorporate moving large amounts of wind to load centers, so regulators must work within states and among states to address the planning, permitting and cost allocation of new high voltage transmission lines.

As part of AWEA's State Regulator Outreach Plan, we are seeking input from the [Utility Working Group](#) to develop a short list (15 or so) of priority states for cultivating better-educated regulators. Please share your input on states that your electric utility services to help us prioritize state regulators to target. Indicate:

1. For the states in which you operate, please list each state and rank HIGH, MEDIUM, or LOW for AWEA to focus wind power state regulator outreach efforts. You might consider states where commissioners are making key decisions over the next six to eight months. (*Note that there may be changes in states if new governors are elected. If so, we will revise our target list.*)
2. Besides the commissioners in a given state, please help us identify key staff members in those state governments. Please identify specific divisions or staff members in particular commissioners that you would suggest we focus efforts on.
3. Separate from commissioners and commission staff, are there other influential organizations or individuals in those same states (i.e., consumer advocates, attorneys general or others). Please help identify any groups or individuals that influence commission decisions and/or have been significant influence on regulatory issues and decisions in the states you indicate as priority states.

[E-mail comments](#) prior to July 13, 2010 if at all possible and feel free to include any concerns or questions on this informal information-gathering poll. Thanks!! *Source: American Wind Energy Association, 6/30/10*

## ***Geothermal Energy Association workshop to address utilities, co-ops and public power***

The [Geothermal Energy Association](#) (GEA) will explore the future of utility-scale geothermal power at an [industry conference](#) in Las Vegas July 22. With geothermal production expanding to 15 states, many new utilities, coops and public utility districts are considering geothermal for the first time. This session brings together utilities, coops, and PUDs familiar with geothermal to discuss how they have achieved success with geothermal developers and companies. Sessions will focus on approaches and challenges for utility-scale projects in the United States, Federal and state support for utilities and renewables, risk management, transmission issues, and more. [Read more.](#)

For more information, please contact [Garret Drexler](#) at 646-695-7042. *Source: Geothermal Energy Association, 6/30/10*

## ***Small Wind Newsletter for July 2010***

In this issue:

- News
- Interconnection and Net Metering
- Incentives
- Resources
- Small Wind in the News
- About the Small Wind Newsletter

[Read more.](#) *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 7/1/10*

## ***New Report Provides Blueprint for Building Domestic Wind Energy Component Supply Chain***

***BlueGreen Alliance, American Wind Energy Association, and USW Provide “Manufacturing Blueprint” to Build Out Domestic Wind Energy Supply Chain and Create U.S. Manufacturing Jobs***

According to a report released today by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), BlueGreen Alliance and the United Steelworkers, the U.S. wind industry can create tens of thousands of additional jobs manufacturing wind turbines and components if the U.S. passes long term policies that create a stable market for the domestic wind energy supply chain. [Read more.](#) *Source: American Wind Energy Association, 6/28/10*

## ***Nebraska wind power conference set for Kearney***

The Nebraska Wind Working Group has scheduled the [Nebraska Wind Power 2010 Conference](#) for November in Kearney. It's set for Nov. 9-10 at the Younes Conference Center.

The Nebraska Wind Working Group is a state-Federal partnership funded by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Conference organizers say the conference will focus on the challenges to developing wind energy in Nebraska.

Workshop topics include commercial wind-energy development, small wind energy systems, economic development opportunities, jobs, careers and wind-energy training programs. *Source: Action 3 News, 6/27/10*

## **Renewable Energy Can Help Reduce Oil Dependency**

In a speech to the Economic Club of Kansas City today, NREL Director Dan Arvizu takes a realistic look at how renewable energy can help reduce America's dependence on oil, pointing out that the country gets as much energy from renewable sources now as it does from offshore oil production. See [transcript](#) and [video highlights](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 6/23/10*

## **National Electrical Code Compliance for Photovoltaic Systems**

**Wednesday, August 11, 2010 from 8:30am – 4:00pm; Miller Free Enterprise Center, Sandy, UT**

This Workshop presents standardized Guidelines for applying the National Electric Code (NEC) to photovoltaic (PV) system installations. Workshop qualifies for 6 hours of Continuing Education Credits.

### **Why the Need to Learn About PV Systems?**

PV systems allow homeowners and others to convert solar energy into electricity. The PV generated electricity will serve electricity uses at the site and excess electricity generated by the system can be fed back into the local electric power grid. An increasing number of PV systems are being installed in Utah in response to financial incentives from the state and federal tax credits. [Read more](#). *Source: Utah State Energy Program, 6/24/10*

## **Geothermal Energy Association Workshop to address Utilities, Co-ops and Public Power**

On July 22, the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) will explore the future of utility-scale geothermal power at an industry conference held in Las Vegas. With geothermal production expanding to 15 states, many new utilities, coops and public utility districts are considering geothermal for the first time. This session brings together utilities, coops, and PUDs familiar with geothermal to discuss how they have achieved success with geothermal developers and companies. Sessions will focus on approaches and challenges for utility-scale projects in the U.S., federal and state support for utilities and renewables, risk management, transmission issues, and more. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 6/22/10*

## **IREC Announces Fall 2010 Webinar Series**

IREC's fall 2010 webinar series kicks off on July 20 with Justin Barnes and Larry Sherwood on [state solar policy and market trends](#).

Justin Barnes, N.C. Solar Center at N.C. State University will discuss state policies and trends based on research associated with the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE). Larry Sherwood of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council will discuss solar installation trends in the United States.

[Register now](#) for the July 20 webinar.

The [schedule for August to December](#) has been set; details will follow:

- Aug. 24, 2010 – Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing
- Sept. 21, 2010 – Community Solar
- Nov. 2, 2010 – Fire Codes
- Dec. 2, 2010 – Workforce Development

The webinars are free, but you must register to attend. Mark your calendars now, and watch for details on the upcoming webinars. *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 6/23/10*

## ***Clean Energy Systems Charge Students Up at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University***

### ***New Engineering Track Addresses Growing National Desire, and Market, for Green Energy***

This fall, engineering students at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will be able to convert their passion for renewable energy into a degree, with a new track in Clean Energy Systems. The program, offered to mechanical engineering majors at the university's Daytona Beach, Fla., campus, will teach about turbines that convert wind and water power into electricity, systems that make energy from the heat of the sun, earth, and ocean, and systems for storing energy. [Read more](#). *Source: Embry-Riddle University, 6/22/10*

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

## **News from Washington**

### ***DOI and DOE Sign MOU to Spur Offshore Renewable Energy Projects***

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy today announced a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will strengthen the working relationship between the two agencies on the future development of commercial renewable offshore energy projects on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

"Renewable energy development holds great promise for our clean energy future and our economy," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "This joint framework with DOE will bring together resources and expertise from both agencies as we pursue the environmentally responsible development of these valuable renewable energy resources."

"We have a major opportunity to tap the energy in waves and offshore wind. Increasing cooperation between our agencies will help make clean, renewable energy a reality," said Secretary Steven Chu. [Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/29/10*

### ***Calling for 2010 GreenGov Presidential Awards Nominations***

The White House Council on Environmental Quality is calling for nominations for the [2010 GreenGov Presidential Awards](#). The GreenGov Presidential Awards recognize outstanding performance towards the goals of President Obama's Executive Order 13514 on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance. Federal and military personnel, project teams, facilities, and programs are eligible and encouraged to nominate

colleagues or themselves.

Nominations will be accepted online from June 29 to July 29 .Winners will be recognized during the 2010 [GreenGov Symposium](#), to be held in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5-7, 2010. *Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, 6/30/10*

### ***Treasury Department Issues Guidance Regarding Cash Grant "Begin Construction" Requirement***

The U.S. Treasury Department today released on its website [additional guidance](#) regarding the "begin construction" requirement for qualifying for the 30% ARRA cash grant. To qualify for the grant, a project either must be placed in service in 2009 or 2010 or, if construction begins on or before December 31, 2010, must be placed in service by a specified credit termination date (December 31, 2012 for large wind projects; December 31, 2013 for biomass, certain geothermal and other projects; and December 31, 2016 for solar and other projects). [Read more](#). *Source: Steel Rives, 6/25/10*

### ***Do something: Now is the time to develop alternative energy***

Americans love their buffets. It will take a buffet of energy solutions to ease the United States' reliance on foreign oil. And it could add a new and very important element to the economy.

Realizing that there is no one solution, no magic bullet, the National Energy Policy Institute, funded by Tulsa's George Kaiser Family Foundation, will soon release a report that will suggest that a combination of taxes, hybrid and natural gas-fueled vehicle subsidies and new efficiency rules will be the best way to ease our reliance on foreign oil. [Read more](#). *Source: Tulsa World, 6/27/10*

Learn more about [legislative activities](#).

## **State Activities, Marketing & Market Research**

### ***Colo. wind project orders 139 turbines from Vestas***

Vestas Wind Systems has received an order for 139 turbines from Renewable Energy Systems Americas for a wind farm RES Americas is building on the eastern plains of Colorado.

Representatives for Vestas and RES Americas weren't immediately available to comment Wednesday on the value of the order. Vestas said the order wouldn't change its financial expectations for the year. [Read more](#). *Source: Associated Press via Google News, 6/30/10*

### ***State could be left sucking wind***

### ***Losing out on alternative energies***

Those getting in on the ground floor of renewable energy stand to reap future benefits. Kentucky, unfortunately, is

positioning itself to be a loser.

As the Public Service Commission recently said, in its 2-1 rejection of a good deal on wind power from Illinois: "There is no mandate at this time for utilities in Kentucky to supply renewable energy."

The dissenting commissioner, James W. Gardner, made a strong case that Kentucky Power's proposed wind contract would have satisfied state law's requirement that regulated utilities go with the least-cost option. [Read more](#). Source: *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 7/1/10

## ***APX Launches the North Carolina Renewable Energy Tracking System***

APX Inc., the leading infrastructure provider for environmental and energy markets, is pleased to announce that the North Carolina Renewable Energy Tracking System (NC-RETS) launched today. NC-RETS will provide account holders with an easy-to-use, web-based system that creates, tracks, and enables trading of renewable energy and energy efficiency certificates. Additionally, the registry will track each North Carolina electric power suppliers compliance with North Carolina's renewable energy portfolio standard, including its contribution toward specific requirements for energy supplied by solar, swine and poultry waste resources. [Read more](#). Source: *APX Inc.*, 7/1/10

## ***Local Option - Improvement Districts for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements***

Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing effectively allows property owners to borrow money to pay for energy improvements. The amount borrowed is typically repaid via a special assessment on the property over a period of years. Colorado has authorized local governments to establish such programs, as described below. (Not all local governments in Colorado offer PACE financing; contact your local government to find out if it has established a PACE financing program.) [Read more](#). Source: *Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency*, 7/1/10

## ***N.J. Senate approves \$100M tax credit for off-shore wind power projects***

The state would be able to provide \$100 million in tax credits for companies to develop off-shore wind power under a bill that passed the Senate this afternoon.

The Offshore Wind Economic Development Act would attempt to spur the development of wind farms off the coast by offering the incentives and creating a certificate program requiring that a certain amount of electricity sold in the State be from offshore wind energy. [Read more](#). Source: *The Star-Ledger*, 6/28/10

## ***Gov. Ritter Caps Legislative Session by Signing Packaged of New Energy Economy Bills***

Gov. Bill Ritter completed a triumphant and historic legislative session by signing a final package of bills that solidifies Colorado's standing as a national leader in the New Energy Economy. Gov. Ritter visited the Veterans Green Jobs workforce training facility in Denver for the signing ceremony. [Read more](#). Source: *Colorado Governor's Office*, 6/29/10

## ***Colorado Geological Survey Maps Geothermal Hotspots***

The Colorado Geological Survey has published two new maps of Colorado's geothermal resources which may one day be used to help the state diversify its renewable energy generation portfolio. One of the maps shows the state's geothermal gradient, or the rate at which temperature increases underground. The second plots the location of inactive or abandoned oil and gas wells located near promising geothermal resources, wells which might be repurposed for electrical generation. [Read more](#). *Source: Colorado GEO Newsletter, 6/28/10*

### ***Gov. Mike Rounds joins community to dedicate NextEra Energy Resources Day County Wind Energy Center***

South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds and local community leaders today joined officials from NextEra Energy Resources, the largest wind and solar energy producer in North America, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Western Area Power Administration and East River Electric Power Cooperative to dedicate the Day County Wind Energy Center.

More than 150 local and regional guests joined the governor and company officials at a site near Groton to celebrate the commercial operation of the 99-megawatt (MW) Day County Wind Energy Center and the organizations that helped make the facility a reality. [Read more](#). *Source: NextEra Energy Resources, 6/22/10*

### ***Cause for Community Celebration: New Missouri Wind Farm Dedicated Today in Atchison County***

The community of Atchison County came together today to celebrate the state's newest and largest commercial-scale wind farm, the Farmers City Wind Power Project.

Located near Tarkio in the northwest corner of the state, the Farmers City Wind Power Project produces enough renewable, homegrown energy to power 33,000 typical Missouri homes each year.

The dedication event featured Atchison County Commissioner Marlin Logan, Atchison County Development Corporation Director Eileen Irvine, project landowners, local youth from the Tarkio Boys Club, 4-H and Boy Scouts, as well as guests from throughout the community. [Read more](#). *Source: Iberdrola Renewables, 6/18/10*

### ***Change blowin' in the wind***

#### ***Plant looks to bounce back after tough year***

The demand for wind power weakened along with the economy, but officials at Acciona Windpower in West Branch say they're confident the winds of change are coming.

The West Branch location is the North American headquarters for nacelle assembly, the turbine section of the machine.

The plant is capable of producing eight to 10 nacelles per week, but in past months, production was down to only one a week. A production uptick that began this month will ramp work up to two per week, officials said. [Read more](#). *Source: Iowa City Press-Citizen, 6/28/10*

### ***230 MW of Wind Power for Michigan (Ind. Report - G&C)***

In Michigan, [John Deere Wind Energy](#) plans to install three projects capable of generating 230 MW of wind power for sale to [Consumers Energy](#) as part of the utility's plan to boost renewable power production to 10 percent by 2015. Two of the projects - the 90 MW Michigan Wind 2 project in Sanilac County and the 59.4 MW Harvest II project - will be developed solely by John Deere Wind Energy, and are expected to be operational in 2012, while the 81 MW Blissfield Wind Energy project in Lenawee County will be developed with Great Lakes Wind LLC of Cleveland, Ohio. (Source: Detroit Free Press, June 26, 2010/Xconomy, June 25, 2010)

Contact: John Deere, 888-689-9066, Wind Energy; Dan Bishop, Consumers Energy, 517-788-2395; or Great Lakes Wind, LLC, 517-458-2576. *Source: EPOverviews.com, 6/28/10*

### ***Clean Line Energy plans \$3.5 billion Wind Transmission line (Ind. Report)***

Houston, Texas-based [Clean Line Energy Partners](#) is seeking to have its affiliate, Plains and Eastern Clean Line Oklahoma, registered as a public utility in Oklahoma and has filed a similar request in Arkansas. According to the company, the designation is essential to develop a 800-mile high voltage transmission line to carry wind power from Oklahoma through Arkansas to Tennessee.

The \$3.5 billion project is in the early stages of development, and is expected to take five to seven years to complete. Clean Line expects to fund all development costs and does not plan to seek cost recovery through the electric rates paid by consumers. According to President Michael Skelly, the Clean Line transmission lines "will serve new projects that will not get built unless we build our line." (Source: AP, June 25, 2010)

Contact: [Michael Skelly](#), Clean Line Energy Partners, 832-319-6310; or [Matt Skinner](#), [Oklahoma Corporation Commission](#), 405-521-4180. *Source: EPOverviews.com, 6/28/10*

### ***\$420 million, 198 MW Colorado Wind project progresses (Ind. Report)***

Following up on a project previously profiled in our Feb. 11, 2010 report, [Blue Diamond Ventures, Inc.](#), has reached an agreement in principle with a joint venture financial partner to co-develop and begin construction on its proposed 198 MW wind project, plus 68 miles of transmission line in Huerfano County, Colo., in 2010. The company anticipates completion of the financing structure within a few weeks.

Blue Diamond's affiliate, Blue Diamond Ventures Renewables owns 60 percent of the project, while [FreedomWorks LLC](#) owns the remaining 40 percent. Total development costs are expected to reach \$420 million. (Source: Market WIRE, June 24, 2010)

Contact: [John Moaning](#), CEO, Blue Diamond Ventures, Inc., 713-493-2587; or [Mike Wernicke](#), Business Development, FreedomWorks, LLC, 703-229-3392. *Source: EPOverviews.com, 6/28/10*

### ***California Public Utilities Commission Votes to Maximize Smart Grid Benefits***

#### ***Utilities Required to Demonstrate How Plans will Benefit Consumers and the Environment***

[Environmental Defense Fund](#) today praised the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for adopting a comprehensive plan to maximize the environmental and consumer benefits in the smart grid plans of state investor-owned utilities, PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE).

"[Today's PUC decision](#) shows yet again that California is creating a model that other states can follow to save ratepayers money, grow the economy and protect the environment," said [Lauren Navarro](#), Environmental Defense Fund, which was a party in the smart grid proceeding.

"Utilities now have clear guidelines for developing smart grid plans that are able help California meets its energy and environmental goals." [Read more](#). Source: *Environmental Defense Fund*, 6/24/10

### ***'Landing' good sites will make or break concentrating solar***

While sunlight is plentiful, the land for concentrating solar power and photovoltaic projects is not quite as available. Concerns about environmental impacts and the proximity of transmission lines limit the number of utility-scale solar plant locations—those capable of generating and interconnecting 10 megawatts (MW) or more to the grid. It's a challenge that DOE and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff are addressing as they evaluate 24 potential sites under a [Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#) (PEIS).

DOE and BLM staff are evaluating [optimal sites](#) on 119 million acres of BLM-owned land in [California](#), [Arizona](#), [New Mexico](#), [Nevada](#), [Colorado](#) and [Utah](#) for both concentrating solar and photovoltaic technologies. They are also examining which sites should be excluded because of environmental impacts and concerns over whether or not new electricity transmission corridors should be designated to facilitate solar project development. Source: DOE Golden Field Office, 6/25/2010

Those that are being evaluated are large tracts of land with [good solar resources](#). DOE has also identified the most economically suitable lands in the Southwest to deploy these concentrating solar power plants. (See direct-normal solar radiation maps in the [Southwest](#).) The draft PEIS is expected to be released late this year with the final PEIS completed in 2011. Source: *Argonne National Laboratory*, 6/24/10

### ***State program guides focus on policy, finance***

[Clean Energy States Alliance](#) (CESA) has created two new state program guides—one focused on policy and the other on finance—for distributed and community wind projects. The guides were created as part of CESA's States Advancing Wind Project.

- [Supporting On Site Distributed Wind Generation Projects](#), by Charles Kubert and Mark Sinclair, Clean Energy States Alliance – This wind energy program guide is for state clean energy fund managers and policymakers who support the installation of on site, behind the meter wind turbines at private businesses and municipal and other public facilities. It lays out the many policy actions states can take to encourage the development of these projects. Among these are: project feasibility assessment support, grant and other incentive programs, interconnection and net metering policies and model zoning ordinances. The guide also provides case studies of the leading state clean energy funds providing support to this market. May 2010.
- [State Based Financing Tools to Support Distributed and Community Wind Projects](#), by Charles Kubert and Mark Sinclair, Clean Energy States Alliance – This wind energy program guide was created to help state clean energy fund managers and policymakers examine the various ways states can provide financial support for distributed wind projects. The options available to states range from rebates and loans to bridge financing and renewable portfolio standards. Each should be evaluated in light of the availability of tax and other incentives available at the Federal level. The report also looks at third party financing, which is increasingly being used by private and public entities to develop projects in tight financial times. May 2010.

The guides and [presentations from the associated webinars](#) on each topic are available online. *Source: Clean Energy Group, 6/22/10*

## **Billings invited to boost clean energy**

Billings could be a model for how a city can move toward clean energy in ways that create jobs and spur the local economy.

During a lunch meeting Tuesday of the Billings Business Roundtable, representatives from New Energy Cities, a program that works with Pacific Northwest cities to move to energy efficiency, discussed the possibilities for Billings.

Rhys Roth, a founder of New Energy Cities, told the group he's on "a scouting mission in Montana" to see if cities have the desire and willingness to become a partner with the program. New Energy Cities also is meeting with community leaders in Bozeman and Helena. [Read more](#). *Source: Billings Gazette, 6/23/10*

## **Why California will lose its edge in fight for green jobs creation**

Republicans and Democrats in state government have seemingly found bipartisanship on one issue: sustaining California as the world's leader in green jobs. But peel away the visionary rhetoric, and the same old union special-interest groups are derailing even this path to economic growth and job creation.

A vivid example of how California will eventually lose its edge in green jobs is illustrated through the experiences of one immigrant who came to California seeking opportunity, but instead learned a lesson about how unions abuse their political power to stifle competition. [Read more](#). *Source: San Jose Mercury News, 6/22/10*

Learn more about [marketing and research](#)

## **Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News**

### **\$2.3 million funding for Wind Turbine material research (Funding)**

The U.S. DOE is awarding the [University of Houston](#) a \$2.3 million research grant to build a testing facility for offshore wind turbine materials and components. The National Wind Energy Center will be located at the university's Energy Research Park and will focus on the development of newer and more affordable composite materials to build larger, longer-lasting turbines. "Our vision is that offshore wind energy will supply 30 percent of the U.S. demand for electricity as a continuously producing energy reservoir, at a cost of four cents per kilowatt hour with no fuel costs and no carbon footprint," said the Center's Director, Su Su Wang. (Source: Houston Business Journal, June 30, 2010)

Contact: [Su Su Wang](#), Director, National Wind Energy Center, University of Houston, 713-743-4515. *Source: Energy Overviews, 7/1/10*

### **DOE Announces Funding for Research and Development to Support U.S. Manufacturing of High-Efficiency Solid-State Lighting**

As part of the ongoing effort to reduce national energy consumption through high-efficiency building technologies, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the availability of up to \$15 million in funding to advance research, development, and market adoption of Solid-State Lighting (SSL) technologies. The department will select two to eight projects that will help accelerate the adoption of high-quality Light Emitting Diode (LED) and Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) products, which have the potential to significantly reduce energy use and limit carbon emissions. [Read more](#). *Source: EERE Progress Alerts, 6/28/10*

### ***Department of Energy Announces \$24 Million for Algal Biofuels Research***

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today the investment of up to \$24 million for three research groups to tackle key hurdles in the commercialization of algae based biofuels. The selections will support the development of a clean, sustainable transportation sector a goal of the Department's continued effort to spur the creation of the domestic bio industry while creating jobs. Developing cost effective renewable transportation fuels is a key component of the Administration's strategy to cut greenhouse gas emissions and move the nation toward energy independence. [Read more](#). *Source: EERE Progress Alerts, 6/28/10*

### ***\$10 million Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of up to \$10 million in [Climate Showcase Communities grants](#) for local and tribal governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives. EPA [requests proposals](#) that create replicable models of sustainable community action; generate cost effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions; and improve the environmental, economic, public health, or social conditions in a community.

Federally recognized Indian tribal governments are eligible, and approximately 5 percent of the funds (\$500,000) are set aside for tribal governments. EPA expects to award 1 3 grants under the tribal set aside. [Read more](#). *Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, 6/23/10*

### ***DOE Announces Request for Information for Offshore Wind Demonstration Projects***

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input from the public on the research, development, and deployment of offshore wind demonstration projects. [Read more](#). *Source: EERE Progress Alerts, 6/15/10*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

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