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Week of March 29,
2010

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Green Power

Green Mountain Energy Company Launches “For Everyone” Texas Ad Campaign

Residents from throughout Texas are appearing in a new advertising campaign for [Green Mountain Energy Company](#). The company’s new campaign, “For Everyone”, features eight actual Green Mountain customers from the Dallas and Houston metroplex areas, as well as the smaller community of Eagle Pass, Texas.

The integrated advertising campaign consists of TV, radio, billboard and web ads in both English and Spanish. The Green Mountain customers only appear in the [TV portion](#) of the campaign. The 15-second TV spots will begin airing in Houston, Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande Valley on Monday, March 15. The 60-second radio commercials and 15-second radio-reads began airing earlier this week in Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston and the Rio Grande Valley. The ads are running on both English and Spanish-speaking stations. English and Spanish outdoor billboards are up in the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo, Texas. The online component of the campaign will begin later this spring. *Source: Green Mountain Energy, 3/15/10*

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

Using renewable energy instead of natural gas saved Austin almost \$50 million

Settling down with my usual bedtime reading last night – Austin Energy's Annual Report of System Information – two tables caught my attention: the "Fuel Costs" (in total \$) table on page 2, and the "Energy By Fuel Type" (in total MWh) table on page 3. Hiding in those tables are some meaningful numbers that refute the current thinking that with natural gas prices so cheap, nothing can possibly be cheaper. A little bit of math shows that renewable energy

is an even cheaper option. [Read more](#). *Source: FavStocks, 3/25/10*

Chevron Tests Emerging Solar Technologies

Chevron Corporation announced the start of Project Brightfield, a demonstration of next-generation solar energy technologies in Bakersfield, California. The project, created on the site of a former Chevron refinery, will evaluate seven emerging photovoltaic technologies to help determine the potential application of renewable power at other company-owned facilities. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 3/23/10*

20 Windspire Wind Turbines Installed at Adobe System's Silicon Valley Headquarters

[Adobe Systems Incorporated](#) has completed the installation of 20 Windspire wind turbines at its San Jose, Calif., campus, marking the company's first renewable energy installation. Adobe is a recognized leader for its green building efforts, which have earned it the U.S. Green Building Council's highest accolade for green practices. The new Windspires are located on Adobe's sixth-floor patio, which doubles as a rooftop garden and recreational area above an office parking garage. The patio sits between Adobe's three office towers, which create a wind tunnel effect from sustained winds off the Pacific Ocean.

Each Windspire is 30-feet-tall, 4-feet wide, and weighs 650-pounds. The propeller-free, vertical-axis wind turbine can harness wind power in urban, suburban and rural locations. Adobe selected the Windspire for its powerful, sleek, quiet and aesthetically pleasing design. *Source: North American Clean Energy, 3/24/10*

Pattern Energy Signs Power Purchase Agreement with Manitoba Hydro

[Pattern Energy Group LP](#) (Pattern) and Manitoba Hydro Electric Board (Manitoba Hydro) today jointly announced that the two companies have entered into a 27 year power purchase agreement for the sale of energy produced by St. Joseph Windfarm Inc., a 138 megawatt (MW) wind project currently under construction and located in the southern Manitoba community of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Windfarm is expected to create 200 to 225 jobs during the construction phase and approximately 15 permanent positions. The project is expected to result in the payment of millions of dollars in property taxes over the life of the project with two thirds of the tax revenue going to education and one third going to the host communities.

Mortenson Canada has begun construction on the St. Joseph Windfarm. The project will include 60 Siemens SWT 2.3 MW turbines, which are expected to begin generating electricity by late 2010. Manitoba Hydro has provided the project with a 20 year construction/term loan to finance a portion of the project. Terms of the power purchase agreement and construction/term loan were not disclosed. *Source: Pattern Energy Group, 3/22/10*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Report: Solar Could Meet 10 percent of US Energy Needs

Environment America last week released a new report that outlines the road to meet 10 percent of the United States' energy needs by 2030.

[Building a Solar Future: Repowering America's Homes, Businesses and Industry with Solar Energy](#) looks at a variety of solar technologies including photovoltaics, concentrating solar power, solar water heaters, solar space heating, and passive solar design. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 3/24/10*

Buildings predict huge increase in Renewable Energy

Global expenditure in renewable energy [should](#) rise from \$90 billion to \$150 billion. However, a further increase of a third is needed in order to ensure global greenhouse gas emissions reach a peak and avoid critical levels of climate change. Bloomberg New Energy Finance has estimated that \$500 billion will be needed by 2030, whereas current policies show that investment will reach only \$200 billion.

Experts claim that at current trends, 22 percent of the world's installed power generation will be met by renewables through 2020 and 31 percent by 2030. However, 40 percent by 2030 is needed to avoid the dangerous climate change levels. High amounts of investment have already come from China, as well as increases in project financing in The Americas and Europe.

"These findings confirm that, in spite of ongoing economic malaise, investment in renewable energy should continue to grow, driven heavily by existing government targets," says Guy Turner, director of carbon market research at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. The required level of investment could still be achieved, if the price of carbon was increased progressively. *Source: Better Generation, 3/23/10*

Be Part of the Largest Wind Industry Event in the World

The [WINDPOWER 2010 Conference & Exhibition](#) has a number of special events to enhance your overall event experience, to allow more networking opportunities, and to give you a chance to unwind from the serious work happening at WINDPOWER. [Read more](#).

This year, utility AWEA members sending three or more representatives are eligible for a 15-percent discount on registration price for all attendees. [Read more](#). *Source: American Wind Energy Association, 3/24/10*

Careers in Renewable Energy

Want to Work in Renewable Energy? These [Web sites](#) have information on available jobs in RE. Some provide free listing and postings, while others require a fee. If you come across a great new site with additional jobs information, please [e-mail us](#) with the information. Good luck with your job hunt! *Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 3/23/10*

Still time to register for the Utility Energy Forum

Come explore how utilities throughout California, Nevada and the Pacific Northwest are leveraging consumer interest in energy efficiency and renewable energy to address global climate change issues. [Register now](#) for the Utility Energy Forum May 5-7, in Tahoe, Calif. Not convinced? Just look:

- See the [latest agenda](#)
- See who is [attending](#)
- See who is [sponsoring](#)
- See who is [exhibiting](#)

Don't be left out! Early Bird registration discount has been extended to April 5, and there are still exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities. *Source: Utility Energy Forum, 3/19/10*

Farm Energy Success Stories” Shows Clean Energy Can Power Rural America

A new report from the [Environmental Law & Policy Center](#) (ELPC) unearths the stories of farmers and rural small businesses that are making clean energy their newest cash crop. From a Pennsylvania syrup maker that cut its energy costs in half, to an Illinois dairy that generates electricity from manure, to a Montana brewery that runs on solar power, clean energy is improving the bottom line for rural America. [Farm Energy Success Stories](#) highlights clean energy projects that were made possible with grants and loan guarantees from the Farm Bill's [Rural Energy for America Program](#) (REAP). *Source: Environmental Policy and Law Center, 3/16/10*

Tool That Tracks Solar Installations is Open to All

NREL's new Open PV Web site lets users download information about installations, explore trends in photovoltaic markets. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 3/15/10*

Wind energy social networking site launched

People from all walks of life who share an interest in wind power now have a social networking site dedicated to promoting development of this renewable resource: [WindTurbines.net](#). The "first social network for the wind turbine community" is still in its fledgeling stage. Members will participate in building a Wiki to share their knowledge about wind technology; directories of manufacturers, installers, technicians and other related organizations; discussion forums and educational resources. *Source: WindTurbines.net, 3/12/10*

IREC State & Stakeholder Newsletter

The IREC State & Stakeholder Newsletter is a foremost resource for current information on 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. If you have comments or if you would like to submit a news item, [email Jane Pulaski](#). [Read more](#). *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 3/10/10*

Learn more about [legislative activities](#).

News from Washington

Federal agreement to boost nation's hydropower output

Two US government departments are to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to increase hydropower development at Federal facilities.

The US Department of the Interior (DOI) and the US Department of Energy (DOE), along with the Army Corps of Engineers, said yesterday they would focus on upgrading their hydropower facilities and demonstrate new technologies.

The agreement said they would also co-ordinate research and policy, and look for suitable sites for new low-impact hydropower facilities. [Read more](#). Source: *Bright Energy*, 3/25/10

Backlash: Senate may tighten Buy American rules for renewables, limit EPA authority

The Senate has seen action on two key proposals in the areas of clean energy and climate change.

American Renewable Energy Jobs Act

On March 2, 2010, U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Bob Casey (D-PA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Jon Tester (D-MT) requested that stimulus spending on a renewable energy program stop until rules are in place to ensure that the grantees of Federal funding for these projects spend that money on domestic construction materials. The senators opined that some three-quarters of the \$2 billion spent on wind energy through the stimulus went to foreign companies. [Read more](#). Source: *Electric Light & Power*, 3/25/10

Learn more about [legislative activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Governors Take Stand on Wind Energy

The [Governors' Wind Energy Coalition](#), a bipartisan group of 29 governors from across the country, has asked Congress and the President to adopt a national renewable energy standard—a minimum requirement for the use of renewable electricity. Their lead recommendation focuses on streamlined permitting for both onshore and offshore wind power projects and an upgraded interstate electric transmission system.

Also, the Coalition asks that the nation's utilities be required to provide a minimum 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources like wind, solar, geothermal and biopower, by 2012. Over half of the states in the nation already have enacted some form of renewable electricity standard. Iowa Governor Chet Culver, who chairs the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, says he backs a national renewable energy standard of 25 percent by 2025, which he says could create more than 300,000 green jobs.

In its recommendations, the Coalition emphasizes the goal of providing at least 20 percent of the nation's electric needs from wind power by 2030. A recent assessment of wind's prospects and impacts released by the U.S. Department of Energy concluded that the United States could meet this goal. Source: *Western Farmer-Stockman*, 3/22/10

New Mexico Will Be Home To New Chevron PV Facility

Chevron Technology Ventures will break ground this spring on a 1-megawatt concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) facility in Questa, New Mexico, the largest of its type in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

CPV systems use lenses to concentrate the sun's rays on relatively small, high-efficiency solar cells. The CPV technology reduces costs by requiring fewer cells, although that is offset somewhat by the need for a solar tracking system. [Read more](#). *Source: Area Development, 3/22/10*

S.D. Governor Signs Wind Easement Legislation

Gov. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., has signed into law a bill that changes wind tower easements, [BusinessWeek reports](#).

The measure bars wind energy developers from requiring landowners to keep the terms of easement contracts confidential. Easements or leases also cannot be finalized for 10 days after an offer, giving landowners time to study the deal.

The new law also will give developers up to 12 years to begin construction of large-capacity wind farms that involve electrical transmission lines. This is an exception to the law requiring smaller projects to start within five years of an easement. (SOURCE: BusinessWeek) *Source: North American Wind Power, 3/25/10*

Power developer pays for priority on transmission lines

Officials with a renewable-energy developer based in Ireland said Wednesday that the company has paid \$3.5 million to reserve priority position on the Bonneville Power Administration's interstate transmission system — a move that would allow wind power produced in Montana to be distributed to the West Coast. [Read more](#). *Source: Billings Gazette, 3/24/10*

Wind Turbines in Mason County?

While attention recently has been focused on the possible CREZ transmission line coming through Mason County, little has been said about an industrial wind farm development that is being considered here. Twelve individuals or families with property in Mason and Menard Counties have signed Memorandums of Wind Energy Lease and Agreement with Mason Mountain Wind Project, LLC, which is affiliated with a California based company, Padoma Wind Power, LLC. The farms and ranches that have signed up as part of this Mason Mountain Wind Project presently total almost 14,000 acres and are located in an area stretching from south of where Highway 87 North passes over Mason Mountain west to near Long Mountain. [Read more](#). *Source: Mason County News, 3/24/10*

Colorado Gov Signs Renewable Energy Jobs Bill

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter has made it official: By 2020, utilities in that state must generate 30 percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar power. [As reported here recently](#), the Colorado legislature passed HB 1001 to upgrade its Renewable Energy Standard (RES) on March 8th, with strong public support.

Only [California has a more aggressive RES](#): 33 percent by 2020.

Colorado's new rules also support distributed power, with a requirement that 3 percent of electricity comes from home and business solar arrays. [See the video](#). Source: *The Energy Collective*, 3/23/10

Report: Tribes key in renewable energy development

American Indian tribes have huge potential to develop renewable energy resources on their lands but first must overcome a number of challenges, namely financial, according to a report released Tuesday.

Tribal lands make up about 5 percent of the United States and hold an estimated 10 percent of the country's renewable resources. Projects to harness the sun's energy, particularly in the Southwest, and to use wind power in the Great Plains and Alaska's coastal Native villages are the most promising, the report by the National Wildlife Federation said. [Read more](#). Source: *Google News*, 3/24/10

Upper Cape base turning to more turbines

By next year three wind turbines could be added to the one already spinning at the Massachusetts Military Reservation under a joint plan proposed by the Air Force and Army cleanup teams.

The turbines, to be located near the PAVE PAWS radar station on the Sagamore side of the base, are among more than two dozen turbines proposed on the Upper Cape since the first of the year, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. [Read more](#). Source: *Cape Cod Times*, 3/24/10

Rates Paid To Small-Power Producers Decline

[The rates that regulated utilities pay small-power producers have decreased significantly](#) due to declining natural-gas prices, according to a new price forecast by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC), the Idaho Public Utilities Commission reports.

Under the provisions of the Federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), regulated electric utilities are required to buy power from qualifying small-power producers or co-generators, such as wind or anaerobic digester projects. The rate to be paid to the developers of projects 10 MW or smaller is determined by the commission, and is called the avoided-cost rate, because it is to be equal to the cost the electric utility avoids if it would have had to generate the power itself or purchase it from another source. One of the key factors the commission uses in determining the published avoided-cost rate is a long-term natural-gas forecast by the NPCC. A change in the forecast automatically triggers a recalculation of the published avoided-cost rates.

Under new rates effective immediately, a qualifying PURPA project developer that signs a 20-year levelized contract this year would be paid \$79.19/MWh. Under the previous rate, a developer would have been paid \$90.90/MWh.

According to NPCC data, the price for natural gas at the Sumas trading hub in Washington state including delivery averaged \$7.68/MMBtu, but had dropped to \$3.91/MMBtu in 2009 and is projected to be about \$4.56/MMBtu this year. (SOURCE: [Idaho Public Utilities Commission](#)) Source: *North American Wind Power*, 3/24/10

Solar Campaign launched in San Francisco

[One Block Off the Grid](#) has launched a solar campaign for San Francisco in cooperation with Luminalt Solar as a

campaign partner. The two will offer a group discount rate on home solar panel installations of \$5.39 per watt. This program launch coincides with the city's GreenFinanceSF version of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, whereby homeowners can finance energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation improvements that are paid back through property taxes, rather than income. (Source: PR Newswire, March 22, 2010)

Contact: [Noel Cotter](#), President, Luminalt Solar, 415-564-7652; [Brad Smith](#), One Block Off the Grid, 201-775-4461; San Francisco Campaign Details. *Source: EP Overviews, 3/24/10*

Ohio Wind projects win approval

The [Ohio Power Siting Board](#) (OPSB) has approved [EverPower Renewable's](#) proposed Buckeye Wind Project slated to be erected in Champaign County. Construction of the 135 MW, 54 turbine project is expected to begin in 2010 and to be completed by the end of 2011. The OPSB approval is subject to a series of conditions restricting the construction of certain turbines and setting up a process to deal with complaints. EverPower's CEO, James Spencer, said, "Over the next few months we will work to meet the conditions set forth in the board's certificate."

Also in Hardin County, Ohio, the OPSB has granted approval to Hardin Wind Energy, LLC, an affiliate of [Invenergy LLC](#), for the construction of a 300 MW project involving up to 200 wind turbines. [JW Great Lakes Wind](#), LLC also received approval to build a 38 MW, 27 wind turbines project.

The OPSB was tasked with responsibilities for the rules regarding construction, operation and maintenance of wind facilities following the state's implementation of a renewable energy standard. (Source: Dayton Business Journal, March 23, 2010/OPSB, March 22, 2010)

Contact: [James Spencer](#), CEO, EverPower Renewables, 212-647-8111; Hardin Wind Energy, LLC ; [Richard A. Zachariason](#), COO, JW Great Lakes Wind LLC, 216-344-9305; Alan R. Schriber, Chairman, Ohio Power Siting Board, 866-270-6772. *Source: EP Overviews, 3/24/10*

Washington State enacts public biomass supply program

Washington Governor Chris Gregoire has signed a state bill to establish a program to source biomass fuels from public forestry land.

The Forest Biomass Supply Agreements Bill received almost unanimous support from the state Legislature.

It will allow the state's Department of Natural Resources to draw up long-term contracts with the emerging biomass industry to supply fuel from state forestry lands.

The Department said on Friday that the building of a green industry and new revenue source from state forested lands would help to sustain the local timber industry by providing a use for dead and dying material.

It could also save money from forest fire avoidance programs, the Department suggested. [Read more](#). *Source: Brighter Energy, 3/23/10*

Water and power commissioners pass carbon surcharge, energy rate hike

Los Angeles Water and Power commissioners have approved a rate increase and a special charge for renewable energy. KPCC's Molly Peterson says the higher bills may help the city meet some lofty goals.

The board voted to raise the price of electricity 8-tenths of a penny per kilowatt-hour. That would help the Department of Water and Power cover the cost of energy it's already bought and create a trust fund for investing in solar and wind power. The [carbon surcharge](#) is meant to fund what Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa called a "lockbox" for energy efficiency and renewable energy. [Read more](#). *Source: 89.3 KPCC, 3/19/10*

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

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Interior Department Awards \$3.7 Million to 13 Tribes for Renewable Energy

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced on March 11 that its Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) has awarded \$3.7 million to 13 tribes that are developing renewable energy resources for their communities. IEED selected six geothermal, four biomass, and three hydroelectric power projects for tribes located in the states of California, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin. The proposed projects were identified by the individual tribes, which developed comprehensive proposals that were evaluated by IEED under a competitive process. Access to these renewable resources will allow these communities to develop jobs and additional economic opportunities on their tribal lands, while decreasing their reliance on fossil fuels. See the [Interior Department press release](#) for the full list of tribes. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/17/10*

Request for information for Solar Demonstration Zone Project

The purpose of the [Solar Demonstration Zone Project](#) is to facilitate the development of a cluster of projects in the Southwest that "showcase" advanced new technologies. Responses must be in Microsoft Word (.doc) format submitted as an attachment to an [e-mail](#) with the subject line "Solar Demonstration Zone RFI Response." *Source: DOE Solar Technologies Program, 3/5/10*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

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