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Week of November
1, 2010

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Green Power

EPA Recognizes Top Green Power Purchasers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing its list of the [top 50 organizations](#) using the most renewable electricity. The [Green Power Partnership's](#) top purchasers use more than 12 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of green power annually, equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the electricity use of more than 1 million average American homes. Green power is generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and low impact hydropower.

The Intel Corporation tops the list as the Partnership's largest single purchaser of green power and was recently honored with a 2010 EPA Green Power Leadership Award for green power purchasing. The company uses more than 1.4 billion kWh annually, equivalent to avoiding the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of nearly 125,000 average American homes. Both Kohl's Department Stores and Whole Foods Market received the 2010 EPA Green Power Partner of the Year Awards, and came in as second and third this quarter in purchasing green power. Reaching the top five for the first time, Starbucks (No. 4) more than doubled its annual green power purchase to more than 573 million kWh of green power equivalent to avoiding the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of nearly 50,000 average American homes annually. Also in the top five is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which increased its green power purchase to 500 million kWh of green power annually. Rounding out the top 10 are the City of Houston, Dell Inc., Johnson & Johnson, the U.S. Air Force, and the City of Dallas.

EPA's Green Power Partnership works with nearly 1,300 partner organizations to voluntarily purchase green power to reduce the environmental impacts of conventional electricity use. Overall, EPA's Green Power Partners are using nearly 18 billion kWh of green power annually, equivalent to avoiding the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of more than 1.5 million average American homes.

Green power resources produce electricity with an environmental profile superior to conventional power technologies and produce no net increase to greenhouse gas emissions. Purchases of green power also help accelerate the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide. *Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 11/1/10*

Practicing Corporate Social Responsibility: OFM Completes Solar Farm at N.C. Headquarters

Initiative one of state's largest renewable energy efforts among small businesses

[OFM](#), one of the nation's leading office and school furniture manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers, announced today the completion of a 250-kilowatt rooftop solar farm project at its headquarters in Holly Springs, N. C., a key part of the company's corporate social responsibility goals. OFM recently celebrated with a festive inauguration attended by North Carolina's Lt. Governor Walter Dalton and Congressman David Price. At the event were other business, political and energy industry leaders from around the Tar Heel state.

"We have a responsibility as a company to avoid harming the environment whenever possible," said Abel Zalcborg, chief executive officer of OFM. "When we act more responsibly, we are happier, our employees are happier and, most importantly, our customers are happier."

The solar farm consists of 1,042 solar panels on the roof of OFM's main building in Holly Springs. The 322,500 kilowatts of energy generated each year through the solar farm system will be sold to Progress Energy as part of their [SunSense Commercial Solar PV program](#). This is a new initiative inspired by the North Carolina General Assembly, which mandated Progress Energy obtain three percent of its power from renewable energy sources in 2012 and up to 12.5 percent by 2021.

Through this initiative, OFM is now carbon neutral and a certified renewable energy facility. Earlier this year, the company also swapped out its light bulbs in its main warehouse from 400w Metal Halide Lights to energy efficient 200w Induction Lights. With corporate social responsibility a top priority, it's no surprise that OFM is also looking at manufacturing future furniture products with green materials such as castor bean oil.

"OFM is a family-owned company, so we take a longer view, because I want to know that what the company is doing today will help protect the environment that my children and their children will grow up in," adds Zalcborg. "Generating renewable energy and using greener materials are two great ways to make that possible." *Source: dBusiness News, 10/6/10*

Green Power Network News Update now available

A summary of recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's [Green Power Network](#). *Source: U.S. DOE Green Power Network, 10/6/10*

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

Trans-Elect announces major offshore wind energy transmission project with key sponsors

Capturing the enormous potential of offshore wind energy along the Mid-Atlantic coast took a significant step

forward with the announcement of the Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC) backbone transmission project led by well-established independent transmission company Trans-Elect and sponsored by Good Energies, Google and Marubeni Corporation.

Designed to accelerate offshore wind development, the AWC project will help the industry create thousands of jobs, improve consumer access to clean energy sources, and increase the reliability of the Mid-Atlantic region's existing power grid. [Read more](#). Source: *PennEnergy*, 10/12/10

SRP, Iberdrola Renewables Sign Deal for Solar Energy Plant in Pinal County

Plant would allow customers to offset energy usage

Salt River Project and Iberdrola Renewables have signed a 25-year power purchase agreement for 20 megawatts of solar photovoltaic energy from a Pinal County facility. SRP will purchase all of the solar energy produced at the Copper Crossing Solar Ranch Facility, which is expected to be online by June 2011.

Iberdrola Renewables is delighted to partner for the third time with SRP, this time for one of the largest utility-scale projects in Arizona," said Martin Mugica, executive vice president of Iberdrola Renewables. "SRP has been a leader in bringing clean, renewable energy to Arizona, by purchasing the output of the first commercial-scale wind farms in the state and now with this, one of Iberdrola Renewables' first solar projects." [Read more](#). Source: *Salt River Project*, 10/13/10

Google to Sink Big Bucks in Massive Offshore Wind Project

An ambitious proposal to build an offshore wind installation in the Atlantic Ocean that would deliver power to approximately 1.9 million households gained considerable financial support yesterday, when Google and Good Energies, a New York-based investment firm that specializes in renewable energy, each agreed to take a 37.5 percent stake in the initial development stage of the project. [Read more](#). Source: *Reuters*, 10/13/10

Tool That Tracks Solar Installations is Open to All

The photovoltaic (PV) market now has an eye-popping, interactive bevy of maps and charts that can let anyone know where PV panels are being installed, how big they are, how much they cost and how fast the industry is booming. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 3/12/10

Large-scale solar plants on public lands will be a first

The Interior Department has signed off on two large-scale solar power plants to be built on public lands in California. The approval by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar gives two U.S.-based companies the use of almost 6,800 acres of public lands for 30 years to build and run solar plants that could produce enough renewable energy to power between 226,000 and 566,000 typical American homes and provide almost 1,000 new jobs. [Read more](#). Source: *Smart Grid News*, 10/6/10

Delaware energy: Wind execs decry permit delays

Generating costs also occupy industry conference

With little voter appetite for new government subsidies, Federal officials are looking to the laboratory to drive down the price of offshore wind power.

The industry has great potential, but breaking through high costs and government permit problems were major topics here on opening day of the American Wind Energy Association's annual offshore wind power conference.

The size of Wednesday's paid attendance—about 1,700, up from just 400 at the first confab in Wilmington two years ago—and the addition of a bustling exhibit hall reflected increased interest by developers, manufacturers, government agencies and academics. [Read more](#). Source: *Delaware Online*, 10/7/10

U.S. Military aims to use 50% renewable energy in 10 years

Of all places, the U.S. military has proven one of the fiercest proponents of renewable energy, and for totally practical reasons—most importantly cost and safety. Now, military higher-ups plan to rely on renewable energy sources for 50 percent of their power by 2020, which could help the worldwide advancement of those technologies immeasurably. One company of Marines, saddled with tons of solar power tech, is kickstarting this revolution. [Read more](#). Source: *Popular Science*, 10/5/10

US Renewable Energy Market Likely To Fall Without Incentives

Solar and wind-farm developers are increasingly anxious about a key Federal incentive that could prompt a slowdown in the U.S. renewable energy market if it is allowed to expire at the end of the year.

Government incentives included in the Recovery Act Congress passed last year helped the industry survive the brutal recession and the aftermath of the worst financial crisis in decades. The magic serum has been a government program that provides a 30 percent investment tax credit to developers in the form of a cash grant for building new solar and wind farms. The cash gives developers access to more capital. [Read more](#). Source: *NASDAQ*, 10/5/10

Final approval for 754 MW of Solar Power in California (Ind. Report)

In California, two large scale solar projects have received their final stamp of approval from the Secretary of the Interior - the first projects approved under a "fast track" program to spur a rapid move to develop renewable energy projects on public lands.

The Imperial Valley Solar Project, proposed by [Tessera Solar](#) of Texas, will use Stirling Energy System's SunCatcher technology on 6,360 acres of public lands in Imperial County, Calif., to produce 709 MW of power from 28,360 solar dishes.

The Chevron Lucerne Valley Solar Project, proposed by [Chevron Energy Solutions](#) of San Francisco, Calif., will employ photovoltaic solar technology on 422 acres of public lands in San Bernardino County, Calif., to produce up to 45 MW from 40,500 solar panels.

Each project has undergone a thorough environmental review, including public scoping, draft environment impact statements (EIS) and final EISs. The companies have undertaken extensive mitigation efforts to minimize any impacts to wildlife, water and other resources. State and Federal agencies have set up a joint compensation fund operated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to ensure that impacts are mitigated. (Source: DOI, October

5, 2010)

Contact: [David Quick, Bureau of Land Management](#), 202-452-5138; Bob Lukefahr, CEO, Tessera Solar, North America, 713-554-8484; Chevron Energy Solutions, 415-733-4500. *Source: Energy Overviews, 10/6/10*

Winds of change: Springville mulls renewable energy purchase

There are winds of change coming to Utah County, but it's anybody's guess as to which direction they're blowing.

Tuesday night Springville will revisit the tangles of the multi-city Horse Butte Wind Project that baffled more than a few at a city council meeting two weeks ago. Council members will decide whether to commit to 20 years of future wind power shares along with other members of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems—Lehi and Eagle Mountain have already signed off; Payson did not. [Read more](#). *Source: Provo Daily Herald, 10/5/10*

The Recognition of Geothermal Energy's Value Expanding in 2010 and Beyond

As time goes on and the interest in renewable energy grows, the use of geothermal resources continues to increase. Looking back to 2007, geothermal energy produced 4 percent of the renewable energy-based electricity consumed in the United States. In that same year, geothermal energy produced 4.5 percent of California's total system power, reflecting that although some areas of the United States have operated established geothermal production plants for many years, various states were not taking advantage of available resources. [Read more](#). *Source: AltPower Construction, 10/5/10*

Novel, midsize wind turbine tested on dairy farm

Optiwind is one the few companies searching for the middle ground in wind power—somewhere between the gigantic three-blade wind mills and the small turbines for individual homes.

The company has erected its first midsize, production-scale wind turbine on a family farm in its home state of Connecticut to test performance, the company said late last week. It received a \$1 million loan from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund for the project. [Read more](#). *Source: CNET News, 10/4/10*

The Geysers at 50

When engineers flipped a switch at Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s Unit 1 at The Geysers on Sept. 25, 1960, it marked the beginning of an industry.

The small power plant on Big Sulphur Creek in northeast Sonoma County tapped super-hot, high-pressure steam from deep below the Earth's surface. Driving a turbine inside Unit 1, it generated the first commercial geothermal power in the U.S.

Fifty years later, The Geysers is the world's largest geothermal energy complex, with 18 modern power plants producing 850 megawatts of electricity, nearly one-fourth of California's green energy supply. [Read more](#). *Source: The Press Democrat, 10/4/10*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

ASES Small Wind Division Webinar Announcement

The [ASES Small Wind Division](#) bi-monthly webinar series continues on Nov 4, 11:30am-1pm PT, with a presentation titled Managing Expectations: Estimating Small Wind Turbine Energy Output and Economic Performance. The webinar will be presented by Tony Jimenez from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

This presentation will teach methods for estimating wind turbine energy production and economic performance. The presentation starts with an overview of wind characteristics & energy potential before describing the techniques used to evaluate wind turbine energy production and economic performance. Publically available sources of wind data are also discussed.

[Join the event directly](#), or contact [Bev Cisneros](#), at 303-384-6979, if you have any questions about participating.

Source: American Solar Energy Society, 10/19/10

Report compares life cycles for hydro, wind generators

[Scientific Certification Systems, Inc.](#), conducted a life-cycle impact assessments (LCIA) of two renewable electrical technologies: the Glen Canyon Hydropower Station in Arizona and the Stateline Wind Power Generation System on the border of Washington and Oregon. SCS then compared these results to impact levels calculated for the WECC NERC Region. The findings are in the report, [Renewable Electrical Generation Technologies Compared to WECC Baseline](#) (pdf). *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 10/19/10*

Workshop brings utilities, labs together to look at PV technology, systems

The [Solar Electric Power Association](#) is hosting a [PV Technology and System Applications Workshop](#), Nov. 8 and 9 in Tempe, Ariz. This event will provide a forum where the national laboratories and utilities can share their expertise, research and experience to create technical solutions to maximize the return on PV generation investments. The meeting format will be short presentations and facilitated discussion. Salt River Project is graciously providing the room, lunches and refreshments.

For more information, contact [Christy Herig](#) at 202-559-2020. *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 10/19/10*

CAISO reports focus on renewables integration

Several studies and reports are available from the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) on the topic of integrating renewable energy into the transmission grid. See a [list of publications](#). *Source: California Independent System Operator, 10/14/10*

Energy storage issues examined in new NREL technical paper

NREL's Strategic Energy Analysis Center and the Transmission Grid Integration Group are pleased to announce

the publication of a new technical report that examines the role of storage in the bulk power system. [The Role of Energy Storage with Renewable Electricity Generation](#), by Paul Denholm, Erik Ela, Brendan Kirby, and Michael Milligan, explores the role of energy storage in the electricity grid, focusing on the effects of large-scale deployment of variable renewable sources (primarily wind and solar energy). The paper begins by discussing the existing grid and the current role that energy storage has in meeting the constantly varying demand for electricity, as well as the need for operating reserves to achieve reliable service. The impact of variable renewables on the grid is then discussed, including how these energy sources will require a variety of enabling techniques and technologies to reach their full potential. Finally, the report evaluates the potential role of several forms of enabling technologies, including energy storage. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/14/10*

[SEIA: Installed Solar in U.S. to Surpass 1 GW by 2011](#)

Solar installations in the U.S.—both photovoltaic and concentrating solar power (CSP) installations—grew 114 percent in 2009, and by the year's end, they could surpass 1 GW, a new report from the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) says.

The industry group's "[U.S. Solar Market Insight](#)" (pdf) report with data for the first half of 2010 shows that 441 MW of solar electric capacity was added in 2009, and it forecasts as much as 1.13 GW being installed by the end of 2010—a 156 percent increase. [Read more](#). *Source: Power Magazine, 10/13/10*

[Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy developed this comprehensive resource to assist local governments and stakeholders in building sustainable local solar markets. The guide introduces a range of policy and program options that have been successfully field tested in cities around the country. [Read more](#). *Source: US DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/11/10*

[DOE releases tools for solar market analysis](#)

A report from the U.S. Department of Energy describes the DOE-funded solar market transformation analysis and tools under development in Fiscal Year 2010 so that stakeholders can access available resources and get engaged where interested. Download [FY2010 Solar Market Transformation Analysis and Tools](#). *Source: U.S. DOE EERE Solar Energy Technologies Program, 10/11/10*

[EERE new info sheet on bright solar job market features IREC, NABCEP](#)

The Department of Energy's EERE Solar Technologies Program has released [Growing Solar Power Industry Brightens Job Market](#), a new information sheet on growing job market in the solar industry, thanks to the explosive growth of renewable energy in states and cities in the U.S. Jobs vary by industry segment and state, so it's important to know what's required where you live.

The fact sheet features IREC's suggestions on the qualifications to become a PV installer, from entry-level to experienced solar PV installer. IREC's ISPQ credential is referenced, as is the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), the national certification body for solar PV and solar thermal installers, and solar PV technical salespeople. *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 10/11/10*

NREL solar maps aid PV resource screening process

Through the use of geographic information systems (GIS), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory examined the viability of two solar technologies in the United States, with and without potential savings from available renewable energy incentives. The renewable energy incentives are taken from the [Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency](#) (DSIRE) and represent the March 2010 version of the database. To assess the impact of the incentives, a specific system size is chosen to represent typical Federal installations. Only incentives available to government/nonprofit entities are included. [Download the maps](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/11/10*

Solar model provides decision-making tool

The System Advisor Model (SAM) is a performance and economic model designed to facilitate decision making for people involved in the renewable energy industry, ranging from project managers and engineers to incentive program designers, technology developers, and researchers. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/11/10*

DOE Releases Comprehensive Report on Offshore Wind Power in the United States

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today the release of a report from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which comprehensively analyzes the key factors impacting the deployment of offshore wind power in the United States. The report, "Large Scale Offshore Wind Power in the United States: Assessment of Opportunities and Barriers," includes a detailed assessment of the nation's offshore wind resources and offshore wind industry, including future job growth potential. The report also analyzes the technology challenges, economics, permitting procedures, and the potential risks and benefits of offshore wind power deployment in U.S. waters.

"Clean, renewable energy development that capitalizes on the nation's vast offshore wind and water resources holds great promise for our clean energy future and our economy," said Secretary Chu. "Today's report will help guide our efforts in the coming years to support the offshore wind industry, create new clean energy jobs, and develop environmentally responsible energy resources." [Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, 10/7/10*

Shaping a Low-Carbon World: Lessons from Nordic Countries

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Nordic Council held a briefing on Oct. 21 examining how and why Nordic countries have achieved global leadership in low-carbon technologies and strengthened their economic competitiveness. The oil crises of the 1970s spurred the Nordic countries to invest heavily in energy efficiency—including combined heat and power/district heating and energy-efficient buildings—and renewable energy such as wind power, hydropower, geothermal, waste-to-energy and biofuels. In the decades since, these countries have broken the direct relationship between economic growth and energy consumption, and emerged as global leaders in clean energy exports. [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 10/22/10*

Report examines state experience with renewable standards

The Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory has completed a new report, [Supporting Solar Power in Renewables Portfolio Standards: Experience from the United States](#).

Among the available options for encouraging the increased deployment of renewable electricity, renewables portfolio standards (RPS) have become increasingly popular. The RPS is a relatively new policy mechanism, however, and broad experience with its use is only beginning to emerge.

This report documents the design of and early experience with state level RPS programs in the United States that have been specifically tailored to encourage a wider diversity of renewable energy technologies, and solar energy in particular.

A [PowerPoint presentation summarizing key findings](#) is also available. *Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 10/7/10*

NREL releases reports on wind integration, interconnection

- [Utilizing Load Response for Wind and Solar Integration and Power System Reliability](#) – As wind and solar increase power system variability and uncertainty, they increase the need for response. This paper examines the opportunities to use demand response to facilitate integration.
- [Advancing Wind Integration Study Methodologies: Implications of Higher Levels of Wind](#) – NREL has recently completed two very large integration studies; the Western Wind and Solar Integration Study (WWSIS) and the Eastern Wind Integration and Transmission Study (EWITS) that provide many significant insights on integration, methods, and data. While these studies benefit from greater realism and more sophisticated modeling techniques for analyzing wind integration, there is much yet to be learned, and methods can still evolve.
- [Market Characteristics for Efficient Integration of Variable Generation in the Western Interconnection](#) – This report addresses the interface between electricity markets and power system operation and seeks to establish the physical requirements of a power system that can accommodate high levels of variable generation.
- [Combining Balancing Areas' Variability: Impacts on Wind Integration in the Western Interconnection](#) – This paper investigates the potential impact of balancing area cooperation on a large-scale in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/6/10

ACORE releases Renewable Energy Quarterly Report

The U.S. Renewable Energy Quarterly Report is compiled by the American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) to provide industry participants, policymakers, and academia with critical policy, finance, and market information. [Download the report](#). *Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 10/6/10*

AltaRock Energy and Davenport Newberry to Demonstrate Innovative Geothermal Technology

[AltaRock Energy](#), a renewable energy development company focused on the research and development of Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS), and [Davenport Newberry](#), which specializes in the development and management of geothermal opportunities, announced plans today to conduct a demonstration of EGS technology

as part of the [U.S. Department of Energy's Geothermal Technology Program](#) at a site located near Bend, Ore. [Read more](#). Source: *AltaRock Energy*, 6/8/10

Future of wind topic of AWEA Fall Symposium opening session

The wind industry is facing unforeseen domestic, international, and environmental threats.

- How do we safeguard our industry, strengthen our position, and realign our focus?
- What are the issues and challenges confronting the wind industry?
- Do these challenges warrant a substantial reset?

The American Wind Energy Association opens its [2010 Fall Wind Symposium](#) Nov. 17 with a discussion of the best way to tackle these challenges head on. [Register now](#) for this event in Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 17 to 19. Source: *American Wind Energy Association*, 10/6/10

DOE Announces Additional Technical Assistance Program Webinars for Fall 2010

The U.S. Department of Energy today announced additions to its series of Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Webinars scheduled for Fall 2010. These Webinars support the management of projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through DOE's State Energy Program (SEP) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The TAP Webinar series continues this month with sessions that will address key issues and challenges that state, local, and tribal energy practitioners may face in implementing their projects and programs. [Read more](#). Source: *U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 10/5/10

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

News from Washington

DOE Completes Nearly 120 Technical Assistance Projects to Support Federal Agencies' Clean Energy Goals

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it has completed nearly 120 technical assistance projects at 16 Federal agencies, helping the Federal government to meet its energy efficiency and renewable energy goals and implement leading-edge clean energy technologies. More than \$13 million in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been invested in projects such as energy audit trainings, energy and water efficiency assessments, smart grid and renewable energy feasibility studies, evaluating potential electricity generation resources, developing strategic energy plans, and providing technical assistance for renewable energy installations, technology demonstration projects and high efficiency building upgrades. [Read more](#). Source: *U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 10/26/10

DOE Announces Winners of 2010 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards

The U.S. Department of Energy today announced that more than 30 individuals, teams, and organizations across the Federal government were selected to receive Federal Energy and Water Management Awards for outstanding

and innovative efforts to implement sustainable strategies that improve energy, water, and vehicle fleet efficiency. These awards demonstrate the commitment by Federal agencies to invest in efficiency measures that save money for taxpayers, reduce carbon pollution, and create a stronger economy for the American people. The 31 initiatives receiving awards today saved taxpayers almost \$42 million in energy and water costs in fiscal year 2009 and kept the equivalent of about 190,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. These efforts are also helping to move cutting edge clean energy technologies into the marketplace, create new American jobs, and strengthen our national security. [Read more](#). Source: U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/7/10

Guidance for Federal Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Reporting

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released [Guidance on Federal Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Reporting](#) that establishes Government-wide requirements for measuring and reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with Federal agency operations.

The Guidance serves as the Federal Government's official Greenhouse Gas Protocol and will be used by Federal agencies to develop their first GHG inventories. Federal agencies will submit GHG inventories annually beginning in January of 2011, as called for in the Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance ([Executive Order 13514](#)) signed by President Obama on October 5, 2009. [Read more](#). Source: The President's Council on Environmental Quality, 10/6/10

Obama's Speech on Renewable Energy Signifies Long-Term Support, but Little Short-Term Action

Though it may seem like ages ago, the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico for a few months this year briefly brought the issues of US oil dependence and renewable energy development back to front pages around the country. In June, President Obama gave a speech on the BP oil spill that included an endorsement of clean energy industries as potentially huge boons to the US economy of the present and the future. Although unemployment and taxes have long since chased energy issues from news headlines, President Obama chose to make domestically produced renewable energy the focus of his weekly address to the nation on Saturday. [Read more](#). Source: HeatingOil.com, 10/4/10

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

EERE Network News

This weekly newsletter from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy \(EERE\)](#) highlights energy news and projects around the nation. In this issue: The EERE Network News is also available on the Web at: www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm

News and Events

- DOE Offers Loan Guarantee for New Southwest Transmission Project

- Major Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Transmission Project Announced
- EPA Grants E15 Fuel Waiver for Newer Vehicles
- Interior Department Approves First Solar Project on Nevada Public Lands
- 2010 ACEEE Energy Efficiency Scorecard Cites State Leaders
- U.S. Cities Show Global Leadership at Swedish Green Conference

Energy Connections

- EIA: Home Heating Costs to Increase Slightly This Winter

[Read more](#). Source: U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/20/10

Appellate Court eliminates foundation for ComEd Smart Grid pilot

ComEd has asked the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for immediate action to redefine a path for Illinois' first Smart Grid pilot in response to a September 30 Illinois Appellate Court decision that effectively kills the study phase of the ICC's plan for modernizing Illinois' electric infrastructure. ComEd has asked the ICC for a decision on a temporary measure that would transfer some of the costs of the pilot into ComEd's general pending rate case instead of the rider. [Read more](#). Source: PennEnergy, 10/19/10

Court freezes \$33MM in stimulus funds for California energy efficiency program

A \$33 million statewide energy efficiency jobs program has been forced to stop after a Riverside County judge issued a temporary restraining order against the California Energy Commission. The judge, disregarding a looming Federal deadline, also blocked the Energy Commission from spending the funding for any other purpose, including energy upgrades to residential, commercial or state buildings. The Federal requirement for the state to encumber the funds is October 21. [Read more](#). Source: PennEnergy, 10/14/10

Council approves windmills

Last night the Missoula City Council decided after little discussion to give windmills a whirl.

After the council sent the proposition back to committee last week, Missoulians can now choose to have wind turbines in their yards as long as they abide by the rules.

The ordinance passed with an 11-0 vote; Councilwoman Renee Mitchell abstained from voting.

The two types of wind turbines that will be allowed in city limits are horizontal and vertical turbines. A horizontal turbine is the typical windmill that spins on a horizontal axis. Because of this, they require direct wind flowing in one direction, which means they often only works if they are the tallest objects in the area. [Read more](#). Source: University of Montana Kaimin, 10/4/10

Wind Turbine Plant Starts Production in Arkansas

Wind turbine manufacturer Nordex USA Inc. has started production at its new plant in Jonesboro, Ark., having completed the project in July after nine months of construction. The plant was announced last year with a budget of \$40-million, but part of a staged development that would eventually cost about \$100 million. [Read more](#). Source:

American Machinist, 10/5/10

Wind Power: Poverty Reducer

The Asian Development Bank has granted \$630,000 to conduct initial feasibility assessments for three proposed wind farms on the Philippines island of Luzon.

The obvious benefit of wind power is that it reduces our reliance on non-renewable energy. But what you may not realize is that it can also reduce poverty. Developing countries rely on oil and coal power just as much as elsewhere, but they are far more vulnerable to the fluctuation in prices to buy those resources. And those fluctuations are becoming more dramatic. [Read more](#). Source: *Fast Company*, 10/5/10

State policy delays wind farm

A Randolph County official says Indiana is losing its competitive advantage due to inadequate policy.

Longtime plans to construct a wind farm in Randolph County have been put off, at least for now, because Indiana officials are so far unwilling to commit to more renewable energy across the state.

"I think this is starting to get in the way of bringing projects to fruition, not just in Randolph County but across the state," said Kevin Law, director of the Randolph Economic Development Corp. in Winchester. "The Randolph County project has not been canceled, but it is being back-burnered for a project in Ohio, which recently adopted a (Renewable Portfolio Standard). We are losing our competitive edge." [Read more](#). Source: *The Indiana Star Press*, 10/5/10

Transformative 49.9 MW Solar Array to be Developed on Reclaimed Ohio Strip Mine; Spain's Leading Solar Manufacturers to Build Ohio Production Facilities

Gov. Strickland, American Electric Power CEO, Turning Point Solar and Others Sign Memoranda to Create \$250 Million Solar Farm

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland today announced agreements to create Turning Point Solar, a 49.9 MW solar array to be built on strip-mined land adjacent to The Wilds nature conservancy. At signing ceremonies in Governor Strickland's cabinet room, American Electric Power (AEP) CEO Michael G. Morris signed a memorandum of understanding with project developers New Harvest Ventures and Agile Energy to enter into a 20-year purchase agreement for the facility's power. [Read more](#). Source: *Businesswire*, 10/5/10

ENERGY: South Dakota wind is blowing

For each 10 wind turbines constructed in South Dakota, there will be one job. For some states, that might not seem a lot. But for a sparsely populated state like South Dakota, that is considered economic development.

"We're making headway," says Steve Kolbeck, South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner. "We're seeing great growth. We have so many miles, so sparsely populated, I think people think we aren't making headway. But we are." [Read more](#). Source: *Prairie Business*, 10/4/10

West Virginia Is a Geothermal Hot Spot

Researchers have uncovered the largest geothermal hot spot in the eastern United States. According to a unique collaboration between Google and academic geologists, West Virginia sits atop several hot patches of Earth, some as warm as 200 ° C and as shallow as 5 kilometers. If engineers are able to tap the heat, the state could become a producer of green energy for the region. [Read more](#). *Source: Science Now, 10/4/10*

Bond: Missouri leading the way in developing clean-energy sources

Senator Gives Keynote Address at Washington University in St. Louis' Symposium on the Global Energy Future

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stressed that in response to an increasing global energy demand, nations must develop energy policies that lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and move to alternative sources. Delivering the keynote address at Washington University's Symposium on Global Energy Future, Bond praised Missouri for already leading the way in developing a number of clean-energy and alternative-energy sources. [Read more](#). *Source: Political News, 10/4/10*

Ore. farmers growing biomass crops for energy

Farmers in eastern Oregon are getting ready to harvest crops for biomass that will be used to generate electricity.

The [Ontario Argus-Observer](#) reports that Agri Energy Producers Association members plan to start harvesting the high biomass sorghum crops in 20 to 30 days.

Kurt Christensen, an association board member, said some of the sorghum crop already stands 14 feet tall.

The so-called "energy crops" being grown during this startup year total 1,500 acres, with 900 in Malheur County and neighboring Idaho. There are 600 acres in the Hermiston-Boardman area.

The crop will be harvested, stored as ensilage, processed and used to produce electricity. *Source: KHQ Channel 6, 10/4/10*

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Proposals for Power Purchase Agreement

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) seeks an experienced and qualified respondent to provide a solar photovoltaic power generation system at its F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant (Plant) in La Verne, California, under a power purchase agreement (PPA). The awarded respondent would be responsible for the financing, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a solar generation system to provide electricity to MWD at the Plant. MWD would purchase the electricity via the PPA contract. [Read more](#). *Source: Allen Matkins, 10/18/10*

Georgia Power Expanding Stake In Solar Energy

Georgia Power has received approval from the Georgia Public Service Commission for a new tariff that will nearly double the amount of solar energy the company purchases to supply its Green Energy Program. [Read more.](#)

Source: *Renew Grid*, 10/7/10

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

*Western Area Power Administration, 12155 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228-8213,
Phone: 720-962-7423; Fax: 720-962-7427; E-message: [Randy Manion](#).*

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