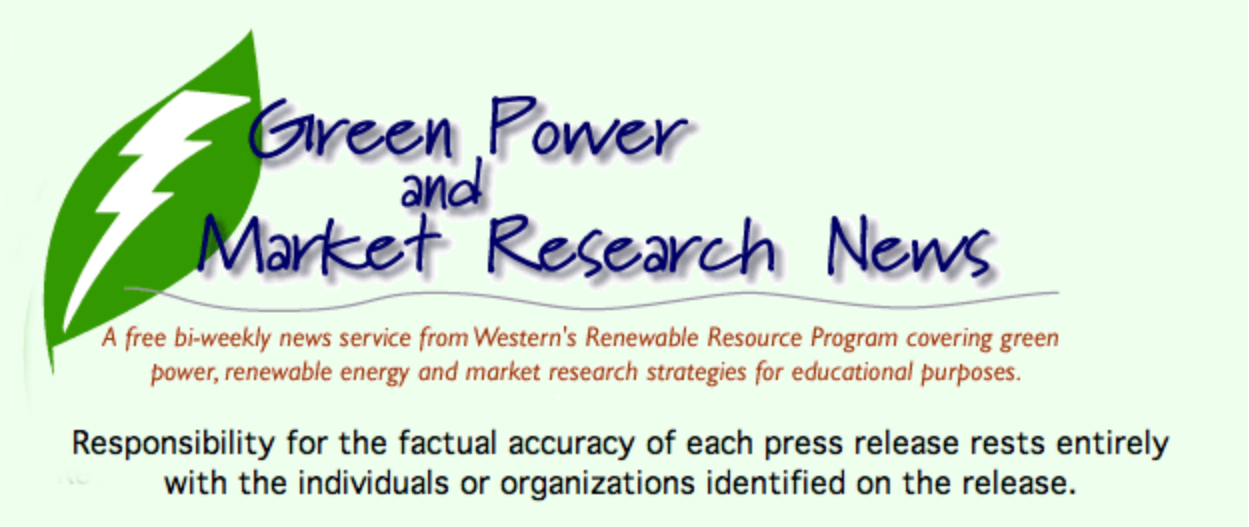

Green Power

Timberland's Ambitious 2015 Sustainability Goals

Timberland, one of the most recognized socially responsible companies, has unveiled a set of ambitious sustainability and social enterprise goals for 2015. It aims to reduce its carbon emissions by half and increase its use of green power by thirty-nine percent. These goals are ambitious by any standards, considering the projected growth of business over the next five years, which will make these goals even more challenging. Read more. *Source: JustMeans, 8/6/11*

The Green Power Network Monthly Update – July 2011

This update summarizes 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. Additional information on green power markets and products, as well as links to the companies mentioned below, can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's Green Power Network.

News

- California College Completes 4.5-MW Solar Project
- Denver Federal Center to Expand Solar Resources to Nearly 7 Megawatts
- Intel, Kohl's Lead Corporate Renewable Energy Efforts
- SunRun Brings Solar Leasing to Maryland
- Oklahoma's WindChoice Program Now Green-e Certified

- North American Power Launches New REC Product
- DMEA Members Can Plug into Additional Solar Arrays

Renewable Energy RFPs

- El Paso Electric (EPE)
- The City of Boulder City, Nev.
- Tucson Electric Power (TEP)
- Hawaii Electric Light Company

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 8/1/11

Green Power Pricing Grows As Oregon Leads

Where are the greenest electricity consumers in the United States? Risking the charge of bias—after all, EarthTechling is headquartered in Portland—we say it's Oregon. And we've got the hard numbers to back up the claim.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest report on green pricing and net metering trends, released last month and covering 2009, says Oregon had 127,290 electric customers enrolled in green programs. In a state with a population of 3.8 million, that's 1 customer for every 30 citizens. Texas was the only state with a bigger total number of customers in green programs, at 316,585. Yet that's out of a population of 25.1 million—a paltry ratio of 1 green enrollees for every 79 Texans, making this a clear victory for Oregon. But nice try, Texas. Read more. *Source: Green Techling, 8/1/11*

Got Methane?

More than 2,000 dairy cows in northwest Washington will be prime mooo-vers in helping a western electric utility learn more about destroying greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

PacifiCorp, which serves 1.7 million customers as Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power, recently signed a contract with The Climate Trust to purchase 50,000 metric tons (tonnes) of carbon dioxide equivalent, verified emission reductions from a livestock anaerobic digester project near Lynden, Wash. This project, operated by Farm Power, captures and destroys methane from manure management systems at MJD Farms dairy operations. Manure from three separate barns is pumped three-quarters of a mile to an anaerobic digester, which burns the methane to operate a turbine engine that creates electricity.

"Preventing methane from entering the atmosphere actually can have more environmental benefits than reducing carbon dioxide emissions," said Mark Miller, PacifiCorp plant manager in Chehalis, Wash. That is because methane has a global warming potential 23 times greater than

carbon dioxide, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The 50,000 tonnes is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from more than 9,800 cars driven for one year. Read more. *Source: PacifiCorp, 6/25/11*

Visit U.S. DOE EERE Green Power Network for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

Price Collapse Stimulates US PV Market Growth in 2H'11, says Solarbuzz

US to Reach 12% Global Market Share by 2015

Despite a struggling domestic economy, the US solar photovoltaic (PV) market will double in 2011, according to the latest Solarbuzz® United States PV Market Report. 2011 growth rates vary significantly by market segment, an outcome of the vast movements in incentives and policies at the federal, state and local government level over the past 12 months.

"With rapid declines in factory gate prices over the past eight weeks as manufacturers and distributors focus on depleting module inventories, demand has picked up across residential, corporate and government segments," noted Craig Stevens, President of Solarbuzz. "This acceleration is being supplemented by explosive utility demand and the rush to install before federal cash grants are scheduled to expire at the end of the year." Read more. *Source: PRWeb, 8/9/11*

Federal program aims to help farmers grow biofuel crops

A program to help Washington farmers grow camelina for aviation biofuels kicked off in Seattle on Monday, a week after local companies testified in Washington, D.C., about plans to scale up production. Read more. *Source: The Seattle Times, 8/8/11*

Report: Hydropower, other renewables continue growth

The newly released REN21 Renewables 2011 Global Status Report shows that the renewable energy sector, including hydropower, continues to perform well despite continuing economic recession, incentive cuts and low natural gas prices.

Authored by Worldwatch Institute Senior Fellow Janet Sawin, in collaboration with a global network of research partners, the report shows that in 2010 renewable energy supplied an estimated 16 percent of global final energy consumption and delivered close to 20 percent of global electricity production. Renewable capacity, including hydropower, now comprises about a quarter of total global power-generating capacity.

Including large and small hydropower (an estimated 30,000 MW added in 2010), renewable energy accounted for approximately 50 percent of total added power-generating capacity in 2010. In 2010, existing solar water and space heating capacity increased by an estimated 16 percent.

The report was commissioned by the Paris-based Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, or REN21. Worldwatch staff Matthias Kimmel and Will Bierbower, Senior Editor Lisa Mastny, Senior Fellow Eric Martinot and Director of Climate & Energy Alexander Ochs also contributed to the coordination, research, writing and editing of the report.

Read more hydropower news and information. *Source: HydroWorld, 8/3/11*

Two Bills May Lower Hurdles for U.S. Geothermal Industry

In a bitter, divided Washington, good ideas sometimes have to wait in line. And they wait. And they wait.

That's one of the worries facing the geothermal industry, which has seen little movement in tangible projects coming online since the end of 2009. There are many reasons for the lag in completed developments, but the overriding ones continue to be the long permitting process and the expensive upfront costs of test drilling. So when there's movement on the legislative front to address these barriers, they're usually met with solid support, and sometimes, uniform skepticism. Read more. *Source: Renewable Energy World, 8/1/11*

Wind turbines growing taller and more powerful

Some of the newest machines come with blades as long as a football field that can generate 50 times more electricity than wind power turbines built decades ago. Designers are also developing ones that float, fly, or sit in the ocean or on rooftops.

Wind turbines are getting really big—some with blades as long as a football field—and more powerful, often generating 50 times more electricity than the first generation of wind power machines built in the 1980s. Read more. *Source: Los Angeles Times, 7/24/11*

Clean power's new best friend: the humble hot water heater

Is the answer to helping integrate solar and wind into the power grid the humble home hot water heater? That's one of the things that startup GridMobility is looking to find out, and the company has built software and connected hardware to enable utilities to use hot water heaters (and other energy consuming appliances) as on-demand grid storage in conjunction with local clean power when it's available. Read more. *Source: Reuters, 7/24/11*

Learn more about renewable resources.

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Clean Energy: Indicators point to geothermal cluster growth in Northern Nevada

When Ormat Technologies Inc. first set up shop in Northern Nevada in 1984, geothermal development activity was about as hot as a lukewarm glass of tap water.

"I think we maybe had one or two more geothermal developers back then," said Paul Thomsen, Ormat's director of policy and business development. "Today, the number is something like 11 operators and developers in the area. It's the largest concentration in the nation by far."

Incidentally, having a concentration of businesses in one location is the first prerequisite in the formation of the prized business cluster. Read more. *Source: RGJ Research, 8/5/11*

Turning Sustainability Goals into Action: How Local Governments Are Going Green

Survey of several thousand local governments and new report offer insights on advancing sustainability policies in large and small communities

Though energy efficiency and improved sustainability remain important objectives for many local governments throughout the nation, turning abstract goals into concrete action remains a challenge for many communities. As a result, Breaking New Ground: Promoting Environmental and Energy Programs in Local Government is an essential new resource guide for policy makers and sustainability advocates concerned with implementing sustainability initiatives.

Written by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and James H. Svara, Professor, School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University and Doctoral Program Director at the Center for Urban Innovation, Breaking New Ground was released by the IBM Center for The Business of Government and is based on lessons learned by communities large and small. The report provides a framework for those seeking to implement smart and strategic sustainability programs in a challenging fiscal environment and with competing policy priorities. Read more. *Source: International City/County Management Association 7/22/11*

Film traces development of Utah's first commercial wind farm

WIND UPRISING chronicles the turbulent journey shared by an entrepreneur and an engineer who broke trail for wind energy in coal country. They overcame legislative barriers, fickle investors, power purchasing conundrums, and a 'Not In My Back Yard' resistance from residents that nearly stopped them in their tracks. Read more. *Source: The Solutions Journal, 7/20/11*

Learn more about education and outreach activities.

News from Washington

Department of Energy Relaunches Energy.Gov

The U.S. Department of Energy announced today the next step of its comprehensive website reform, making Energy.gov a cutting-edge, interactive information platform and saving taxpayers more than $10 million annually.

Through a complete overhaul of its front-end and back-end design, Energy.gov modernizes how consumers and businesses access the information and resources they need to save money and energy while improving Departmental staff's ability to interact with the public and each other.

"Our goal is to make Energy.gov easier to use, more transparent and more participatory," said Secretary Chu. "This next phase is part of our ongoing commitment to empower consumers and businesses with the information, tools and services they need to save money, create jobs and find opportunities in the new energy economy."

Read more. *Source: EERE News, 8/4/11*

FERC's Transmission Decision Could Streamline Utility-Scale Solar Development (Reg. & Leg.)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a ruling on transmission planning and cost allocation that is expected to help ease transmission-building problems, which currently present a major hurdle for many large-scale solar and renewable power projects in the U.S. FERC's Order No. 1000 is intended to address what the agency calls "remaining deficiencies" that exist regarding the development of new electrical transmission capacity and how the costs for these facilities are distributed among project developers and other parties.

Under FERC's new rule, all public utility transmission providers must participate in a regional transmission-planning process in order to come up with a regional transmission plan; both local and regional transmission-planning processes must take into account public-policy requirements; and neighboring public utility transmission providers must coordinate with each other to find potential cost savings and efficiencies. The rule establishes similar requirements for cost allocation: All public utility commission providers must participate in a regional planning process to develop a cost-allocation method that meets several cost-allocation principles; neighboring public utility transmission providers must have a "common interregional cost allocation method" that all regions have deemed efficient or cost-effective; and participant funding of new transmission facilities can no longer be used as the regional or interregional cost-allocation method.

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) applauded FERC's decision, as many large-scale PV and concentrating solar power projects under development are located in remote locations that are far removed from electricity-demand centers. (Source: FERC, July, 22, 2011). *Source: Energy Overviews, 7/25/11*

U.S. Department of Energy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Partners Launch Project to Improve Wind Forecasting

Furthering the Obama Administration's goal to generate 80 percent of our Nation's electricity from clean energy resources by 2035, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and private partners today launched a project to improve wind forecasting. More accurate forecasting of wind will accelerate the use of wind power in electricity transmission networks by allowing utilities and grid operators to more accurately forecast when, where, and how much electricity will be generated from wind.

Electricity grid operators need to accurately predict and plan for the energy output of wind power plants in their systems. Currently, prediction of large changes in wind speed can be off by several hours, so utilities accommodate by keeping more reserve generation in operation than needed. The Wind Forecast Improvement Project (WFIP) focuses on improving forecast accuracy for large changes in wind speed over periods of time in the range of an hour or less, which will help utilities plan the mix of electricity generators in operation on an hourly basis and ultimately reduce costs. With better forecasting from projects such as WFIP, utilities can more reliably connect variable power sources including wind energy with electricity grids.

Read more. *Source: EERE News, 7/18/11*

Learn more about national activities.

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Lost in transmission: Montana's wind industry is getting blown away

Wind is fickle: Through the first half of the year, anomalous wind patterns had the 90 turbines at central Montana's Judith Gap Wind Farm, the state's second largest, turning out power like never before—some 270,000 megawatt hours, about 30,000 MWH more than their average since the turbines started spinning roughly five years ago. But as Montana's main utility, NorthWestern Energy, is learning, the export market for wind power is fickle, too.

Montana's wind energy production ballooned from about one megawatt in 2005 to more than 400 megawatts today. Now the industry finds itself unable to develop much more, largely due to

the lack of transmission lines to get the power to energy-hungry markets. Read more. *Source: Missoula Independent, 8/11/11*

Navajos to supply wind energy to Arizona

The wind turbines project would be built 80 miles west of Flagstaff at the Boquillas Ranch. Boquillas Wind Farm is expected to start late this year or early next year.

The Navajo Nation likely will get its first wind farm as the result of a deal announced Thursday to sell power to Salt River Project from a wind energy project to be built near Seligman.

The wind turbines project would be built 80 miles west of Flagstaff at the Boquillas Ranch, a checkerboard of land owned by the Navajo Nation and Arizona State Land Department that is not connected to the Navajo Reservation, which sprawls through northeastern Arizona and into New Mexico and Utah. Read more. *Source: REVE, 8/8/11*

BLM approves geothermal plant

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Elko District has signed a record of decision granting a right of way for the planned Tuscarora Geothermal Plant.

According to a BLM announcement Tuesday, the approval is for an access road to Ormat Technologies' project and follows the July 15 release of an environmental assessment on the right of way.

The U.S. Department of Defense and the BLM prepared the joint EA providing current analysis regarding the impacts of the proposed geothermal power plant and electric transmission line.

The transmission line will be 24.5 miles long, with a carrying capacity of 120 kilovolts from the 18-megawatt Tuscarora Geothermal Plant about 10 miles north of Tuscarora at the north end of Independence Valley. Read more. *Source: The Elko Daily Free Press, 8/3/11*

BLM takes public input on proposed Wyo. wind farm

A draft report on an Anschutz Corp. subsidiary's proposed wind project south of Rawlins, Wyo., is available for public review.

The Bureau of Land Management released its draft environmental impact statement of Power Co. of Wyoming's proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre wind project Friday. The public has until Oct. 19 to submit comments on the 1,000-turbine proposal. Read more. *Source: The Times Union, 7/23/11*

Sun screening

As solar power hits a threshold, a study is required to add more panels

A growing number of Hawaiian Electric Co. customers who want to install electricity-generating solar panels on their homes and businesses are being forced to scrap their plans because they are located in areas where high penetration of existing photovoltaic systems means they could be required to pay for an expensive study before connecting to the grid.

HECO, like many electric utilities in the United States, has set a 15 percent threshold for the amount of solar power that can be put on a single circuit during peak load before flags are raised regarding grid stability. In Hawaii, which has the highest per capita amount of solar energy linked to the power grid, that threshold is being reached far more frequently than in other areas. Read more. *Source: The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 7/24/11*

From Gov. Moonbeam to Gov. Sunbeam—Brown pushes for alternative energy

During his first two terms nearly four decades ago, Jerry Brown became famously known as Governor Moonbeam. Now he seems destined to become Governor Sunbeam.

With the epic battle over the state budget finally behind him, Brown's first major policy initiative aims to fulfill the ambitious goal laid out in his campaign: to develop a clean-energy economy in California.

Brown wants the state to produce 20,000 new megawatts of renewable electricity—enough to power 20 cities the size of San Francisco and roughly one-third of the state's current peak use—by 2020. That would nearly triple the amount of electricity that California currently gets from renewable sources. Read more. *Source: San Jose Mercury News, 7/24/11*

Learn more about energy analysis.

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Department of Energy to Invest $50 Million to Advance Domestic Solar Manufacturing Market, Achieve SunShot Goal

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced a $50 million investment over two years for the SUNPATH program, aimed to help the nation reclaim its competitive edge in solar manufacturing. SUNPATH, which stands for Scaling Up Nascent PV At Home, represents the second solar Photovoltaic Manufacturing Initiative (PVMI) supporting the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative.

"This investment provides a necessary boost to domestic solar manufacturing businesses, encouraging them to keep jobs here and establish America's leadership in the world's growing

clean energy economy," said Secretary Chu. "In addition to invigorating clean energy manufacturing, this program will help achieve the SunShot goal of making unsubsidized utility-scale solar cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade."

Read more. *Source: EERE News, 8/2/11*

Government funding available for clean energy projects

The following funding opportunities are now open:

Clean Fuel Buses and Facilities – The U.S. Department of Transportation requests proposals for the Clean Fuels/Bus and Bus Facilities Program. The program supports: 1) the purchase or leasing of clean fuel buses, including buses that employ a lightweight composite structure, 2) construction or leasing of clean fuel bus facilities or electrical recharging facilities and related equipment, and 3) projects relating to clean fuel, biodiesel, hybrid electric, or zero emissions technology buses that exhibit equivalent or superior emissions reductions to existing clean fuel or hybrid electric technologies. $51.5 million expected to be available. Responses are due Aug. 23, 2011. For more information, contact Vanessa Williams. Refer to Sol# FTA-2011-019-CLNF. (Grants.gov 6/24/11)

Transit, GHG, and Energy Reduction – The U.S. Department of Transportation requests proposals for Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER). This program supports: 1) Capital investments that will assist in reducing the energy consumption of transit systems, and 2) Capital investments that will reduce GHG emissions in public transportation systems. $49.9 million expected to be available, individual awards NTE $15 million. Responses are due Aug. 23, 2011. For more information, contact Walter Kulyk. Refer to Sol# FTA-2011-018-TIGGER. (Grants.gov 6/24/11)

Biotechnology, Biochemical, and Biomass Engineering – The National Science Foundation requests proposals for Biotechnology, Biochemical, and Biomass Engineering. The program addresses fundamental problems related to processing and manufacturing products of economic importance by effectively using renewable resources of biological origin and bioinformatics originating from genomic and proteomic information. $8.2 million expected to be available, up to 34 awards anticipated. Responses are due Sept. 15, 2011. For more information, contact Theresa Good. Refer to Sol# PD-12-1491. (Grants.gov 6/8/11)

Source: Washington State University Energy Program, 7/15/11

Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. Awarded US$7.9 Million Federal Grant for Additional Work Completed at Blue Mountain

Nevada Geothermal Power Inc. is pleased to announce that the United States Department of the Treasury has informed NGP that the Company's application in the amount of approximately US$7.9 million for Specified Energy Property in Lieu of Tax/Credits relating to additional drilling

completed at Blue Mountain 'Faulkner 1' geothermal power plant subsequent to being placed in service has been approved under Section 1603, Division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Payment of the full amount is expected imminently. Read more.
Source: MarketWatch, 7/14/11

Learn more about funding solicitations.

This news item comes to you as a service of Western's Renewable Resources Program.