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Week of May 2,  
2011

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## Green Power

### ***SOU honored for use of green power***

Southern Oregon University has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the 2010-2011 Individual Conference Champion for using more green power than any other school in the Cascade Collegiate Conference.

Since April 2006, EPA's Green Power Partnership has tracked and recognized the collegiate athletic conferences with the highest combined green power purchases in the nation. The Individual Conference Champion Award recognizes the school that has made the largest individual purchase of green power within a qualifying conference.

SOU beat its conference rivals by purchasing more than 33 million kilowatt-hours of green power, representing 287 percent of the school's annual electricity usage.

EPA estimates that SOU's purchase of more than 33 million kilowatt-hours of green power has the equivalent impact of reducing the CO2 emissions of nearly 5,000 passenger cars annually. [Read more](#). Source: *Southern Oregon Mail Tribune*, 4/20/11

### ***Clayton becomes first Green Power Community in Missouri***

The city of Clayton becomes today Missouri's first Green Power Community, in recognition of its efforts to promote the use of renewable forms of energy.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will present the city with the designation at a community-wide party from 4 to 6 p.m. in Shaw Park.

Clayton will become the 37th community in the United States to be cited for partnering with the EPA to reach its goals for promoting sustainable energy. The only Illinois city in the program is Aurora, in the Chicago area. [Read](#)

[more](#). Source: *St. Louis Today*, 4/20/11

## ***Green Power Network update for March***

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 [website](#).

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#### **Renewable Energy RFPs**

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- [CPS Energy](#)
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- [Silicon Valley Power](#)
- [National Renewables Cooperative Organization](#) (189 kb pdf)

Source: DOE EERE Green Power Network, 4/7/11

## ***Philadelphia Zoo Goes Green With Renewable Energy Power from GDF Suez***

The Philadelphia Zoo has just announced a partnership with GDF Suez Energy Resources for the next two years that will bring renewable energy power to the world-famous zoo, and make up 25 percent of the zoo's total power consumption. [Read more](#). Source: *Greener Ideal*, 4/6/11

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

## **Renewable Energy Technologies**

### ***IREC Small Wind Newsletter for Spring 2011***

Welcome to the Spring issue of the [Small Wind Newsletter](#) with news of the latest developments in the small wind field.

This issue features:

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

Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council*, 4/27/11

### ***Interior: Cape wind approval sends a signal***

A controversial offshore wind farm project in Massachusetts' Nantucket Sound could begin construction as soon as this fall, after clearing a major regulatory hurdle on Tuesday.

Top Interior Department officials approved the construction and operating plan for Cape Wind, and underscored the

signal this approval will send to other offshore wind projects in the works. [Read more](#). Source: *Government Executive*, 4/19/11

## ***Bosch Solar Cell reaches 4.73 Watt Peak world record (New Prod. & Tech.)***

[Bosch Solar Energy AG](#) has achieved a new record for large-area PERC (passivated emitter and rear cell) solar cells on widely used p-type wafers. The independent Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems calibration laboratory has confirmed that a 19.6 percent degree of efficiency has been reached for monocrystalline solar cells with screen-printed metallization in 156 x 156 mm format, allowing these high-performance cells to reach a record output of 4.73 Watt peak. Silicon based screen printed solar cells generally achieve efficiencies of 17 to 18.5 percent.

The back side of PERC solar cells is coated with a dielectric and a metal layer and equipped with point contacts. This new structure improves the solar cells' optical and electrical properties. The incident light is reflected on the cell's reflective rear side, enabling the emitter to convert more light into electricity. The front side of the high-performance cell was also optimized. Bosch Solar Energy has presented the concept at the 25th EUPVSEC in September 2010 in Valencia.

The altered cell concept also improves the cell's performance under weak lighting conditions. Due to the high open-circuit voltage, the temperature coefficient is noticeably better than that of standard solar cells. Hence, solar modules with these cells yield proportionately more output under weak light incidence and increased ambient temperatures, thus increasing the annual energy yield.

"This is a great success for the engineering team. Especially since we've exclusively used industrial production steps to manufacture those record-breaking cells. Now we have to push hard in order to make our products based on this design as soon as possible ready for production." said Bosch Solar's CTO Dr. Volker Nadenau.

Bosch is expanding its development activities and establishing a new R&D center in Arnstadt. A product introduction is planned for summer 2011. Source; *Bosch Solar via EP Overviews*, 4/19/2011

## ***Imperial Irrigation District approves first phase of renewable energy transmission line***

The Imperial Irrigation District is preparing the electrical grid for the arrival of more renewable energy plants with new transmission lines that will span parts of the Valley.

The first phase of the Midway-Bannister line will stretch eight miles east to west near the Salton Sea's southeastern shores. [Read more](#). Source: *Imperial Valley Press*, 3/23/11

## ***Who Is Keeping PV Clean? New Rankings Reveal The Top 10 Manufacturers***

With rapidly increasing global module production volumes, managing the environmental footprint of PV module manufacturing has taken on great urgency. Solar energy's supporters and detractors alike readily acknowledge the potential environmental and public-health risks that manufacturing can pose. [Read more](#). Source: *Solar Industry*, 4/7/11

## ***Xcel's 2011 Wind Bid Analysis—Wind Reduces System Costs Even Without CO<sub>2</sub> Costs***

In 2009 Xcel's modeling showed that adding renewable energy to their system would lower system costs when a cost for CO2 emissions was added for fossil fuel resources.

Now, in the (attached) modeling results received from Xcel, the three most competitive wind bids received in January 2011 and discussed in the attached Xcel Bid Report, will lower Xcel's system costs in Colorado--even without including a cost for CO2 emissions. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that this has been shown in Colorado. [Read more](#). *Source: Clean Energy Action blog, 4/15/11*

### ***In a Water-Scarce World, Wind Power Shrugs***

Among the oft-repeated arguments against wind power—that it is intermittent, unreliable, expensive, noisy, dangerous to wildlife, or aesthetically unappealing—one argument you will not hear from wind power detractors is that wind uses too much water. Why? Because wind uses a fraction of the water used by every other electrical power source per unit of energy produced (also known as 'water intensity'). But to be perfectly frank, wind power's stinginess with water usage is not something the wind industry has ever pressed very hard. That is, until now (and for at least one day). [Read more](#). *Source: Reuters, 3/21/11*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

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

### ***Service Kicks Off America's WILD READ, a Virtual Book Club***

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today the launch of a new virtual book club aiming to engage and inspire readers to connect with the outdoors and nature.

[America's Wild Read](#) will feature noted ecologist E.O. Wilson's first novel *Anthill*, the story of a boy whose Huck Finn-inspired summer in rural Alabama teaches him deeper understandings of nature and its most ruthless predators. Readers will also share insights on two related essays: *Thinking Like a Mountain* by Aldo Leopold, an early founder of the land conservation movement, and *Once and Future Land Ethic*, by Dr. Curt Meine, senior fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4/27/11*

### ***New Berkeley Lab Study Finds that Residential Solar Photovoltaic Systems Boost the Sales Price of California Homes***

New research by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory finds strong evidence that homes with solar photovoltaic (PV) systems sell for a premium over homes without solar systems.

"We find compelling evidence that solar PV systems in California have boosted home sales prices," says the lead author Ben Hoen, a researcher at Berkeley Lab. "These average sales price premiums appear to be comparable with the average investment that homeowners have made to install PV systems in California, and of course homeowners also benefit from energy bill savings after PV system installation and prior to home sale." [Read more](#). *Source: Berkeley Laboratory News Center, 4/21/11*

## ***Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VIII Proceedings Now Available***

The proceedings from the [eighth NWCC Wind Wildlife Research Meeting](#) are now available on the National Wind Coordinating Council website.

On Oct. 19-21, 2010, NWCC hosted its eighth Wind Wildlife Research Meeting in Lakewood, Colorado. The meeting was attended by over 340 academics, researchers, federal and state officials, NGO representatives, and industry professionals. We have received extremely positive feedback on the meeting, which is a testament to the hard work of the staff, volunteers, planning committee, moderators, speakers, and poster presenters. The high-quality of the presentations and posters indicates advances being made on wind-wildlife interaction research.

[Read](#) the proceedings, which report on the following sessions and panels. *Source: National Wind Coordinating Council, 4/22/11*

## ***The new wind farm boosted business at my lodge, allowing me to finally retire***

First Settler's Lodge is more than just a cozy country inn that overlooks the East Grand Lake in Weston, Maine. For Elbridge and Judy Cleaves, being the innkeepers was in their blood.

Nearly 150 years ago the town's first settler was a Cleaves. The modern-day Cleaveses built and opened their lodge on the edge of what is still a wilderness, and survived like the rest of Weston on a limited economy funded by tourists seeking rustic outdoor adventures. [Watch the video](#). *Source: Power of Wind, 4/21/11*

## ***WAPA 2010 Annual Report released***

[Western's Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report](#) (2.4 mb pdf) is now available online. The publication documents Western's accomplishments as well as its 2010 financials. The report focuses on the "Roadmap to Renewable Energy" and explains where we are, where we're going and the successes we've had in 2010 to get us there. Also, take a moment to review our highlights, which speak to our operational achievements for the year. *Source: Western Area Power Administration, 4/6/11*

## ***2011 Imperial Valley Renewable Energy Summit & Expo Speaker Presentations available online***

The Imperial Valley Renewable Energy Summit & Expo was a success! With over 600 attendees and 24 sponsors, many felt that this was the best summit yet. [Download the presentations](#). *Source Imperial Valley Renewable Economic Development Corporation, 4/1/11*

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

## **News from Washington**

### ***The climate of conservation in America: 50 stories in 50 states***

Starting this Earth Day, April 22, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will launch a series of 50 stories for 50 consecutive weekdays that will explore the many ways accelerating climate change is impacting or may impact fish and wildlife across America. No geographic region is immune.

Combined with other resource stressors, such as urbanization, invasive species and water scarcity, climate change is disrupting natural systems upon which wildlife and people depend. The series will cover 50 states, examining regional challenges posed by climate change. [Read more](#). Source: *The Signal*, 4/18/11

### **Secretary Chu Announces Over \$110 Million in SunShot Projects to Advance Solar Photovoltaic Manufacturing in the United States**

As part of the SunShot Initiative, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the selection of up to \$112.5 million over five years for funding to support the development of advanced solar photovoltaic (PV) related manufacturing processes throughout the United States. The Department's SunShot Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships will help the solar power industry overcome technical barriers and reduce costs for PV installations, help the U.S. regain the lead in the global market for solar technologies, and provide support for clean energy jobs for years to come.

This program is modeled in part on SEMATECH (Semiconductor Manufacturing TECHNOlogy). Faced with falling U.S. market share for the domestic semiconductor industry from 57 percent in 1982 to 38 percent in 1988, SEMATECH began working with domestic equipment suppliers to improve their capabilities. As a result of SEMATECH's work to solve common manufacturing problems by leveraging resources and sharing risks, within ten years the domestic semiconductor industry had grown by 16 percent. Through this award, SEMATECH will now apply similar ingenuity to helping the U.S. recapture the lead in solar manufacturing. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 4/15/11

### **FERC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sign Agreement on Hydropower**

On March 30, 2011, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate their actions on applications for FERC hydroelectric licenses for projects at Corps facilities. [Read more](#). Source: *Van Ness Feldman*, 4/1/11

Learn more about [national activities](#).

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

### **State Policies Key to Clean Energy Development, Report Says**

States' policies are important to solar and wind energy development and in reducing energy use says a new report from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The findings are in report, *State of the States 2010: The Role of Policy in Clean Energy Market Transformation*. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 4/25/11

### **N.J. DEP seeking companies that want to build wind farms off New Jersey coast**

The state government is seeking companies interested in acquiring leases through the federal government to construct wind farms off the New Jersey coast, Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin announced Tuesday.

As the first step in the wind farm construction process, companies may request what is known as a Call for Nominations, which are issued through the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). [Read more](#). Source: *New Jersey Newsroom*, 4/19/11

## **Google Invests \$100m in What Will be the World's Largest Wind Farm (845 MW)**

Google has been rapidly expanding its clean energy portfolio lately. Just last week we reported the [\\$168m investment in solar thermal](#), and before that there were [multiple investments](#) in wind power, [geothermal](#), etc. Now they're investing \$100m more in the Shepherds Flat Wind Farm in Oregon. When construction is complete in 2012, it should be the world's largest, beating the Roscoe Wind Farm in Texas (627 turbines, rated at 781.5 MW). [Read more](#). Source: *TreeHugger*, 4/19/11

## **California Governor Signs Renewable Portfolio Standards Bill**

On April 12, 2011, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill entitled S.B. 2X, which modifies California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program to require that public and private utilities in California receive at least 33 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by the year 2020. Importantly, the new law eliminates the requirement that renewable energy must be produced in the state of California in order to be eligible for the RPS program. The recently-enacted bill amends several sections of California's Public Utilities Code and other statutes related to the State's RPS program. [Read more](#). Source: *Martindale, via Loeb Loeb LLP*, 4/13/11

## **EERE State News Monthly Report**

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) publishes this summary of news stories posted the past month on the [EERE State Activities & Partnerships](#) Web site. EERE collects news stories dealing with state involvement in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects from EERE technology program Web sites, the State Energy Program, and [EERE Network News](#).

- [A Former "Most Wanted" Building Gets a Reprieve](#)
- [BLM Lists 2011 Priority Renewable Energy Projects](#)
- [California's Largest Utilities Hit 18% Renewables in 2010](#)
- [DOE Finalizes \\$96.8 Million Loan Guarantee for Geothermal Project](#)
- [DOE Offers Loan Guarantee to Support Maine Wind Project](#)
- [Hawaii Awards \\$2.6 Million to Speed EV Adoption](#)
- [Illinois' Inaugural Clean Energy Challenge Names Winners](#)
- [Kansas City Buses Provide Clean Ride for Kids](#)
- [Mt. Wachusett Community College Makes Huge Investment in Wind Power](#)
- [Nation's First Solar District Energy System Heats Up with DOE Support](#)
- [Nevada Dedicates Largest Photovoltaic Solar Plant in the United States](#)
- [New York Grocers Can Go Green with Support from NYSERDA](#)
- [U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011 Participants Bring Innovation to D.C.'s Ward 7](#)
- [Washington D.C. Recognized as Leading U.S. Green Power Community](#)

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 4/1/11

## "Saudi Arabia of Wind" Has Trouble Figuring Out How to Get the Power Out

Plans to build North Dakota's largest transmission line in three decades drew support from legislators, farmers and environmental groups, but now the project is running up against objections from landowners

When plans to build North Dakota's largest transmission line in three decades were unveiled, it seemed as though the political, legal and economic stars were in alignment. Minnesota's legislators wanted more renewable power, North Dakota farmers looked forward to the extra income, and environmental groups championed the line for carrying "green power" and cutting reliance on coal. [Read more](#). Source: *Scientific American*, 4/5/11

## News from DSIRE: week of March 21, 2011

A roundup of news from the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy is available online. [Read more](#).

Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council*, 4/5/11

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

## Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

### Federal funding opportunities

- **Advanced Hydropower Development:** The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for Advanced Hydropower Development. Through this RFP, DOE seeks proposals for the development, testing, validation, modeling and interconnection of advanced conventional hydropower systems. Topic areas include: Sustainable Small Hydropower; Sustainable Pumped Storage Hydropower; Environmental Mitigation Technologies for Conventional Hydropower; and Advanced Conventional Hydropower System Testing at a Bureau of Reclamation Facility. \$26.25 million expected to be available, up to 25 awards anticipated. Refer to [Sol# DE-FOA-0000486](#). (Grants.gov 4/5/11)
- **Environmental Justice & Green Jobs – Region 6:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, requests proposals for the Environmental Justice Green Jobs Development Pilot. Through this RFP, EPA seeks projects that promote Green Job Training and Green Job Placement in underserved populations. \$100K expected to be available, 1 award anticipated. Responses due May 10, 2011. Projects must take place in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Texas. For more information, contact [Charlotte Runnels](#). Refer to [Sol# EPA-R6-OEJTA-11-1](#). (Grants.gov 4/12/11)
- **Renewables – Arizona:** The Arizona Public Service Company [seeks 70,000,000 kWh annually](#) of eligible renewable energy and associated environmental attributes from small generation projects (2-15 MW) to meet the requirements of the APS Small Generation Program. Confidentiality Agreements due May 5, 2011, final bids due May 17, 2011. For more information, contact [Jessica Hernandez](#). (Green Power Network 4/7/11)
- **Electric Energy Innovations - California:** The California Energy Commission requests proposals for the

Energy Innovations Small Grant Program – Electricity Program. EISG funds the early development of innovative energy RD&D projects. Projects must target one of the following: Industrial/Agriculture/Water End-Use Efficiency; Building End-Use Efficiency; Environmentally Preferred Advanced Generation; Renewable Generation; Energy-Related Environmental Research; and Energy Systems Integration. Proposed projects must be clearly relevant to California's electric market. Individual hardware awards NTE \$95K, individual modeling awards NTE \$50K. Responses due June 14, 2011. For more information, contact the [Energy Innovations Small Grant program](#). Refer to [Sol# 11-01](#).

Source: *Grants.gov*, 4/20/11

## ***Department of Energy Launches "America's Next Top Energy Innovator"***

As part of the Obama Administration's [Startup America Initiative](#), U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the "America's Next Top Energy Innovator" challenge, which will give start-up companies the opportunity to license groundbreaking technologies developed by the national laboratories for \$1,000 and build successful businesses. As part of this effort, the Department is reducing both the cost and paperwork requirements for start-up companies to obtain an option agreement to license some of the 15,000 patents and patent applications held by our 17 national laboratories. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE EERE News*, 3/29/11

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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