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Week of May 30,  
2011

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## Green Power

### ***Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program among best in U.S.***

Rocky Mountain Power is getting praise for its Blue Sky renewable energy program.

A unit of the U.S. Department of Energy said PacifiCorp's Blue Sky program ranked in the top five nationally in two of five categories last year in its annual listing of leading utility green power initiatives.

PacifiCorp's program had 76,322 participants at the end of 2010, second only to Portland General Electric, which claimed 77,907. And it ranked third behind Austin Energy and Portland General in the amount of green energy it sold — 67.1 megawatt hours, said the agency's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

PacifiCorp does business in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming as Rocky Mountain Power. [Read more](#). Source: *Salt Lake Tribune*, 5/13/11

### ***U.S. Department of Energy Ranks Santa Clara Green Power a Top 10 Utility Green Power Program***

Silicon Valley Power's Santa Clara Green Power program is once again ranked in the national "Top 10" list of utility green power programs in the category of percentage of customer participation, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). This is the sixth year in a row that Santa Clara Green Power has appeared in this NREL Top 10 list.

"Santa Clara Green Power's success demonstrates the community's support for renewable energy and willingness to take action to encourage its development," said Larry Owens, Manager of Customer Service. "There are over 100 businesses and almost 4,000 homes that are participating in Santa Clara Green Power, from mom-and-pop shops to industry leaders. NREL's list once again confirms Santa Clara's status as a top green power community." [Read more](#). Source: *Silicon Valley Power*, 5/10/11

## ***In Oregon, it seems to be easier to be green (or, at least, to use green power)***

Oregonians love their green power.

Portland General Electric Co. and PacifiCorp rank No. 2 and No. 3 among 850 utilities surveyed nationwide in the volume of their overall electricity sales under voluntary green power programs, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

With 12.6 percent of its customers willing to fork over a little more green for green power, PGE's participation rate in the programs was actually the highest in the country. Its customers' renewables consumption under the programs is equivalent to 84 average megawatts, about what a medium sized wind farm produces. [Read more.](#)

*Source: The Oregonian, 5/10/11*

## ***NREL Highlights 2010 Utility Green Power Leaders***

### **New, innovative community programs support local power generation**

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) today released its annual assessment of leading utility green power programs. Under these voluntary programs, consumers can choose to help support additional electricity production from renewable resources such as wind and solar.

Green power sales from utility programs exceeded 6 million megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2010. Wind energy now represents more than three-fourths of electricity generated for green energy programs nationwide.

Using information provided by utilities, NREL has developed "Top 10" rankings of utility green power programs for 2010 in the following categories: total sales of renewable energy to program participants, total number of customer participants, the percentage of customer participation, green power sales as a percentage of total utility retail electricity sales, and the lowest price premium charged for a green power program using new renewable resources. According to NREL, more than 850 utilities across the United States offer green power programs. [Read more.](#) *Source: NREL, 5/9/11*

## ***Green Power Monthly Update for April***

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](#).

### **Green Power Purchases**

- [EPA Recognizes College and University Green Power Leaders](#)
- [Oak Park Pursuing Community Choice Electricity Aggregation](#)
- [Google Signs PPA for 100.8 MW Oklahoma Wind](#)
- [Clayton Becomes Missouri's First EPA Green Power Community](#)

### **Community Green Power**

- [Trico Electric \(AZ\) Develops Community Solar Offer](#)
- [San Jose \(CA\) Launches SunShares Program](#)

## Renewable Energy RFPs

- [National Renewables Cooperative Organization](#)
- [AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company](#)
- [Pacific Power](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Power](#)
- [Georgia Power Company](#)
- [Hawaiian Electric Co. Inc.](#)

Source: *Green Power Network*, 5/6/11

## ***In Brief: Green Houston***

Houston-based retail energy consultant and broker Choice Energy Services recently landed a two-year contract to provide the new Trump SoHo Hotel with 100 percent green power.

The contract reportedly offsets the hotel's carbon footprint and delivers substantial cost savings for the newest property in the Trump Hotel Collection. The New York hotel opened in February 2010. [Read more](#). Source: *Houston Business Journal*, 4/28/11

## ***BMW ranks 4 on EPA green-power user list***

In 2010 BMW's on-site landfill gas system generated nearly 62 million kilowatt-hours of power, representing about 37 percent of the company's overall electricity use. [Read more](#). Source: *Greenville Online*, 4/29/11

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

## Renewable Energy Technologies

### ***Natcore Uses LPD Process on Textured Solar Cells (New Prod. & Tech.)***

Scientists of [Natcore Technology Inc.](#) have shown that Natcore's liquid phase deposition (LPD) process can be used to apply an anti-reflective (AR) coating to textured solar cells as well as standard planar cells, thus opening the door for the industry to further reduce wafer thickness by eliminating the thermal vacuum AR coating process altogether. The work was conducted by Natcore researchers at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

One of the primary ways solar cell manufacturers are striving to reduce the cost of manufacturing silicon solar cells is to reduce the thickness of the wafers from which the cells are made. As the wafers get thinner, however, they lose the ability to fully absorb the light that strikes their front surface; consequently, the efficiency falls. A technique commonly employed to overcome this fundamental limitation is to isotropically etch the front surface of the wafer in order to form a regular pattern of small pyramids on it. The shape and angles of the pyramidal faces are such that

more light is refracted into the crystal over a range of angles that prevent the light from traveling straight through the solar cell and being incompletely absorbed. The process, known as texturizing the wafer surface, has gained widespread acceptance in the solar cell industry. Once texturized, the cells are put through the remaining standard cell processing steps, which include adding the AR coating and the contacts. A growing problem, however, is that the conventional AR coating process requires the cells to travel through a vacuum furnace. As the wafers get thinner and thinner, the conventional AR coating process causes them to warp, reducing the yield from the production process. Reflectance is the proportion of light striking a surface that is reflected from it. For solar cells, the optimum reflectance is zero; a typical industry reflectance is about six percent.

Measurements made at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, show that the reflectance from texturized wafers coated with Natcore's LPD anti-reflective coating is reduced to well below two percent over the entire absorption band of silicon solar cells. This represents a two-thirds reduction from the typical reflectance achieved by standard industry practices today, and would be accompanied by an increase in cell efficiency. (Source: Natcore, May 10, 2011)

Contact: Dr. Dennis J. Flood, Natcore, 732-576-8800. *Source: EP Overviews, 5/11/11*

### ***Utah adds more wind to the mix of energy it sends Southern California***

Southern California utilities have added a new renewable energy source to their portfolios, thanks to a new wind project in Utah.

Milford 2 in Utah will send more than a hundred megawatts of energy to L.A.'s Department of Water and Power, Glendale Water and Power and a joint Southern California agency that both utilities belong to. Milford 2 comes on-line this week, joining its sibling Milford 1 that's been sending power to the Southland for more than a year. [Read more](#). *Source: Southern California Public Radio, 5/10/11*

### ***A Super Powerful Wind Turbine That's Taller Than the Washington Monument***

Wind blows. And if there's energy (and money) to be made from this fact of life, we may as well take advantage of it, right? That's what Vestas is doing—and they're using the V164-7.0 MW, a massive, 614-foot wind turbine, to do it.

My brain pretty much explodes when I try to comprehend how big this thing is. Its rotor, spanning a diameter of 540 feet, can fit the infield and outfield of Yankee Stadium within it. Twice. Come again? [Read more](#). *Source: Gizmodo, 5/10/11*

### ***Wells Fargo to invest in SunEdison Solar projects (Funding)***

Global financial services giant [Wells Fargo](#) will invest \$120 million in U.S. solar power projects to be developed by [SunEdison](#) over the next year.

Funds contributed by Wells Fargo's subsidiaries will help SunEdison provide clean and reliable electricity to its customers. SunEdison builds, manages, and operates solar systems under the power-purchase agreement model through which its customers can buy the energy produced at lower prices.

Wells Fargo's Environmental Finance Group head Barry Neal said the solar projects developed by SunEdison will help businesses and public entities better control their electricity costs while expanding the use of renewable

energy nationwide.

In 2007, Wells Fargo invested \$200 million in 150 solar projects developed by SunEdison across eight states. (Source: Wells Fargo, EBR, April 27, 2011)

Contact: Carlos Domenech; president, SunEdison; 866-786-3347; or [Kathryn Ellis](#); Wells Fargo, 415-222-3767.

Source: *EPOverviews, SunEdison news, Wells Fargo news, 04/29/11*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

## Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

### ***Celebrate Water Awareness Month with Anaheim Public Utilities***

Anaheim Public Utilities is celebrating Water Awareness Month in May, participating in a number of activities for all ages. The events are designed to help educate the Anaheim community on how to use water efficiently to help ensure there is adequate water supply in the future.

This past weekend Anaheim Public Utilities sponsored Anaheim, Canyon, and Savannah High Schools at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's 2011 Solar Cup Boat Races. Out of the 40 teams competing, Savannah High earned the First Place award in the Veteran Teams category and Anaheim High was awarded the Bart Beziak Memorial Spirit of Solar Cup trophy for their spirit and overall positive attitude. The three-day event was held at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner reservoir in southwestern Riverside County. [Read more](#). Source: *Anaheim Public Utilities, 5/17/11*

### ***Meeting Transmission Challenges in the Rocky Mountain Region - Free Workshop***

Western Area Power Administration customers, electric utilities, tribes, generation and transmission developers, state and Federal agencies and community leaders are invited to attend this **FREE** event.

- Get an update on Western's transmission activities in the
- Rocky Mountain West and the Transmission Infrastructure Program
- Learn about Western's interconnection processes and procedures
- Meet Western's transmission planning staff
- Find out what Rocky Mountain states are planning
- Discuss regional issues and challenges with state and Federal experts

[Read more](#). Source: *Western Area Power Administration, 5/13/11*

### ***Department of Energy Tribal Summit Wrap-up: Winning our Energy Future***

Forging a new era of Department of Energy and tribal relations, more than 350 people, including representatives from 54 tribes across the continental United States, attended the May 4-5, 2011 Department of Energy Tribal Summit.

The summit provided a historic opportunity for the Department and tribal leaders to discuss a broad range of critical energy and environmental issues in Indian Country. Secretary Chu said, "By working together, we can promote economic development and help many more tribes and villages seize the clean energy opportunity." [Read more](#).  
*Source DOE Tribal Energy Program, 5/16/11*

## **Connecting to the Grid**

IREC's Connecting to the Grid program provides services and resources to facilitate the development of interconnection procedures and net metering rules for renewable-energy systems and other forms of distributed generation (DG). This page of the IREC web site serves as an information clearinghouse on interconnection and net-metering issues. [Read more](#). *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 5/11/11*

## **DOE EERE Biomass Program Information Resources**

The information resources available on these pages are organized by audience.

- Industry stakeholders will find background on the significance of biomass generated heat and power, links to roadmap and vision documents by certain industries, and information on how the Biomass Program engages industry, such as through solicitations.
- Researchers can access useful analysis tools and other technical resources.
- Policymakers can become more informed about biomass fuels, power, and products and their benefits to the U.S. economy, environment, and energy security. This section also includes detailed information on state biomass-related policies along with pending policy/legislation.
- Consumers can learn how to support biomass usage in our everyday lives.
- Students, whether in elementary school, middle school, high school, or college, will find useful information covering the fundamentals of biomass – including a student glossary.

[Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 5/11/11*

## **DOE EERE Solar Program Information Resources**

We've organized links and information on solar energy technologies to make it easier for you to find what you're looking for. These sources cover the technology areas of concentrating solar power, solar electricity (or photovoltaics), and solar heating and lighting.

- Publications
- Solar Program Newsletter
- National Laboratory Resources
- Energy Basics
- Multimedia
- Procurement Guide for Federal Facilities
- Meetings and Workshops
- Glossary
- Related Links

[Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 5/11/11*

## ***DOE EERE Geothermal Program Information Resources***

The Geothermal Technologies Program is a source of current, relevant information about enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) technologies and other geothermal technologies and applications. On these pages you'll find helpful publications, software, and Web sites for the geothermal community and stakeholders.

These geothermal information resources are provided in six areas:

- Publications
- Maps
- Software and Data
- Laws and Standards
- Presentations
- Related Links

In addition, you can find helpful definitions and explanations of commonly used geothermal technology words and terms on the Glossary page.

[Read more](#). Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 5/11/11

## ***DOE EERE Wind and Water Power Program Information Resources***

The Wind and Water Power Program has a variety of different resources about wind energy and hydropower. Publications, photographs, and related links are provided for both technologies. Additionally, information and presentations from wind energy workshops are available.

### **Water Power**

- Publications and Photographs
- Links

### **Wind Energy**

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Publications and Photographs
- Workshops
- Links

[Read more](#). Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 5/11/11

## ***Exclusive: Carbon Trust launches small business emission management guide***

### **New figures suggest SMEs can save £400m a year through basic emission reduction measures**

The Carbon Trust will launch a dedicated guide today designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises measure and manage emissions, and ultimately qualify for the high-profile Carbon Trust Standard.

The Standard is awarded to companies that comply with carbon reporting and management guidelines while

consistently reducing their emissions year on year. [Read more](#). Source: *Business Green*, 5/10/11

## ***Transcript of Renewable, Localized Generation workshop now available.***

The California Energy Commission's Integrated Energy Policy Report Committee (IEPR Committee) conducted a workshop May 9 on topics related to Governor Brown's goal of deploying 20,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy by 2020, including 12,000 MW of localized energy. [Download the transcript](#). Source: *California Energy Commission*, 5/10/11

## ***The Climate of Conservation in America: 50 Stories in 50 States***

The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and its partners have launched an unprecedented [series of 50 stories](#) for 50 consecutive weekdays that explores the many ways accelerating climate change is impacting or may impact fish and wildlife across America.

In keeping with the 2011 Earth Day theme of "A Billion Acts of Green," the series will cover 50 states, examining regional challenges posed by climate change. They also will highlight science-based solutions and collaborative actions that are making a difference for wild things and wild places.

Since the series started on Earth Day, April 22, the Service has published 12 stories covering a broad range of issues and impacts from the states of South Carolina, Massachusetts, Missouri, Louisiana, Idaho, California, Arizona, Delaware, Montana, North Carolina, Wisconsin and New Mexico. Upcoming stories include:

- Children in Ohio are learning about climate change impacts and solutions through play helped by staff at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Field Office.
- Much as water gouges Kentucky's limestone caverns, white-nose syndrome is cutting through North America's bat populations. For these creatures imperiled by a mystery disease, climate change is one more unknown.
- Threats to the Cerulean warbler's breeding grounds in the Appalachian region of the United States and its wintering grounds in South America have sparked international efforts to restore and maintain the songbird's forest habitat and address global warming at the same time.

A new story is posted each day, Monday through Friday. Visitors to the site will also be able to share their thoughts on the story. The Service's climate change web page will provide easy access to all of the stories in the series. Source: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 5/9/11

## ***Clean Energy Solutions Center Website***

The [Clean Energy Solutions Center](#) provides information on policy best practices, trends, and analysis tools. Rather than duplicating existing clean energy resources, the Solutions Center summarizes high-quality policy materials and assists users in identifying and moving the policy levers that will drive clean energy progress in their country. The Solutions Center is designed to be the first stop for comprehensive, high-quality resources on clean energy policies for energy efficient appliances, electric vehicles, building and industrial efficiency, wind and solar power, biopower and biofuels, smart grid, and low carbon communities, among other topics. It also offers peer-to-peer learning, remote expert assistance and online training. Source: *Energy Analysis at NREL*, May 2011

## ***WINDPOWER 2011 Conference & Exhibition in Anaheim, CA, May 22 – 25***

Register for WINDPOWER 2011 today or you'll miss these exciting opportunities on Sunday, May 22

### **Pre-Conference Seminars**

Go where the money meets and learn how to work the markets! Choose from 4 outstanding educational sessions to begin the week:

- Wind Development for Professionals – Turning Ideas into a Wind Generation Asset  
*Sunday, May 22, 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM*
- How Wind Energy Works in Electricity Markets Today  
*Sunday, May 22, 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM*
- Fundamentals of Worker Environmental Health & Safety  
*Sunday, May 22, 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM*
- Wind Energy 101: Introduction to Wind Energy  
*Sunday, May 22, 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM*

[Read more](#). Source: American Wind Energy Association, 4/30/11

## ***American Lung Association ranks cities by air quality***

The American Lung Association *State of the Air 2011* report ranks the metropolitan areas based on [ozone](#) and [particle pollution](#) during 2007, 2008 and 2009. For particle pollution, we rank separately the areas with high year-round (annual average) levels and high short-term levels (24-hour) found in monitoring sites across the United States. We take official data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to compile the rankings. For more information about how we grade and rank cities, go to [Methodology](#). [Read more](#). Source: American Lung Association, 4/30/11

## ***CalEnergy Web-Based Geothermal Power Plant Tour Offers Field Trip by Computer***

Want to know how geothermal power works? Check out this unique, [award-winning virtual tour](#)!

Enjoy and share. Source: Geothermal Resources Council, 4/29/11

## ***America's First 'Green Flag' Flies Over Sustainable Savannah School***

**Savannah Country Day School saluted for multifaceted sustainability program**

[Savannah Country Day School](#) in Georgia was named the nation's first [Green Flag Eco-School](#) in a ceremony yesterday, signifying exceptional achievement in 'greening' school grounds, operations and curricula. The school achieved this honor through a combination of excellence by "green" management of its facilities and grounds, providing opportunities for outdoor education and by integrating environmental learning throughout its curricula.

The Eco-Schools USA program, which is hosted by National Wildlife Federation, counts nearly 500 schools and

some 205,000 students among its participants, but none has achieved the program's highest honor, the Green Flag, until now. [Read more](#). *Source: National Wildlife Federation, 4/29/11*

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

## News from Washington

### ***DOE Wrapping Up Renewable-Energy Project Loan Guarantee Program***

The U.S. Department of Energy said Tuesday that it has stopped accepting applications for loan guarantees to help finance new solar, wind or other renewable energy facilities and suggested there would be winners and losers among companies that have applications pending.

The loan guarantee program for renewable energy generation projects, called "Section 1705," after the portion of the 2009 Recovery Act that supports it, expires Sept. 30 and only projects that can start construction and close their loan guarantees by that date will be considered for a guarantee, Jonathan Silver, the head of the agency's loan programs office, wrote in a blog post on the DOE website. [Read more](#). *Source: NASDAQ, 5/10/11*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

## State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

### ***Solar Leader Amonix Celebrates Milestone at Its Manufacturing Facility in Southern Nevada***

**New Facility Is Producing the Most Efficient Utility-Scale Solar Power Systems and Created More Than 300 Clean, Green Jobs**

Amonix, Inc., the leading designer and manufacturer of concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar power systems, today celebrated the completion of the manufacturing ramp-up of its 214,000 square foot manufacturing facility on North Pecos Road in North Las Vegas, with Nevada state and local officials and the Company's manufacturing services partner – recognized clean tech solutions provider Flextronics (NASDAQ: FLEX). The facility manufactures Amonix CPV solar power systems and now employs over 300 local residents in management, technical and production jobs. The Amonix systems manufactured at the facility are made in part with electricity generated by an Amonix 7700 system. [Read more](#). *Source: BusinessWire, 5/17/11*

### ***EnXco Completes Financing for 205.5-Megawatt Minnesota Wind Farm***

EnXco Inc., the U.S. project development unit of EDF Energies Nouvelles SA (EEN), completed financing for a 205.5-megawatt wind farm in Minnesota.

Dexia Credit Local SA and Societe Generale led a group of lenders that provided a construction loan, a 15-year

term loan and a bridge loan for the Lakefield project, San Diego-based EnXco said today in a statement. [Read more](#). Source: *Bloomberg*, 5/16/11

## ***Setbacks around every turbine***

### **Reworking wind farm siting rules still ongoing**

When it comes to setbacks for wind turbines, Umatilla County commissioners have plenty of choices.

Setbacks, the distances between a wind turbine and a city, house or road, have been a key topic as the county reworks its wind power siting guidelines.

The board of commissioners spent more than seven hours Thursday in a continuation of a hearing that began March 17. In between, on May 3, they held a work session.

Commissioners were looking at least three different drafts of the rules Thursday: The draft the Umatilla County Planning Commission took more than a year to craft and handed over to commissioners in February; the draft commissioners discussed during their work session last week; and a draft submitted by a united front of wind company representatives on Thursday. [Read more](#). Source: *East Oregonian*, 5/14/11

## ***EERE State News Monthly Report — April 1-April 30, 2011***

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](#) website. EERE collects news stories dealing with state involvement in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects from EERE technology program websites, the State Energy Program, and [EERE Network News](#). Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*, 5/13/11

## ***Japan's Geothermal Resources Get a Closer Look***

### **In wake of nuclear crisis, experts say time has come to tap into Japan's underground heat.**

For centuries, the Japanese have enjoyed relaxing in abundant hot springs, or "onsen," which are heated by the volcanic and tectonic activity that makes East Asia prone to major earthquakes.

Similar geothermal resources along the Pacific Rim's "ring of fire" have attracted billions of dollars in foreign investment to Indonesia and the Philippines as those countries develop hundreds of megawatts of power plants that generate electricity with natural steam. [Read more](#). Source: *Renewable Energy World*, 5/11/11

## ***Biomass Bill Would Battle Beetle Kill by Creating New Plan Working Group***

A bill to create a working group of Colorado forest health, environment and energy experts to draft a biomass plan for coping with the beetle-kill epidemic passed on third reading in the state Senate Monday and passed on second reading in the House on Tuesday.

Dubbed the Forest Health Act of 2011, Senate Bill 267 was sponsored by Sen. Gail Schwartz, D-Snowmass. The

bill is sponsored by state Reps. Millie Hamner, D-Dillon, and Don Coram, R-Montrose, in the House. [Read more.](#)

Source: *Colorado Independent*, 5/12/11

## ***Iberdrola Renewables Helps STEC Double Its Wind Power (Ind. Report)***

Iberdrola Renewables has extended and expanded an existing Power Purchase Agreement with South Texas Electric Cooperative (STEC), the wholesale power provider to eight Texas electric cooperatives. STEC will expand its existing 50 MW contract with Portland, Oregon-based Iberdrola Renewables to 100.8 MW and extend it to May 31, 2026.

The power from the contract comes from the Penascal Wind Power Project located in Kenedy County, Texas. An original customer of the Penascal project, STEC has been taking deliveries from the 201.6 MW project since May 19, 2009. (Source: Iberdrola Renewables, May 10, 2011)

Contact: [Jan Johnson](#), Iberdrola Renewables, 503-796-7070; [Shayne Dixon](#), South Texas Electric Coop, 361-485-6169. Source: *EP Overviews*, 5/11/11

## ***Top 10 catalysts for clean energy policy change***

At the beginning of 2011, our global policy risk matrix highlighted positive momentum in emerging markets with a strong outlook for building and transport efficiency. Since then, markets have experienced the twin shocks of the rising oil price (see chart below) and deep uncertainty over the future of nuclear power.

From a macro-economic perspective, we continue to see considerable downward pressure on policy appetite for climate action across the industrialised world. In HSBC's Q2 economics outlook, our global economics team downgraded 2011 GDP growth forecasts for the UK and the USA; the Eurozone remained stable, but only at an anaemic 1.5 percent. [Read more.](#) Source: *Climate Spectator*, 5/11/11

## ***South Dakota teachers learn about wind energy***

It's free, non-polluting, and endless.

Now some KOTA Territory teachers see how wind just might be the future of electricity.

Friday, the South Dakota Wind Energy Association presented their Wind for School workshop.

More than 30 educators from across the state learned how wind is the cheapest renewable energy source.

Administrators say that it is important to reach school teachers because students their age will be running future electric plants.

In addition to lectures, educators got hands-on experience by building their own miniature wind turbines.

"It's kind of like modeled after iron chef. We don't tell them how to do it or direct them how to do it. We just give them choices to do. Just go forth and build," said Steven Wegman from the South Dakota Wind Energy Association.

This is the third year and location for such a seminar.

Previous workshops took place in Mitchell and Miller. [Watch the video](#). Source: KOTA TV, 4/29/11

## ***APS Achieves Record Year For Renewable Energy***

In 2010, customers of Arizona Public Service Company received record amounts of renewable energy, enough to surpass Arizona's energy goals for the third straight year. Renewables powered more than 3 percent of all customer electric needs last year — on track to 10 percent from renewables by 2015 and 15 percent by 2025.

According to a company report filed each year with the Arizona Corporation Commission, last year customers received 826,534 megawatt-hours of renewable energy, 26 percent more than the previous year.

"Our customers have told us they want more of their energy to come from renewable sources, and we are responding," said APS President and Chief Operating Officer Don Robinson. "Renewable energy will play an increasing role in meeting the energy needs of our customers." [Read more](#). Source: *The Street*, 5/10/11

## ***The Emerging Market for Small Renewables in California***

The long battle between public and private power is flaring up again. California is the hot spot because the state legislature has lined up on the side of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a form of public power lite in which communities choose power sources but distribution is left to the incumbent utilities.

Several communities have tried but none succeeded until the Marin Energy Authority (or Marin Clean Energy) started operations last year. MEA started with 8,500 customers but is adding new customers continually. It estimates it will reach 70,000 customers by 2012. The total potential is about 100,000 customers, or more if other communities join them. [Read more](#). Source: *Renewable Energy World*, 5/9/11

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

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

### ***Over \$259 Million in Federal Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments***

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Tribal Energy Program is pleased forward the following information on funding opportunities available to tribal, state, and local governments. (Information provided courtesy of EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program.)

- [HUD Healthy Homes Production Grant Program](#) – \$13.3 million  
Applications due: June 9, 2011  
Eligible applicants: States, Native American tribes, cities, counties/parishes or other units of local government
- [NETL Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-In Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure](#) – \$5 million  
Applications due: June 13, 2011  
Eligible applicants: Unrestricted

- [\*\*DOC Economic Development Administration Public Works, Economic Adjustment, and Global Climate Change Mitigation Programs Opportunity\*\*](#) – Likely ~\$25 million

Applications due: Depends on funding cycle; next funding cycle is due June 10, 2011

Eligible applicants: State and local governments, Federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and private institutes of higher education

- [\*\*DOE Weatherization Formula Grants\*\*](#) – Likely ~\$210 million

Applications due: Varies by program year

Eligible applicants: Agencies that administer the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

For more information, contact [Meghaan Hampton](#).

Source: US DOE Tribal Energy Program, 5/19/11

## **ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Announcements**

The DOE's [Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy](#) (ARPA-E) was established to focus on creative “out-of-the-box” transformational energy research that bridges the gap between basic energy research and development/industrial innovation. ARPA-E currently has funding available for several types of energy projects. [Read more](#).

Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 5/19/11

## **Renewables funding opportunities**

- [\*\*Feasibility Studies for Rural Renewables\*\*](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Energy for America Program - Feasibility. This program will provide support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems. \$2 million expected to be available, up to 75 awards anticipated. Responses due June 30, 2011. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-11-REAP-FEASIBILITY. (Grants.gov 5/9/11).

- [\*\*Rural Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development\*\*](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Energy for America Program - Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance. This program will support energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. \$2.8 million expected to be available, up to 30 awards anticipated. Responses due June 30, 2011. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-11-REAP-ENERGYAUDIT. (Grants.gov 5/9/11).

- [\*\*Rural Renewable Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements\*\*](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Energy for America Program - Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements and Guaranteed Loans. This program will provide grants and loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. More than \$51 million expected to be available, individual awards NTE \$500K. Responses due June 15, 2011. (Grants.gov 5/9/11). (Grants.gov 5/9/11).

- [\*\*Geothermal Technology Advancement\*\*](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy announces its intent to request proposals for Geothermal Technology Advancement for Rapid Development of Resources in the U.S. Areas of interest include: Advanced Exploratory Drilling Technologies; Advanced Well Completion Technologies; Zonal Isolation; Observation Tools and Data Collection System for Reservoir Stimulation; Geophysical Exploration Technologies; and Geochemistry/Rock-Fluid Interactions. The [RFP](#) will be issued on or about early June 2011. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000547. (Grants.gov 5/6/11).

Source: [Laurie Brown](#), 5/15/11

## **Department of Energy Offers \$90.6 Million Conditional Commitment Loan Guarantee to Support Colorado Solar Generating Facility**

**Project is One of the First Utility Scale, High Concentration Photovoltaic Energy Generation Facilities in the U.S. and the Largest of its Kind in the World**

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the offer of a conditional commitment for a \$90.6 million loan guarantee to Cogentrix of Alamosa, LLC. The loan guarantee will support the construction of the Alamosa Solar Generating Project, a 30 megawatt (MW) net capacity High Concentration Solar Photovoltaic (HCPV) generation project located in south-central Colorado near the city of Alamosa. Cogentrix estimates the project will create about 75 construction jobs and 10 operations jobs. The project will source over 80 percent of its components from the U. S. [Read more](#). Source: *EERE Network News*, 05/11/11

## **Funding opportunity for geothermal partnerships**

In early June 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy's [Geothermal Technologies Program](#) (GTP) intends to issue a [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) to expand its partnership with the geothermal community on geothermal systems research and development throughout the United States in order to support GTP's goal of lowering the cost of geothermal energy to 6 cents/kWh. This Notice of Intent is designed to provide an opportunity for potential applicants to begin developing partnerships and begin the process of gathering data to prepare their application.

GTP's goal is to address the high exploration and drilling risks and costs for geothermal development and key technical barriers for enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) in reservoir creation and sustainability. GTP hopes to achieve this goal by obtaining ideas to advance current drilling, reservoir engineering, and characterization technologies in order to identify and develop sustainable reservoirs at lower cost in the following topic areas:

- Advanced Exploratory Drilling Technologies
- Advanced Well Completion Technologies
- Zonal Isolation
- Observation Tools and Data Collection System for Reservoir Stimulation
- Geophysical Exploration Technologies
- Geochemistry/Rock-Fluid Interactions

Source: *U.S. DOE Geothermal Technologies Program*, 5/9/11

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

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