

Repowering Indiana Weekly - 2/16/07

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LOCAL

Duke Energy was source of oil slick on Wabash River

2/13/2007

Duke Energy officials say the source of an oily sheen that coated miles of the Wabash River in western Indiana has been traced to turbine oil at one of its plants.

Indiana Conservation Officer Max Winchell says the oil is used in the coolant system at Duke's Wabash River Generating Station in West Terre Haute (TEHR'-ah hoht). Winchell says the unit was temporarily shut down Monday night as a precaution.

The Charlotte-based utility says under an agreement with the U-S Environmental Protection Agency, Duke Energy accepted responsibility for the spill.

<http://www.fox21.com/Global/story.asp?S=6087671&nav=2KPP>

Duke seeks legislation on recovering plant costs

2/12/2007

South Carolina lawmakers will propose legislation as early as next week to allow Duke Energy Corp. and other utilities to add construction costs for major plants into the rate base as those facilities are built.

The legislation is important to Duke's plans for its proposed \$3 billion Cliffside coal-plant project and the \$4 billion to \$6 billion nuclear plant it may build in Cherokee County, S.C.

http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2007/02/12/daily3.html?jst=b_in_hl

'Conservation Connection': Vectren pays out \$100,000 in rebates since launching conservation campaign

2/10/2007

After quietly launching a conservation program two months ago, Vectren Corp. has returned about \$100,000 in rebates to customers for installing energy-efficient appliances in their homes and businesses.

The Evansville-based utility company expects to see that number rise over the next several months as it unrolls a campaign touting what it calls "Conservation Connection."

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2007/feb/10/conservation-connection/?ebj=1/>

NATION

NYSEG and RG&E Customers Request Wind Energy

2/15/2007

As of the end of 2006, 9,300 NYSEG customers have signed up to purchase wind-generated electricity through a program the company began offering in August 2002 in partnership with Community Energy Inc. NYSEG and RG&E are subsidiaries of Energy East Corporation.

The number of customers participating in the NYSEG program increased more than 200% from 2005 to 2006. These NYSEG customers are expected to use 33.3 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of wind energy in 2007.

At RG&E nearly 3,000 customers have enrolled in the wind energy program the company began offering in April 2004. The number of customers participating in the RG&E program is also up significantly over 2005. These RG&E customers are expected to use 19.5 million kWh of wind energy in 2007.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47455>

FPL Energy Announces Partnership with Texas State Technical College

2/15/2007

FPL Energy, LLC, a subsidiary of FPL Group (NYSE:FPL) said today that in an effort to meet the increased demand for highly skilled employees in the wind energy business in Texas and throughout the region it has formed a partnership with Texas State Technical College West Texas to educate and train students in wind turbine technology.

As part of the partnership, FPL Energy will assist TSTC West Texas with its curriculum by offering subject matter experts and faculty adjuncts; allow opportunities for participants to interact with FPL Energy wind experts on and off campus; provide paid internships within FPL Energy wind operations; and work with the college to secure the equipment and other resources necessary for laboratory facilities.

<http://digital50.com/news/items/BW/2001/07/14/20070215005471/fpl-energy-announces-partnership-with-texas-state-technical-college.html>

PVone Enables a Florida Brownfield to Produce Solar Energy

2/13/2007

Development of a Florida-based 'brownfields to brightfields' solar energy project using a 250-kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic (PV) array system is largely due to PVOne LLC, which negotiated the site lease with Sarasota County officials and a Green Solar Tag Agreement for installation of the PV system.

The project, which should be operational in the second quarter of 2007, will in Sarasota County, on the site of the former Bee Ridge Landfill. The solar energy system, which covers 28,000 square feet, will use 1,200 PV panels and connect directly to the distribution grid.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47428>

MILWAUKEE'S URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER INSTALLS STATE'S LARGEST SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM

2/12/2007

The Urban Ecology Center, a neighborhood based non-profit community center located in Milwaukee's historic Riverside Park, recently completed the installation of a 44.4 kilowatt (kW) grid-connected solar electric system. The completion of Wisconsin's largest solar electric system is due in part to technical assistance and a \$64,428 Cash-Back Reward from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative. The center held a dedication ceremony on Saturday, February 10, 2007 to announce the completion and activation of the system, as well as to celebrate its endeavor toward energy independence.

<http://www.earthtoys.com/news.php?section=view&id=2121>

Largest Roofing Company in Northern California Teams with Xantrex and Fat Spaniel Technologies for New Solar Energy Installations

2/12/2007

Old Country Roofing (OCR), Northern California's largest roofing company, announced today that they have signed agreements with Xantrex Technology Inc. and Fat Spaniel Technologies (FST) to offer a comprehensive solar energy conversion and monitoring solution to OCR's more than 100 homebuilding customers throughout Central and Northern California.

Old Country Roofing will feature innovative Xantrex GT Series Grid Tie Solar Inverters, which provide best-in-class efficiency and energy harvest, to convert electricity produced by solar installations from DC to AC power for usage in the home, as well as net-metering of surplus electricity into the power grid.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47422>

Transforming Los Angeles into a Sustainable City

2/12/2007

Mayor Villaraigosa has made it one of his goals to transform Los Angeles into "the greenest big city in America." Plagued with traffic problems and the worst air quality in the country, LA is more often equated with urban sprawl and asthma than a model of sustainability. But that transformation is exactly what Villaraigosa and Deputy Mayor Nancy Sutley have in mind. Nancy Sutley is the Deputy Mayor for Energy and the Environment for the City of Los Angeles, and is also Mayor Villaraigosa's appointment to the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. With a long history in environmental policy at both the state and federal level, Sutley is in a unique position to lead Los Angeles toward sustainability.

<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/006049.html>

Museum wins grant to harness solar, wind power

2/12/2007

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences has landed nearly \$70,000 from state government officials to help fund a project aimed at eliminating the use of fossil fuels at its Prairie Ridge field station.

The State Energy Office, a unit of the North Carolina Department of Administration, said Monday that it has granted \$69,760 to the museum to help finance the development of sun- and wind-powered energy sources for the field station.

http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2007/02/12/daily8.html?jst=b_in_hl

Renewable Energy Institute to call Austin home

2/12/2007

Directors of the Renewable Energy Institute plan to make a permanent home for the nonprofit organization in Austin this spring.

The goal of the group that formed four years ago is to bring together scientists and academics studying various forms of alternative energy and allow them to share information without the risk of losing intellectual property rights.

"Our objective is to facilitate the transition of these technologies to the private sector as quickly as possible," says Mike Logan, one of the directors of the institute.

At least 14 scientists, many with Texas universities, are currently involved with the institute, Logan says.

http://austin.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2007/02/12/daily4.html?jst=b_in_hl

Students successful in pushing renewable energy

2/11/2007

Wind power could be coming soon to a college near you.

Calvin students will erect a wind turbine on campus this spring to study renewable energy options, thanks to a \$5,000 state grant matched by the college.

Grand Valley State University might follow suit. The university is spending \$18,000 to study whether a wind turbine can help power its campus in Allendale Township.

The colleges are headed in the right direction, according to energy goals announced last week by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. She wants the percentage of Michigan's electricity coming from wind and other renewable resources to triple by 2015.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/muchronicle/index.ssf?/base/news-10/1171289712148760.xml&coll=8>

America goes to the top of renewable energy league

2/9/2007

The United States has extended its lead as the most attractive location in which to invest in renewable energy projects.

The country's increasing desirability is directly linked to a conviction among investors that politicians are now firmly in support of renewable energy.

The findings by Ernst & Young come just two weeks after President Bush used his annual State of the Union address to call on Americans to cut fuel consumption by 20 per cent over the next decade, giving warning that the country had been dependent on foreign oil for too long.

Jonathan Johns, author of the E&Y report, said that the country's commitment to renewable energy was reinforced by the recent renewal of tax credits for large-scale projects until at least next year.

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/natural_resources/article1361547.ece

WORLD

Solar farm to set Australian record

2/15/2007

THE Carnarvon Solar Farm is to be expanded to become Australia's largest privately owned solar photovoltaic energy utility. The expansion will triple the Carnarvon Solar Farm power output from its existing 100 kilowatt hours a day to more than 300 kilowatt hours a day.

Perth-based renewable energy company Solar Sales Pty Ltd announced last Friday it had been appointed as the major supplier to the innovative expansion project. Solar Sales chief executive officer Bob Blakiston said the project was in line with the State Government's decision to increase usage of renewable energy to lower the State's greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://ffggippsland.blogspot.com/2007/02/solar-farm-to-set-australian-record.html>

Indonesia To Use Renewable Energy To Power Thousands Of Villages

2/15/2007

I just can't get enough of renewable energy helping developing nations. I feel it may be the most humane, economical, and just plain interesting way to use renewable energy technology.

Indonesia thinks so as well.

They plan on having 2000 villages powered by a combination of hydro, solar, and biofuel by 2009. Currently the country has 140 villages that can meet their own energy needs, so going to 2000 in just a couple of years seems to be a big challenge. But Honestly if each village gets a good sized solar array, combined with their low energy needs, 2000 is an achievable goal. Solar power does not require that you install large infrastructure, no huge supply lines for the fuel, no large scale distribution networks are needed. You put the panels on the roof, and you are ready to go.

<http://www.blog.thesietch.org/2007/02/15/indonesia-to-use-renewable-energy-to-power-thousands-of-villages/>

13 arrested as work on LNG terminal is halted

2/15/2007

A CAMPAIGN against importing liquid natural gas intensified yesterday, with protesters allegedly arrested after breaking into an under-construction gas importation terminal.

Police arrested 13 people at the South Hook LNG (liquid natural gas), site, near Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire. An access road had been blocked and demonstrators allegedly chained themselves together inside a large pipe on the site.

After the last of the arrests at lunchtime, work at the site - one of two pipes being built in the area to accommodate imported natural gas from the Middle East - was back to normal.

http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_headline=13-arrested-as-work-on-lng-terminal-is-halted-&method=full&objectid=18623380&siteid=50082-name_page.html

DJ Umicore, Belgium To Finance Antarctica Fuel Cell Energy Powered-Research Station

2/14/2007

Belgian metals company Umicore SA (UMI.BT) and Belgium's government on Wednesday outlined plans to work together to build and maintain a sustainable-energy-research station in Antarctica. Plans call for financing to be assured until 2009.

The station is to be inaugurated in March 2008.

The polar station "Princess Elizabeth" will not produce any CO2 emissions, both the company's CEO Thomas Leysen and Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt told Dow Jones Newswires at a ceremony promoting the project. It will use cutting edge-materials such as fuel cells and will focus on renewable energies. An up-to-date waste-treatment process will minimize contamination of the environment.

<http://www.fuelcellworks.com/Suppage6901.html>

Canada's ecoTrust Funding To Support Renewable Energy

2/14/2007

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Quebec Premier Jean Charest have announced that Canada's government intends to provide Quebec with C\$349.9 million as part of a new Canada ecoTrust to support provincial projects that will result in reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the government officials, the Canada ecoTrust will be established using part of the anticipated 2006-2007 budgetary surplus. The resources for the initiative will consist of C\$1.5 billion of new funding on a national basis, which will be contained in the upcoming budget and be part of the actions taken on the fiscal imbalance.

http://www.aer-online.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.280

Solar power brings light to the lives of tsunami survivors

2/13/2007

Thousands of families have benefited from the installation 1,234 solar light systems across Sri Lanka.

The project is a joint effort between World Vision and Light Up The World Foundation (LUTW). Families living in remote areas, fishermen, and people displaced by the tsunami and civil war have all benefited.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/217167/117135008247.htm>

New Zealand aims to be first fully sustainable country

2/13/2007

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark on Tuesday announced a strategy designed to put her country in the vanguard of efforts to counter global warming and create the world's first fully sustainable and environmentally responsible nation.

It is a very ambitious goal for a country which, although small with under 4.2 million people, is one of the biggest users of energy and producers of greenhouse-gas emissions per head of population on the globe.

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/asiapacific/news/article_1263097.php/New_Zealand_aims_to_be_first_fully_sustainable_country_Roundup

Gardens get new wind turbine

2/13/2007

Hill Close Gardens became even more environmentally friendly this week.

Following the opening of its £1 million revamped resource centre last year the latest addition to the site came in the form of a £6,000 wind turbine.

It is one of three being tried across the district this month as part of a scheme designed to assess the practicality of getting more sustainable energy sources in use.

<http://www.warwicktoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=693&ArticleID=2046708>

Winners of EQUilibrium competition to develop energy-efficient homes announced

2/13/2007

Twelve Canadian homebuilder teams have been selected as winners of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) EQUilibrium sustainable housing competition. The goal of CMHC's EQUilibrium initiative is to demonstrate a new approach to housing in Canada. It will support the building of sustainable, healthy houses that are also affordable and energy- and resource-efficient. EQUilibrium housing is designed to lower homeowners' energy bills by reducing energy consumption and delivering electricity back to the grid. The homes will also promote water conservation, healthy indoor environments, durability, and reduced pollutant emissions.

<http://www.canadianarchitect.com/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=65406&issue=02132007>

Ottawa vows \$1.5-billion to fight climate change

2/12/2007

Ottawa announced \$1.5-billion in new environmental funding Monday, with the cash earmarked to help provinces battle climate change.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the announcement in Sherbrooke, Que., alongside Quebec Premier Jean Charest. Quebec's share of the cash would total about \$350-million. The money will be available under the Canada Eco-Trust and Clean Air Fund.

The outlay will be contained in the Conservatives' budget and will be part of Ottawa's efforts on the fiscal imbalance, Mr. Harper said.

The money will be available to the provinces once the budget receives approval from Parliament.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070212.wharp0212/BNStory/Front>

Townsville Solar City project will extend to Magnetic Island

2/13/2007

Magnetic Island residents will be asked to register their interest in being involved in the Solar City project, says Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson.

"Solar City is an iconic project and it shows how communities can harness solar energy and be more energy-efficient in their daily lives," Wilson says.

State government has committed \$5 million to help Ergon Energy and its partners develop the Townsville Solar City project - part of the Australian government's national Solar Cities programme.

The programme is designed to demonstrate how solar power, smart meters, energy efficiency and new approaches to electricity pricing can combine to provide a sustainable energy future while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.qbr.com.au/index.cfm?storyid=30213&cp=displaystory>

Constellation NewEnergy Providing Support for Canada's First Solar Park

2/12/2007

Constellation Energy (NYSE: CEG) today announced that its subsidiary, Constellation NewEnergy, the largest competitive supplier of electricity to businesses in North America, will support The Sunpark Challenge, an initiative to develop Canada's first solar park.

<http://www.earthtoys.com/news.php?section=view&id=2114>

Caraquet school to power classroom with renewable energy

2/12/2007

A school in Northern New Brunswick is about to install a wind turbine and solar panel on its roof, in order to power one of its classrooms.

The project at Louis Mailloux High School in Caraquet will generate 4,000 watts of electricity, enough to power one classroom's lights, computers and projectors.

Denis Hache, facility manager for School District 9, says the project is one-of-a-kind in the province, and kids across New Brunswick will be able to learn from it online.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2007/02/12/nb-greenclass.html>

PUBLIC POLICY

CEO's Testify for Limits on Greenhouse Gases

2/15/2007

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works heard testimony today from Chief Executive Officers of some of the largest companies in the United States in support of limits on emissions of greenhouse gases.

During a hearing on the US Climate Action Partnership (USCAP) report, executives from BP America, DuPont and PG&E, California's largest utility company, lent their support to proposed emissions limits on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are being blamed for global warming. The majority party chair of the committee, California Senator Barbara Boxer, thanked the executives present at the hearing for their collective "call for Action" on global warming, according to the Committee's press release.

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/151085/ceos_testify_for_limits_on_greenhouse.html

Legislature, Governor Working on Comprehensive Renewable Energy Plan

2/15/2007

Gov. John Hoeven today joined House Majority Leader Rick Berg and Senate Majority Leader Bob Stenehjem to detail a comprehensive \$43.5 million Renewable Energy Plan. Legislators in both houses are working to fund an inclusive package of programs promoting renewable energy, including programs aimed at supporting the 25 X 25 Initiative, the national goal of generating 25 percent of the nation's energy from renewable sources and doubling the state's energy output from all sources by the year 2025.

<http://www.kxmb.com/getArticle.asp?ArticleId=95822>

New renewable energy standard gains momentum

2/14/2007

Legislation to double Colorado's renewable energy standard - the cornerstone to this year's clean energy agenda - was passed by the House Transportation and Energy committee today in a *unanimous* vote. The measure's sponsors include Representatives Jack Pommer (D - Boulder) and Rob Witwer (R- Genesee) and Senator Gail Schwartz (D - Snowmass Village).

"Today's vote is the product of a fruitful dialogue between Colorado's utilities, conservationists, labor unions, renewable energy companies, farmers and state leaders to create a new energy future," said Will Coyne, Program Director of Environment Colorado. "Doubling our use of renewable energy to 20% by 2020 will protect our air, cut global warming pollution, and increase our energy security."

<http://www.environmentcolorado.org/envcopreserve.asp?id2=30650&id3=DO>

U.S. House of Representatives Approves Solar Project for Federal Building

2/13/2007

The House of Representatives approved -- by voice vote legislation -- the installation of a solar energy system at the U.S. Department of Energy building in Washington, DC yesterday. The bill had been marked up and reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure last week.

H.R. 798 directs the General Services Administration to install a photovoltaic (PV) system at the Energy Department's headquarters that will convert solar energy into electricity. This project, known as Solar Net, consists of a 300 foot long, 130 foot high curtain of solar panels.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47430>

National RPS Bill Introduced on Capitol Hill

2/12/2007

New legislation that would require many U.S. utilities to generate 20 percent of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2020 was introduced Thursday by Congressman Tom Udall of New Mexico.

House bill 969 proposes to "amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal renewable energy portfolio standard for certain retail electric utilities and for other purposes."

The bill defines a renewable energy resource as solar (including solar water heating), wind, ocean, tidal, geothermal energy, biomass, landfill gas or incremental hydropower.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47402>

BUSINESS

Freeplay Energy named 'brand with a conscience'

2/14/2007

Freeplay Energy has been named one of nine businesses and organizations as a "Brand with a Conscience" by global branding and business think tank Medinge Group.

The award, which has been given out for the past four years, recognizes an organization for its "contribution to the betterment of society by sustainable, socially responsible and humanistic behavior," according to an announcement from Freeplay and Medinge.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triad/stories/2007/02/12/daily19.html>

First Solar Inks Power Plant Contract

2/14/2007

First Solar Inc., which makes solar modules used to generate solar energy, said Wednesday it will supply solar modules to a 40-megawatt solar power plant slated for construction in Germany. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

The 130 million euro (\$168.9 million) plant will utilize about 550,000 solar modules, and once completed will stand as one of the largest photovoltaic projects ever constructed. Juwi Solar GmbH will begin construction on the plant in the second quarter of 2007, with completion expected within 30 months.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4552982.html>

Verde Energy strikes deal with Wells Fargo

2/14/2007

An Austin company that brokers renewable energy systems has struck a deal with Wells Fargo that will help customers finance the purchase and installation of new products.

Verde Energy Inc., which launched last August, provides customers across the country with competitive project bids on renewable energy systems ranging from solar panel to wind energy products. The company caters to homeowners and commercial property developers and owners. About 70 percent of the firm's business is residential customers with the commercial sector making up the remaining 30 percent.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2007/02/12/daily18.html>

Diversa and Celunol Announce Merger to Create a New Biofuels Industry Leader

2/14/2007

Diversa Corporation and Celunol Corp. announced they have signed a definitive merger agreement to create a new leader in the emerging cellulosic ethanol industry. The combined company shall be the first within the cellulosic ethanol industry to possess integrated end-to-end capabilities in pre-treatment, novel enzyme development, fermentation, engineering, and project development. It will seek to build a global enterprise as a leading producer of cellulosic ethanol and as a strategic partner in bio-refineries around the world. At the same time, the company will continue to pursue broad market opportunities for specialty industrial enzymes within the areas of alternative fuels, specialty industrial processes, and health and nutrition, with a primary focus on enzymes for the production of biofuels. The combined company will be headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts and have research and operations facilities in San Diego, California; Jennings, Louisiana; and Gainesville, Florida.

<http://www.chemie.de/news/e/61838/?ps=&pw=a&t=&defop=and&wild=yes&sdate=01/01/1995&e date=02/14/2007&sort=1>

Solar Power Breakthrough: IAUS Hits Milestone Previously Thought to Be Impossible

2/13/2007

International Automated Systems, Inc. (OTCBB: IAUS) announced today that it has successfully finished its first high-volume run of its new breakthrough solar panels. Nearly 1,000 Kilowatts of IAUS's solar panels were manufactured in a short 24-hour run. On a 24/7 operating schedule, an estimated 350 Megawatts of IAUS panels can be produced annually. In comparison, a traditional photovoltaic (PV) solar module manufacturing plant with a yearly capacity equal to IAUS would cost an estimated \$840 Million to construct.

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070213006100&newsLang=en

Acore Announces Publication of New Master Renewable Energy Certificate Purchase and Sale Agreement

2/13/2007

The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) announced the release of the long-anticipated standard form contract for national trading of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) also known as "green tags". The Renewable Energy Certificate Purchase and Sale Agreement is now available for online viewing at: <http://www.acore.org/programs/rectrading.php>.

<http://www.earthtoys.com/news.php?section=view&id=2118>

ESB Independent Energy and Renewable Energy Systems Group Signs £25 million Contract for Renewable Energy

2/13/2007

ESB Independent Energy (ESBIE) has signed a 15-year deal with Renewable Energy Systems (RES) to purchase the output of the 7.8MW Lough Hill Wind Farm at Lough Hill Co Tyrone. The new 7.8MW wind farm which is due to start production in July 2007, will enable ESBIE to increase its renewable offering in Northern Ireland and assist with its compliance with the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation. The contract will deliver enough power to supply the electricity needs of around 6,000 households each year and will save about 20,000 tonnes/CO2 each year.

<http://www.enviroireland.com/detail.asp?item=1822>

CoStar Group Promotes Energy Efficient, Sustainable Green Buildings by Adding EPA's ENERGY STAR(R) Rating to Commercial Properties in Its Database

2/12/2007

CoStar Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: CSGP - News), the number one provider of information services to the commercial real estate industry, today announced that it will begin adding the ENERGY STAR rating -- the most recognized national metric for evaluating building energy efficiency -- to properties in its massive online database, which currently contains more than 2 million researched and verified commercial properties of all classes and types.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/070212/dcm029.html?.v=70>

Pacific Gas and Electric Company and BioEnergy Solutions Sign Agreement for Renewable Natural Gas

2/12/2007

Pacific Gas and Electric Company today announced an agreement with BioEnergy Solutions, a Central Valley waste-to-energy company, to deliver renewable energy to PG&E's customers. Under the agreement, BioEnergy Solutions will deliver up to three billion cubic feet of renewable natural gas a year to PG&E, enough to meet the electricity needs of approximately 50,000 PG&E residential customers.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/070212/sfm151.html?.v=9>

Utility Chiefs Vote to Support Greenhouse Gas Rules

2/8/2007

U.S. utility chief executive officers voted unanimously today for a statement expressing support for federal legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The two-page statement, drafted by the Edison Electric Institute, the Washington trade association for investor-owned utilities, was approved by several dozen CEOs on a conference call. The group's members are the largest U.S. utility owners, including Southern Co., American Electric Power Co. and Exelon Corp.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a7xy9YTqormM&refer=us>

CLIMATE CHANGE

Gore announces climate change concerts

2/16/2007

Sydney will host one of a series of worldwide concerts announced by former US vice-president Al Gore to focus worldwide attention on the threat of climate change.

The 24-hour event on July 7 is part of a campaign, "Save Our Selves - The Campaign for a Climate in Crisis," that promoters hope will trigger a broad movement to address what Gore calls a global climate crisis.

"We have to get the message of urgency and hope out," Gore said at a news conference, where he was flanked by actress Cameron Diaz, rapper Pharrell Williams and producer Kevin Wall.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/gore-announces-climate-change-concerts/2007/02/16/1171405407539.html>

Newspapers and Climate Change

2/15/2007

Throughout 2007, newspaper editors, faced with a certain "inconvenient truth," will need to probe bedrock journalistic principles. Does the emerging global warming crisis pit the two hallmarks of accuracy and balance against each other?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -- a joint effort of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization -- has now released its much-awaited Fourth Assessment Report, based on the findings of thousands of the world's most respected climate scientists. As the most authoritative reference on global warming, our influence on it, and what it means for our future, these reports are at the core of our understanding of climate change.

http://www.mediainfo.com/eandp/columns/shoptalk_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003546339

Climate change campaigner to swim the Maldives

2/12/2007

A long-distance swimmer-cum-environmentalist pledged to swim the breadth of the Maldives to highlight how low-lying islands could disappear if the sea level rises due to climate change.

Lewis Gordon Pugh, who is the only person to have completed long-distance swims in every world ocean, said the group of Indian Ocean atolls were heading for disaster and their population faced becoming "environmental refugees."

The 36-year-old maritime lawyer said he would tackle the 160-kilometre (99-mile) challenge over 10 days, starting his bid to become the first to swim across the island chain on Saturday.

<http://www.france24.com/france24Public/en/administration/afp-news.html?id=070212222413.9psrvn1n&cat=null>

Lawmakers from 20 Countries Bring Climate Change Agenda to U.S. Capitol

2/12/2007

Legislators, government officials and business leaders from 20 of the world's largest energy-consuming countries are gathering in Washington [February 14,15] to discuss measures to combat global warming. The forum is part of a high-level international effort to help world leaders shape more effective climate change policies.

David Miliband, British Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and a member of Tony Blair's cabinet, comes to the Washington Legislators Forum with a simple message. He says the United States needs to be fully engaged in the battle against global warming. "The United States has a lot to gain from being involved in that drive."

<http://www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2007-02-12-voa62.cfm>

No arrests made during climate change protest

2/12/2007

Newcastle environmentalists have hailed as a big success, a large protest held against climate change in the city's port over the weekend.

More than 100 small and medium craft, including swimmers and people on surfboards, gathered in the harbour as well as on its shores as part of the peaceful demonstration. No-one was arrested even though the group attempted to surround a large freight ship as it entered the port.

<http://abc.net.au/news/items/200702/1845409.htm?newcastle>

China experiences extreme water shortage due to climate change

2/12/2007

At least 300,000 people in north-west China are short of drinking water because of unseasonably warm weather, which officials are linking to climate change.

Parts of Shaanxi, which is in the north-central province of the People's Republic of China, face drought as January saw the shortest rainfall with as little as 10% of the usual downpour.

The newspaper China Daily has reported that Beijing is experiencing its warmest winter for 30 years. The city is dispelling typical winter scenes as the frozen lakes are melting and trees are blossoming.

http://www.gairrhydd.com/world_news/833/china-hots-up/

Branson offers \$US25 mln prize to fight climate change

2/10/2007

British tycoon Sir Richard Branson today announced a \$US25 million (\$A32 million) prize for the scientist who comes up with a way of extracting greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

The Virgin Group chairman was joined by former US vice-president Al Gore and other leading environmentalists as he announced the challenge to find the world's first viable design to capture and remove carbon dioxide from the air.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=29&ContentID=21000>

SOLAR ENERGY

Ultra-Efficient Pump Aimed At Solar Heating System Market

2/15/2007

Laing Thermotech has released a unique line of DC pumps that offers a highly-customizable solution for a myriad of purposes. The new pump--called the D5 Ecocirc--also provides a low-cost, highly-efficient option for manufacturers needing a small pump to cool electronic components.

Applications, including solar panels, computer cooling and pedicure chairs, are already using our Ecocirc pumps.

<http://www.carbonfree.co.uk/cf/news/wk07-07-0003.htm>

Shining a Light on Solar Power

2/15/2007

The use of solar energy for heating and for generating electricity is not new. However, the rise in oil prices and efforts to find clean, renewable energy sources are beginning to make this area an investor favorite.

The Solar Energy Industries Association estimates that the global solar market is expanding at a 40% clip annually. That's the kind of number that could translate into some big gains for companies in the solar-energy business.

The government is also getting into the game, by way of funding and basic research. To fulfill solar energy's promise, the president's Advanced Energy Initiative and the 2007 federal budget proposed a new \$148 million Solar America Initiative, for an increase of \$65 million over the fiscal '06 budget. The Solar America Initiative is supposed to accelerate the development of concentrating solar power (CSP) systems, photovoltaics (PV), and other advanced solar electric technologies, as well as make those technologies cost-competitive with other forms of renewable electricity by 2015. In his new budget, the president has also asked for \$9 billion in new funding

for the Title XVII loan guarantee program, which would have the potential of funding large-scale solar power projects.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17168078/>

Citizen unleashes fresh solar fashion watches

2/15/2007

Just in time for the spring sun, Citizen's released a team of new sporty-looking, solar-powered watches.

Joining the ranks of the watch-makers's long-running Eco-Drive series, the five newbies include two designed specifically for sport, a perpetual calendar duo - y'know, the ones that auto adjust to the right date and keep up with leap years - plus a successor to the Modena model.

Like previous Eco-Drives, these ones get their power from the sun or any other light source using tiny photovoltaic cells on the watch-face. As well as being green-powered, the battery inside should last for life; to run out of juice, you'd need to be underground in the dark for 30 days.

<http://www.newconsumer.com/news/item/492/>

Sphelar – Spherical Solar Cell

2/12/2007

The Japanese corporation Kyosemi developed a flexible solar panel with close to 20% efficiency (higher than most commercial photovoltaic cells today). The new flexible cells will enable many applications which are currently impossible due to the rigid nature of existing photovoltaic technology.

There are several ways to increase the efficiency and hence the power production of solar panels. One way is to use small motors together with directional lenses to track and focus the Sun's light throughout the day. Kyosemi's Sphelar uses advanced photovoltaic cells which can be made to create almost any shape. By creating a spherical shape and combining it with a mirror, energy from the Sun could be concentrated on different sides of the sphere – thus maximizing the amount of energy received without relying on mechanical parts.

http://www.ftot.info/index.php?option=com_rsgallery2&page=inline&id=143&catid=1&limitstart=125

WIND ENERGY

Handheld windmills serve as electric generators

2/12/2007

As a clean, free, and natural option, harnessing wind power for use as a source of energy is appealing, although it's usually considered on a large scale. Windmill farms with 100s of giant windmills have been built to supply partial power to towns, but wind power can also have simple applications on a small scale. For example, some bicycle lights work by wind power, but the electromagnetic converter they use requires large amounts of mechanical energy, which is not available for most applications.

However, scientists Robert Myers, Mike Vickers, Hyeoungwoo Kim, and Shashank Priya from the University of Texas Arlington have recently investigated other possible designs that might make a small-scale windmill feasible. To convert wind energy into electric energy, they use a piezoelectric structure, where bimorphs (thin plastic sheets) aligned in a row are caused to vibrate via a lever and crankshaft which is attached to the wind vanes.

<http://www.physorg.com/news90512153.html>

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear power plan defeated in court challenge

2/16/2007

The go-ahead for a new generation of nuclear power stations faces months of delay after the High Court ruled yesterday that the Government's consultation process had been "seriously flawed".

Alistair Darling, the Trade and Industry Secretary, immediately accepted the court ruling and promised a fresh consultation exercise even though he made it clear that the Government still backed nuclear power.

Another round of consultations will mean that a final decision probably won't be made until after Tony Blair's departure from No 10 in the summer.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/02/16/nuke16.xml>

BIOFUELS

Breakthrough '100% Green' Biofuels Technology Developed to Produce High Performance Fuels From Any Renewable Oil

2/13/2007

Diversified Energy Corporation

announced today they have agreed to the terms of an exclusive worldwide license with North Carolina State University for an innovative and breakthrough biofuels technology. The patent-pending process, termed Centia(TM), directly addresses President Bush's vision to reduce U.S. petroleum consumption by 20% and to increase the renewable fuels standard to 35 billion gallons per year by 2017. It provides several key advantages when compared with other biofuel processes like biodiesel, ethanol and others, including:...

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-14-2007/0004527769&EDATE=>

Sustainable Biodiesel: The Ecological Cost of Fuel

2/13/2007

Motivated to help the environment and support the American economy, many consumers of biodiesel go out of their way to get the fuel -- and pay a premium price for it. But what if, after all that effort, their biofuel contributed to deforestation in Asia, traveled across the globe using fossil fuels and actually encouraged global warming?

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47421>

ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

PG&E and BioEnergy Solutions Use Manure for Renewable Energy

2/14/2007

Under a recent agreement, BioEnergy Solutions will deliver up to three billion cubic feet of renewable natural gas a year to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to meet the electricity needs of approximately 50,000 PG&E residential customers in central and northern California. BioEnergy Solutions' first project will be to use manure from 3,000 dairy cows at the Vintage Dairy of Fresno County, California. The manure will be flushed into covered lagoons that will trap the methane gas produced as the manure decomposes. The methane will be "scrubbed" to remove carbon dioxide and corrosive materials to meet PG&E's industry environmental standards for power plants, then delivered to PG&E through the utility's pipeline.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47442>

OTHER LINKS AND REPORTS

Tackling Climate Change in the U.S.: Potential Carbon Emissions Reductions from Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by 2030

http://www.ases.org/climatechange/climate_change.pdf

Energy (R)evolution: A Blueprint for Solving Global Warming

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/usa/press/reports/energy-r-evolution-a-bluepr.pdf>

College Sustainability Report Card

<http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability/CollegeSustainabilityReportCard.pdf>

25% Renewable Energy for the United States by 2025: Agricultural and Economic Impacts

<http://www.agpolicy.org/ppap/REPORT%2025x25.pdf>

Curbing Climate Change: An Outline of a Framework Leading to a Low Carbon Emitting Society

http://www.vattenfall.com/www/vf_com/vf_com/Gemeinsame_Inhalte/DOCUMENT/360168vatt/386246envi/Curbing_climate_report.pdf

Global Risks 2007: A Global Risk Network Report

http://www.weforum.org/pdf/CSI/Global_Risks_2007.pdf

Eurobarometer: Energy Technologies: Knowledge - Perception - Measures

http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/pdf/energy_tech_eurobarometer_en.pdf

World Energy Technology Outlook 2050

http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/pdf/weto-h2_en.pdf

Annual Energy Outlook 2007

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/index.html>

Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm

Offsetting Emissions: A Business Brief on the Voluntary Carbon Market

http://www.bsr.org/meta/BSR_Voluntary-Carbon-Offsets.pdf

Freeing the Grid: How States Can Revolutionize U.S. Energy Policy

http://www.newenergychoices.org/dev/uploads/NNEC%20Net%20Metering%20Report_EMBARGOED.pdf

Climate Neutral Bonding: Building Global Warming at the State and Local Levels

<http://www.newrules.org/de/climateneutralbonding.pdf>

REN21 Renewables Global Status Report

http://www.ren21.net/globalstatusreport/download/RE_GSR_2006_Update.pdf

Impacts on U.S. Energy Expenditures of Increasing Renewable Energy Use

<http://www.energyfuturecoalition.org/pubs/RAND.pdf>

Managing Climate Risk: Integrating Adaptation into World Bank Operations

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/GLOBALENVIRONMENTFACILITYGEFOPERATIONS/Resources/Publications-Presentations/GEFAdaptationAug06.pdf>

Energy Independence: Record vs. Rhetoric

<http://home.ourfuture.org/reports/energy-independence-report.html>

Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Indices

[http://www.ey.com/Global/download.nsf/International/ECU_-_Country_Attractiveness_Indices_-_Q3-2006/\\$file/EY_CountryAttractivenessIndices_Q32006.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Global/download.nsf/International/ECU_-_Country_Attractiveness_Indices_-_Q3-2006/$file/EY_CountryAttractivenessIndices_Q32006.pdf)

Revisiting EU Policy Options for Tackling Climate Change: A Social Cost-Benefit Analysis of GHG Emissions Reduction Strategies

http://shop.ceps.be/BookDetail.php?item_id=1399

Trans-Mediterranean for Concentrating Solar Power

http://www.dlr.de/tt/institut/abteilungen/system/projects/all_projects/Projektbeschreibung_TRANS-CSP/Final%20Report%20in%20PDF/TRANS-CSP_Full_Report_Final.pdf

Powering a Sustainable Future

http://www.wbcsd.org/DocRoot/0d6TANhJQ0ZhGXGHDcJ3/powering_sustainable_future.pdf

Race to the Top: The Expanding Role of U.S. State Renewable Portfolio Standards

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/RPSReportFinal%2Epdf>

Getting Ahead of the Curve: Corporate Strategies That Address Climate Change

http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all_reports/corporate_strategies/index.cfm?source=prweb

A Three-Pronged Approach to Corporate Climate Strategy

http://www.bsr.org/meta/BSR_Climate-Change-Report.pdf

CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY: CHARTING A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

<http://www.energyfuturecoalition.org/pubs/EFCReport.pdf>

Climate Change – the Costs of Inaction

<http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/Climate-CostsofInaction.pdf>

Feeling the Heat: Global Warming and Rising Temperatures in the United States

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/1g/lt/1gltxsGFMOXT1fITnm5Ofw/Feeling-the-Heat.pdf>

A New Energy Future: The Benefits of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Cutting America's Use of Fossil Fuels

<http://connpirg.org/reports/Future.pdf>

American Energy: the Renewable Path to Energy Security

<http://images1.americanprogress.org/ii80web20037/americanenergynow/AmericanEnergy.pdf>

Global Wind Energy Outlook 2006 Report

http://www.gwec.net/fileadmin/documents/Publications/Global_Wind_Energy_Outlook_2006.pdf

Plugging the Gap Report

http://www.gwec.net/fileadmin/documents/Publications/RESGWEC-Plugging_the_Gap_report_01.09.06.pdf

Carbon Disclosure Project

<http://www.cdproject.net/cdp4reports.asp>

Climate Change and Insurance: An Agenda for Action in the United States

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/news/pubs/allianzwwf.pdf>

Wind Turbine Development: Location of Manufacturing Activity

<http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/WindLocatorShort.pdf>

Solar PV Development: Location of Economic Activity

<http://www.repp.org/articles/static/1/binaries/SolarLocator.pdf>

Repowering the Midwest: The Clean Energy Development Plan for the Heartland

Environmental Law & Policy Center, Citizens Action Coalition, et al

<http://www.repowermidwest.org>

Renewable Potential Maps – U.S. Census Division

U.S. Department of Energy - http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/reps/remap/e_n_c.html

ELPC Energy Project

Environmental Law & Policy Center - <http://www.elpc.org/energy/index.html>

Renewable Energy

Union of Concerned Scientists - <http://www.ucsusa.org>

About the Sponsor

Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana - <http://www.citact.org/newsite/index.php>

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