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LOCAL

New Energy Capital Announces Start of Production at Indiana Ethanol Facility On Heels of Bush Push for Renewable Fuels
1/24/2007
New Energy Capital Corp. today announced the first production of ethanol at the Iroquois Bio-Energy Company, LLC, a 40 million gallon per year ethanol plant located in Rensselaer, Indiana. Only the second dry grind corn ethanol facility to be built in Indiana, the Iroquois Bio-Energy Company, LLC employs 34 people and will process 35,000 bushels of corn per day. The IBEC facility is the first ethanol plant to begin ethanol production since President Bush's State of the Union announcement of a new initiative to replace 35 billion gallons per year of gasoline consumption with renewable bio-fuels.
http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070124005931&newsLang=en

NiSource May Sell Indiana Utility for $4 Billion, People Say
1/24/2007
NiSource Inc., the third-biggest U.S. natural-gas distributor, is close to selling its Indiana utility for as much as $4 billion, according to three people familiar with the matter.
Blackstone Group LP is advising NiSource on the possible sale of Northern Indiana Public Service, said the people, who asked not to be named because discussions of the matter were confidential. Duke Energy Corp. is the most likely buyer, the people said, and AES Corp., American Electric Power Co. and Exelon Corp. may also be bidding.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aUxq5zJSyAHw&refer=home

Rose Challenge X Team mixes energy education with Colts football
1/23/2007
Fans of the Indianapolis Colts learned about hybrid vehicles, crossover technology, and vehicle design and subsystem controls at a public education display by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's Challenge X team before the Colts' first-round playoff game.
The Challenge X team's GM Equinox sport-utility vehicle and several technological components were featured in the 12th Man Alley fan area near the RCA Dome in downtown Indianapolis. The display was arranged through the Colts' Office of Community Relations.
http://www.tribstar.com/features/local_story_023223456.html?keyword=topstory

King Coal's Latest Con Job: Clean Coal is Not Clean
1/23/2007
Proponents of Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology like that Duke and Vectren desire to use at Edwardsport, Indiana, loudly proclaim that IGCC is the answer to global warming since the technology makes its easier to capture carbon dioxide. Once captured, their pitch is that it can be "sequestered" for thousands of years in deep geological formations. Out of sight, out of mind.
In December 2006, the US Department of Energy finally admitted in a supplement to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an IGCC plant in Pennsylvania that, "DOE has considered the potential to reduce project CO2 emissions using geologic sequestration. This is not a reasonable option because sequestration technology is not sufficiently mature to be implemented at production scale during the demonstration period for the proposed facilities."
http://counterpunch.org/blair01232007.html

Manchester College Turns Frying Oil Into Fuel
1/23/2007
Manchester College students in northern Indiana are turning the oil that is used to fry their french fries at the campus dining service into biodiesel. The concept to take a waste product, like vegetable oil and convert it into something useful, began last year in the school's chemistry department. The college produced biodiesel now fuels the school's lawnmowers, a maintenance van and leaf blowers.
http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=21500

Duke Cliffside plans counter to report?
1/22/2007
A high-powered group including Duke Energy's Jim Rogers will unveil its plan today to address global warming by discouraging coal-fired power plant projects similar to one Rogers urged N.C. regulators to approve on Friday.
Opponents of Duke's proposal to build two 800-megawatt coal-fired units at its Cliffside facility west of Charlotte say Rogers is contradicting himself.
http://www.charlotte.com/mld/charlotte/business/16516094.htm

Duke Energy head grim on nuclear, urges swift Cliffside OK
1/19/2007
Duke Energy's chief operating officer urged state regulators Friday to give the utility permission as soon as possible to build a pair of coal-fired power units, saying the generators are the best option to meet future electricity demands.
With opposition to nuclear plants high and domestic supplies of liquid natural gas limited, the two 800-megawatt coal-fired generators proposed for the utility's Cliffside facility are the most reliable, acceptable way of serving its customers, Jim Rogers told members of the North Carolina Utility Commission.
"What are our alternatives?" he said. "Cliffside would be the least-cost under all the scenarios."
http://www.heraldsun.com/state/6-810908.cfm

Environmental Activists Organize
1/19/2007
Last week in Indianapolis, hundreds of environmental activists from every county in the state gathered to set goals and strategize on ways to reshape rural Indiana. I was able to attend one of their meetings, and it was quite an event. They listened to motivational speeches from their leaders who encouraged them to take the skills they had learned at the training session back to their home counties and put it into action. Not that these people needed much encouragement; they all were extremely passionate about the environment and most had years of experience in local community organization. More importantly, they had a plan.
http://www.hoosieragtoday.com/wire/comments/00001_Environmental-Activists-Organize_192207.php

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NATION

County to develop wind energy incentive policy
1/24/2007
The Floyd County Board of Supervisors plan to put an ordinance into place offering tax incentives to new wind energy operations.
A wind energy ordinance was discussed during the Supervisors' regular meeting on Tuesday and during a workshop on Monday.
"We plan on developing an ordinance in case anybody wants to come in and build a wind farm," said Supervisor Leo Staudt.
http://www.charlescitypress.com/articles/2007/01/24/news/news03.txt

Wind Power Capacity in U.S. Jumped 27% in 2006
1/24/2007
Wind power generating capacity increased by 27 percent in 2006 and is expected to increase an additional 26 percent in 2007, proving wind is now a mainstream option for new power generation, according to a market forecast released today by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA).
Wind's exponential growth reflects the nation's increasing demand for clean, safe and domestic energy, and continues to attract both private and public sources of capital.
http://www.gnet.org/news/newsdetail.cfm?Page=1&NewsID=34489

Renewable Energy Industry Reacts to State of the Union
1/24/2007
Proponents of the renewable energy industry quickly reacted to U.S. President George Bush's recent State of the Union Address, specifically those portions of his plans addressing solar and wind energy, cutting U.S. gas consumption 20 percent by 2017, raising the fuel standard for renewable fuels, and increasing battery research for hybrid cars.
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47224

Increasing Renewable Energy in U.S. Can Solve Global Warming
1/24/2007
Landmark analysis released by Greenpeace USA, European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) and other climate and energy advocates shows that the United States can indeed address global warming without relying on nuclear power or so-called "clean coal" -- as some in the ongoing energy debate claim. The new report, "Energy Revolution: A Blueprint for Solving Global Warming" details a worldwide energy scenario where nearly 80% of U.S. electricity can be produced by renewable energy sources; where carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced 50% globally and 72% in the U.S. without resorting to an increase in dangerous nuclear power or new coal technologies; and where America's oil use can be cut by more than 50% by 2050 by using much more efficient cars and trucks (potentially plug-in hybrids), increased use of biofuels and a greater reliance on electricity for transportation. The 92-page report, commissioned by the German Aerospace Center, used input on all technologies of the renewable energy industry, including wind turbines, solar photovoltaic panels, biomass power plants, solar thermal collectors, and biofuels, all of which "are rapidly becoming mainstream."
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/infocus/story?id=47208
http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/usa/press/reports/energy-r-evolution-a-bluepr.pdf

How green is your alma mater?
1/24/2007
Mine are only fair -- Duke got a B and Maryland a C. The Rockefeller-funded Sustainable Endowments Institute just released its College Sustainability Report Card 2007 (PDF).
They rate the schools in the categories of administration, food & recycling, green building, climate change & energy, shareholder engagement, investment priorities, and endowment transparency.
http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2007/1/24/82643/6991
http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability/CollegeSustainabilityReportCard.pdf

California air agency sues state utility officials over LNG
1/24/2007
The South Coast Air Quality Management District sued California public utility officials, claiming the liquefied natural gas that officials approved for use in the state could worsen air pollution. Energy providers plan to spend about $3 billion on the construction of seven natural gas terminals on the coast of California and Baja in Mexico. The air-quality agency alleges that natural gas could set back progress toward clean air. The lawsuits were filed with the California appeals court and the state Supreme Court.
The California Public Utilities Commission has approved a standard that will allow oil companies and other energy providers to burn the gas to generate power. Because imported liquefied natural gas burns hotter than domestic gas, it creates more pollution.
http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-18/1169672961325010.xml&storylist=orlocal

Public Continues Protest Against LNG
1/24/2007
More than 700 people attended the final Federal Energy Regulatory Commission meeting at Branford High School on Jan. 16 to oppose the construction of the giant liquefied natural gas terminal proposal for Long Island Sound.
"The decision would transcend generations and would disrupt our very way of life," said state Rep. Tom Drew, D-132, who testified before the FERC in opposition to the plant. "We should not even consider doing something this extreme unless the U.S. government adopts a realistic energy policy to reduce our dependence on foreign fossil fuels."
http://www.fairfieldcitizen-news.com/local/ci_5075226

Students gather signatures to petition for sustainable energy
1/23/2007
University of Florida students could pay a tuition increase of 50 cents per credit hour to support sustainable energy practices on campus if a student group is successful.
Gators for a Sustainable Campus has acquired 677 signatures since early fall in its campaign to get a referendum on the February Student Government ballot.
http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070123/LOCAL/70123026/-1/news

U.S. Wind Power Forecast to Rise in 2007
1/23/2007
Investors poured about $4 billion into new U.S. wind energy projects in 2006, boosting the nation's total wind-generation capacity by 27 percent, a trade group said Tuesday.
The American Wind Energy Association also gave a rosy outlook for 2007, projecting an increase of 26 percent in wind-generation capacity nationwide. The trade group credited the boom in wind power to growing electricity demand, higher energy prices and increased interest in clean energy.
http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/01/23/ap3353293.html

Grgich Latest Winery to Plug Into Solar
1/23/2007
Grgich Hills winery in Napa Valley has contracted SPG Solar to complete a PV installation that will produce 170.08 kilowatts DC of electricity during peak production hours. When combined with a solar system that SPG Solar installed in 2005, the PV system is expected to meet 100% of the winery's energy needs. SPG says that the system will pay for itself within five years.
Grgich isn't the only winery that has switched to solar power.
http://www.environmentalleader.com/?p=724

LNG project killed
1/22/2007
Harbor commissioners on Monday effectively killed a controversial plan to build a $750 million liquefied natural gas terminal in the port.

Citing a flawed environmental impact report, stalled negotiations and lack of cooperation from the federal government, commissioners decided to abandon the Sound Energy Solutions-backed project after meeting in closed session.
http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_5065750

Pioneering U.S. renewable energy lab is neglected
1/22/2007
Thirty years after it was founded by President Jimmy Carter, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory at the edge of the Rockies here still does not have a cafeteria.
Evaporation chambers for new solar energy systems look like they belong in an H.G. Wells movie. Technicians had to knock out a giant door from a testing facility to fit modern wind turbine blades, which now stick out like a bare toe from an old sock.
The hopes for this neglected lab brightened a bit just over a year ago when President George W. Bush made the first presidential call on the lab since Carter. He spelled out a vision for the not-too-distant future in which solar and wind power would help run every American home and cars would operate on biofuels made from plant residues.
But one year after the presidential visit, the money flowing into the primary national laboratory for developing renewable fuels is actually less than it was when the Bush Administration took office.
The lab's fitful history reflects a basic truth: Americans may have a growing love affair with renewables, with cutting oil imports and conserving energy, but it's a fickle one.
http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/01/22/business/lab.php

UNDERWATER POWER GENERATOR COULD BE WAVE OF CITY'S FUTURE
1/22/2007
The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for 28,000 acres of green space. When a new power plant on Randall's Island begins operating in 2009, the department will start managing another kind of green: renewable energy.
Using U.S. Department of Energy funds, the Parks Department is in final contract negotiations with a Highland, NY-based alternative energy firm to build a hybrid wind, solar and tidal-energy power plant on Randall's Island in the East River. The department hopes to start generating power on the island by 2008, said spokesman Ashe Reardon, but the contractor gave a more conservative estimate of 2009.
http://www.citylimits.org/content/articles/viewarticle.cfm?article_id=3258&content_type=1&media_type=3

Iowa joins effort to create greenhouse gas registry
1/22/2007
Iowa has joined several other Midwestern states in the development of a voluntary midwest registry for greenhouse gas emissions. Catharine Fitzsimmons, air quality bureau chief at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, says the registry has a couple of purposes. Fitzsimmons says it will provide Iowa industries a place to register where there greenhouse gases are and how the companies are reducing greenhouse gases.
http://www.radioiowa.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=3C35BA71-A562-76D8-C9EA16ADB1238A07

State report: solar power advances could add 3,000 jobs by 2020
1/19/2007
The state could create more 3,000 jobs and significantly reduce emissions if the public and private sector adopt new solar energy technologies, according to the Solar Roadmap Study released Friday by the Arizona Department of Commerce.
The 128-page report projects that up to 1,000 megawatts of solar energy could be implemented in Arizona by 2020, creating thousands of jobs and reducing airborne emissions by 400,000 tons a year.
http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2007/01/15/daily45.html?jst=b_ln_hl

Construction Starts at Camp Springs Wind Energy Center in Texas
1/19/2007
Construction started at the Camp Springs Wind Energy Center in Scurry County, Texas. The wind farm will consist of 87 General Electric turbines and will have an electric generating capacity of 130.5 MW. The project is scheduled to commence operations in June of this year.
http://www.energyonline.com/Industry/News.aspx?NewsID=7121&Construction_Starts_at_Camp_Springs_Wind_Energy_Center_in_Texas

World's wind-power leader eyes Weld site for factory
1/19/2007
A Danish company that dominates the global wind-energy market is close to announcing it will build a plant near Windsor that will provide at least 500 high-paying jobs and help put Northern Colorado at the forefront of the renewable-energy industry.
http://www.ncbr.com/article.asp?id=84865

Minnesota Power announces second wind energy project
1/19/2007
Minnesota Power, an ALLETE company (NYSE: ALE), plans to expand its use of wind generated electricity through the long-term purchase of all of the energy and capacity from a 48 megawatt wind facility proposed to be built in central North Dakota. The Oliver Wind II Energy Center would be constructed, owned and operated by a wholly owned subsidiary of FPL Energy. FPL Energy is a subsidiary of the FPL Group (NYSE: FPL).
http://www.businessnorth.com/pr.asp?RID=2129

AEP delays start of clean coal plants in Ohio, West Virginia
1/19/2007
One of the nation's largest power generators will delay construction of two clean coal plants in Ohio and West Virginia for at least six months after studies showed they will cost more than expected.
American Electric Power said the plants aren't in jeopardy and are still expected to go online between 2010 and 2015.
AEP told Ohio officials about the delay last week. It requested extra time in West Virginia, where an extension is subject to regulatory approval.
http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/business/16502519.htm

Tesco USA to get "world's biggest" solar roof
1/19/2007
Los Angeles-based Solar Integrated Technologies has struck a deal with British supermarket chain Tesco to build what it says is the world's biggest roof-top solar panel installation.
Solar Integrated said on Friday it had won a $13 million contract to put solar panels on the roof of Tesco USA's new distribution center in Riverside, California.
"Our BIPV roofing system will... provide a fifth of the depot's power supply, and save 1,200 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year," Solar Integrated Chief Executive R. Randall MacEwen said.
http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=technologyNews&storyid=2007-01-19T113629Z_01_L19820876_RTRUKOC_0_US-TESCO-SOLAR.xml

Pepco Energy Services Provides Wind Energy to Washington, DC's Historic Willard Hotel
1/18/2007
Pepco Energy Services, a subsidiary of Pepco Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: POM) and a leader in supplying renewable electricity, announced today that it has been awarded a contract to supply wind power to the historic Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, D.C.
The six-month contract which began in December calls for Pepco Energy Services to supply the 332-room Willard InterContinental Washington with nearly 2 million kilowatt hours of electricity generated from renewable resources per year. Facilitated by The Loyalton Group, an energy risk

management firm in Washington, D.C., the contract stipulates that ten percent of the energy will come from wind farms.
http://sev.prnewswire.com/oil-energy/20070118/DCTH06919012007-1.html

State Employees' Credit Union Members Support a Cleaner Energy Future for North Carolina!
1/18/2007
The State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation has partnered with NC GreenPower to support cleaner, renewable energy alternatives for North Carolina. The SECU Foundation will fund 1 kilowatt hour of renewable energy production in North Carolina for each of the 1.3 million members of SECU annually over the next four years -- a commitment to renewable energy in North Carolina of over 5.2 million kilowatt hours!
http://triangle.dbusinessnews.com/shownews.php?newsid=103864&type_news=latest

The 100% Solar powered home
1/17/2007
Michael Strizki heats and cools his house year-round and runs a full range of appliances including such power-guzzlers as a hot tub and a wide-screen TV without paying a penny in utility bills. His conventional-looking family home in the pinewoods of western New Jersey is the first in the United States to show that a combination of solar and hydrogen power can generate all the electricity needed for a home.
The Hopewell Project, named after a nearby town, has been developed at a time of increasing concern over US energy security and worries over the effects of burning fossil fuels on the climate.
http://empoweringsolar.blogspot.com/2007/01/100-solar-powered-home.html

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WORLD

338 exhibitors and 112 speakers to participate in ENVIRONMENT 2007
1/25/2007
338 exhibitors from 28 countries, 112 international speakers and more than 150 conference delegates will participate in ENVIRONMENT 2007, the Middle East's premier exhibition and its largest international conference dedicated to the environment.
http://www.ameinfo.com/108756.html

Piebalgs urges EU car emission cap
1/25/2007
The EU should set a cap on CO2 emissions from cars, EU energy commissioner Andris Piebalgs has said.
"I am in favour of mandatory requirements for car producers – the voluntary agreement is not giving the results we expected," he said.
Piebalgs' words are a clear mark of support for environment commissioner Stavros Dimas in the current dispute over how to deal with CO2 emissions from vehicles.
http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200701/023d1e7f-41f6-4c3e-bb75-7f50cc36c528.htm

Portugal govt hikes renewable power target for 2010 to 45 pct of usage
1/24/2007
Prime Minister Jose Socrates said he wants 45 pct of all electricity consumed in Portugal to be generated from renewable sources by 2010.
The target raises the government's existing goal by 6 percentage points.
'This ... will place Portugal in the front line of (EU countries using) renewable energy,' Socrates told parliament.

The government will also launch a micro-generation programme enabling householders to generate their own power and sell the excess to the electricity grid, Journal de Negocios online reported him as saying.
http://www.forbes.com/business/feeds/afx/2007/01/24/afx3357760.html

German renewable energy sector shows impressive growth
1/24/2007
In Germany, the renewable energy sector showed impressive growth on all fronts in 2006, reinforcing Germany's position as the European leader in terms of renewables. And Germany goes further; the environment ministry announced that they will almost double investments in renewable energy in 2007, to € 83 million, and Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel (SPD) announced plans for a draft law to promote and oblige the use of renewable heating.
http://www.greenprices.com/eu/newsletter/GPBE_37_070124/Germany.asp

20-km run for renewable energy
1/23/2007
Members of the first all-female team set to climb Mount Everest Monday staged a 20-kilometer run to spur the passage of the Renewable Energy Bill in the Senate.
From the MRT North Avenue Station in Quezon City, the athletes jogged to the GSIS Complex in Pasay City to hand over more than 350,000 petitions from around the country in support of the said bill, which languished in Congress for 10 years.
http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2007/jan/23/yehey/top_stories/20070123top5.html

Wind-powered energy increases
1/22/2007
Wind energy production in French-speaking Belgium reached about 120,000 MW/H (Megawatts per hour) in 2006. This production represents a 70 percent increase from the 2005 figures. These estimates might be a slightly over the actual production levels because four of the 40 wind turbines used to make the estimates where only put in service in October 2006.
http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?subchannel_id=48&story_id=35693

Surf club makes energy the lifesaver
1/22/2007
Wind and solar energy are the latest recruits for the Tathra Surf Life Saving Club.
In what is hoped will become a national pilot scheme, the Tathra Club is the first in the country to be totally powered from renewable sources.
Officially launched on Saturday, the project, which involves a wind turbine and solar modules, is a collaboration between the Clean Energy for Eternity group, the Bega Valley Shire Council and the Tathra Surf Club.
http://bendigo.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=lifestyle%20news&subclass=habitat&story_id=550130&category=environment

China Plans To Surpass Its Wind Energy Goal For 2010
1/22/2007
According to officials from the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), China plans to more than triple its wind power generation capacity by 2010.
The Chinese market was boosted as a result of the country's National Renewable Energy Law, which entered into force on Jan. 1, 2006. Because of this law and other initiatives, 1,050 MW of new capacity were installed in 2006 - up from 498 MW in 2004. The current government target is to install 5,000 MW of wind power capacity by 2010 and 30,000 MW by 2020.
http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.395

Canada's New Government Launches $300-Million ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative
1/21/2007
The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, unveiled his Government's plan to invest approximately $300 million over four years to promote smarter energy use and reduce the

amount of harmful emissions that affect the health of Canadians. At the Metro Home Show in Toronto, the Minister announced the ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative, which will encourage Canadian homeowners, businesses and industry, and the building/renovations sector to use energy more wisely.
http://www.oilvoice.com/Canadas_New_Government_Launches_300Million_ecoENERGY_Efficie/8545.htm

Enwave Energy to Supply Trump International Hotel and Tower in Toronto with a Clean, Reliable, Low Cost Cooling Alternative
1/19/2007
Enwave Energy Corporation, one of the largest providers of district energy in North America, today announced that it will provide the highly anticipated Trump International Hotel and Tower, currently under development in Toronto, with clean, reliable, sustainable, low cost air conditioning to keep its residents and guests cool with Enwave's innovative Deep Lake Water Cooling system. Enwave sources power from the icy cold water found deep within Lake Ontario. The lake water runs through the City's filtration system to Enwave's facilities where the energy is extracted from the icy water. It is this energy that is used to cool the buildings.
http://www.jeffreyteam.com/blog/toronto-condos/enwave-energy-to-supply-trump-international-hotel-tower-in-toronto-with-a-clean-reliable-low-cost-cooling-alternative/

Tories announce $1.5-billion renewable energy plan
1/19/2007
The federal government is putting $1.5 billion into funding alternative energy technologies, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Friday.
Harper said a 10-year incentive program, the so-called ecoEnergy Renewable Initiative, will be established to fund eligible projects to be constructed over the next four years.
He said the money could be spent on wind, solar, geothermal and other forms of renewable energy.
http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2007/01/19/tories-environment.html

TransAlta awarded 25-year power purchase agreement with New Brunswick Power, expands renewable energy portfolio
1/19/2007
TransAlta Corporation (TSX: TA) (NYSE: TAC) today announced it has been awarded a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement to provide 75-megawatts (MW) of wind power to New Brunswick Power Distribution and Customer Service Corporation.
Under the agreement, TransAlta will construct, own and operate a wind power facility in New Brunswick. Terms of the agreement are confidential. The capital cost of the project is estimated to be $130 million. The project is subject to regulatory and environmental approvals and is expected to begin commercial operations by the end of 2008. Natural Forces Technologies Inc., a local Atlantic Canada wind developer is TransAlta's co-development partner in this project.
http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=205280

PUBLIC POLICY

Florida PSC Adopts Rules to Promote Renewable Energy Generation
1/25/2007
To promote the development of renewable energy resources in Florida, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) adopted new rules designed to provide renewable energy developers more pricing options when entering agreements to sell energy to Florida's five investor-owned utilities (IOU).
The greater flexibility will help existing and potential renewable energy providers to finance new projects and strengthen the position of established facilities.
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47228

USDA to Propose $1.6 Billion for Renewable Energy
1/24/2007
Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns followed President Bush's State of the Union energy plan by announcing that the Administration's proposals for the 2007 farm bill will include $1.6 billion in funding for renewable energy.
The money would go towards research and production, with a focus on cellulosic ethanol.
"It remains a priority across USDA to support the development of biofuels. We will continue to build on current programs and turn the corner on renewable energy," says Johanns in a USDA release. "With biofuels coming to the forefront, American agriculture faces the greatest opportunity of a generation to lead a future in which we get our energy by the bushel and not by the barrel."
http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=C51B075770C74B62A3A72DD78D13DDC6

Montana Democrats Unveil Wind Energy Co-op Project
1/23/2007
Democratic leaders held a news conference today to announce legislation to establish an ambitious wind energy project in Montana.
Sponsored by Sen. Dave Wanzenried, D-Missoula, Senate Bill 337 would allow the Green Electricity Buying Cooperative (GEPCO) to issue $31.7 million in zero interest bonds to finance the development of two wind-power generation facilities.
http://www.newwest.net/index.php/topic/article/montana_democrats_unveil_wind_energy_co_op_project/C70/L37/

Colorado to Take Bold Steps in Renewable Energy
1/22/2007
Following in the footsteps of re-elected Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, newly elected Democratic Governor Bill Ritter from Colorado pledged to establish "....Colorado as a national leader in renewable energy" in his first State of the State address on January 11th.
As part of his proposal, Ritter, a former District Attorney for the City of Denver, has laid out infrastructure plans including assisting in the building of high voltage transmission lines to take advantage of wind power across Colorado's Great Plains, converting the State's fleet vehicles to a hybrid of flex-fuel and mandating energy efficiency compliance with new and renovated State Buildings.

In terms of technology, Ritter is planning to create a Clean Energy Fund to "...help with the technology transfer of research to the marketplace" as well as increase the use and development of bio fuels in Colorado.
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47179

Solar Power Goes to Washington
1/22/2007
In the 1939 film classic, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, Jimmy Stewart plays Jefferson Smith, a young idealistic senator forced to do battle against his corrupt political peers. It's a tough fight, but Smith ultimately wins the day, thanks to the support of a believing public and the strength of his convictions.
I was reminded of the movie this past week, when I learned that the Solar Energy Industry Association, whose members include BP's (NYSE: BP) BP Solar, SunPower (Nasdaq: SPWR), Kyocera (NYSE: KYO), General Electric (NYSE: GE), and scores of other smaller solar manufacturers, distributors, contractors, and installers, had established a political action committee.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16756697/

House Passes Environmental Bill Aimed At Providing Funds For Renewable Energy
1/19/2007
On Thursday the House of Representatives passed the CLEAN Energy Act (H.R. 6), which rolls back subsidies and tax breaks for Big Oil, by a vote of 264 to 163. The bill specifically aims to close certain tax loopholes available to big oil companies, and collect royalties from oil and gas produced in public waters. The legislation when enforced will shift more than $14 billion from certain subsidies to investments in clean energy, such as energy-efficient technologies and renewable power.
The bill was the final piece of legislation of the six items congress had on their agenda for their first 100 hours in office.
http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7006189837

New Mexico Expands Net Metering to 80 MW
1/18/2007
The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) unanimously approved a large expansion to the state's net metering policy late last week. The new rule will allow electric utility customers to net-meter electricity generated from renewable energy systems with a peak capacity of up to 80 megawatts (MW). Previously, net metering in the state was limited to systems smaller than 10 kW.
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47156

BUSINESS

Silicon Valley Solar Secures Agreement with Award Winning German Photovoltaic Module Manufacturer
1/24/2007
Silicon Valley Solar announced today that they have finalized an agreement with GSS that will accelerate the market introduction of the company's Sol-X2 internal concentrator solar modules. The contract defines specific product, process and equipment development that will be executed by GSS to ensure that SV Solar's module design can be seamlessly produced on the GSS manufacturing line.
"This is an important milestone in the scale-up of our company," offered Dave Shannahan, president of SV Solar. "We have been evaluating potential manufacturing partners to enable us to meet the demand for our module technology on an accelerated schedule. This agreement is a perfect complement to the 10MW purchase order we secured from Pacific Power Management in December."
http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070124005010&newsLang=en

Venture Capital/Private Equity investment in clean energy surges 167% in 2006
1/22/2007
Venture capital and private equity investments in clean energy companies saw a huge leap in 2006, increasing by 167% from USD 2.7bn to USD 7.1bn. The increase was driven by a surge in money flowing into the US biofuels sector. Solar, wind and other low carbon sectors such as energy efficiency, smart distribution and carbon markets, also saw significant rises.
http://renewableenergystocks.com/News/012207b.asp

Small Solar Modules Ideal for Remote Site Power
1/18/2007
SunWize Technologies announces a new line of single crystalline modules with FM approval for Class I, Division 2, Groups A, B, C, and D, Hazardous (Classified) Locations. The new SunWize(R) SL series includes 6, 12 and 24-watt modules. Manufactured in accordance to ISO 9002 standards, SL modules carry a 10-year, 80% power output warranty. Bruce Gould, VP

Sales, commented, "SL modules are very durable making them an excellent module for remote site locations. They are an integral part of our line of solar power solutions for industrial markets."
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47165

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change expert seeks expansion of carbon trading
1/25/2007
The foremost European expert on climate change, Nicholas Stern, called Thursday for a huge expansion of carbon trading with China and India, and described 2007 as a "year of opportunity" to step up efforts to tackle global warming.
Under an existing program, businesses in wealthier countries in Europe and Japan already are helping pay to reduce pollution in poorer ones as a way of staying within government limits for emitting climate-changing gases like carbon dioxide under the Kyoto Protocol.
http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/01/25/business/dstern.php

Climate Change More Extreme Than Thought, U.S. Study to Show
1/25/2007
The changing climate is more threatening than previously thought, a U.S. government study will show, the report's author said.
The six-month study was conducted for a U.S. national security entity and will be published officially in coming weeks, said Peter Schwartz, chairman of Global Business Network, a San Francisco-based consultancy that completed the work last month.
``The rate of climate change is much faster than we all think,'' Schwartz said at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. ``There will be many extreme large weather events. It is more urgent and catastrophic than we previously thought.''
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aMnXR8W0DC7k&refer=latin_america

Major Businesses and Environmental Leaders Unite to Call for Swift Action on Global Climate Change
1/22/2007
A diverse group of U.S.-based businesses and leading environmental organizations today called on the federal government to quickly enact strong national legislation to achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. The group said any delay in action to control emissions increases the risk of unavoidable consequences that could necessitate even steeper reductions in the future.
This unprecedented alliance, called the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), consists of market leaders Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, DuPont, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, PG&E, and PNM Resources, along with four leading non-governmental organizations -- Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, and World Resources Institute.
http://www.commondreams.org/news2007/0122-08.htm

New Warnings on Climate Change
1/20/2007
The main international scientific body assessing causes of climate change is closing in on its strongest statement yet linking emissions from burning fossil fuels to rising global temperatures, according to scientists involved in the process.
In fresh drafts of a summary of its next report, the group, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has said that it is more than 90 percent likely that global warming since 1950 has been driven mainly by the buildup of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping greenhouse gases, and that more warming and rising sea levels are on the way.
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/20/world/20climate.html?_r=1&em&ex=1169442000&en=ce71d6442fb49178&ei=5087%0A&oref=slogin

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SOLAR ENERGY

Demand for Solar Energy Products Expected to Reach $1.3 Billion in 2010
1/25/2007
Demand for photovoltaic modules is expected to more than triple from 2005 levels by 2010 to 531 megawatts, valued at $1.3 billion. Advances will be driven by the falling price of solar power, which stems from technological innovations, growing economies of scale and a rising level of government tax incentives and rebates at both the state and federal levels. However, if these incentives are scaled back or withdrawn prematurely, it would negatively affect solar energy product demand. These and other trends are presented in "Solar Energy Products," a new study from The Freedonia Group, Inc., a Cleveland-based industry market research firm.
http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=207452

Plextronics Receives Funds to Develop Plexcore PV for Organic Solar Cells
1/24/2007
Plextronics has received $750,000 in funding from the Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF) of Central Eastern Pennsylvania to further development of Plexcore PV technology for organic solar cells. Organic solar cells use extremely thin layers of plastic semiconductors, instead of silicon, to absorb light and create electricity. They can be lightweight, flexible, and can operate well even in low-light conditions. The semiconductors can be printed like inks resulting in a much lower cost of production.
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47214

The Solar Industry Continues to Gain Momentum
1/22/2007
There has been a lot of discussion recently about the "new" growth of solar power. But, in fact, solar has been around for decades. What is now "new" is the opportunity to dramatically expand solar by increasing access through economies of scale. A parallel can be drawn between solar today and the story of the automotive industry.
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/reinsider/story?id=47178

Is the Sun finally rising on Solar Power?
1/20/2007
In 1931, Thomas Edison had a conversation with Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone. He said, "I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that." We have waited 76 years, but an innovative company may have finally found a solution.
The sun supplies enough energy to earth in one hour to supply all of our energy needs for an entire year. But currently solar power produces less than 1/2 of 1% of our residential energy needs. Why?
In the past, solar power has been too expensive and too complicated. To switch to solar, people had to invest their children's college fund or sell their second car. The average consumer pays

$40,000 to convert their home to solar-plus you are responsible for the installation, maintaining the equipment, getting permits-who has the time (or the money)?
A company called Citizenre has a bold plan to remove all of the traditional barriers to solar power. They offer: No system purchase. No installation cost. No maintenance. No permit hassles. No performance worries. No rate increases. No way!?
http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47180

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear Power Is Not Clean, Green or Cheap
1/17/2007
Entergy, the energy conglomerate that owns of Vermont Yankee, the nuclear power plant that sits about a dozen miles from my doorstep, has launched an advertising blitz touting nuclear power as being "green."
…Certainly, in the search for alternatives to the carbon-based fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas that produce much of our nation's electricity, nuclear power appears to a clean and safe alternative.
Nuclear power is clean, if you overlook the fact that radioactivity is released in every phase of the nuclear production cycle from the mining of the uranium through the spent fuel that no one has figured out what to do with. Factor in the amount of carbon-based fuel used for uranium mining, fuel fabrication, reactor construction and waste storage, and nuclear power is closer to natural gas in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.
And nuclear power is safe, if you overlook the potential for meltdowns, malfunctions and terrorist attacks, as well as the potential for more nuclear weapons from the increased production of fissile materials from reactors.
http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne_randolph_070117_nuclear_power_is_not.htm

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BIOFUELS

AgResearch and Scion in biofuels research venture
1/24/2007
Two Crown research institutes, AgResearch and Scion, have formed a research programme with the United States-based Diversa Corporation which they say could ultimately see all New Zealand's vehicles powered by biofuels made from trees and grasses.
They say the partners have investigated ways, using Diversa's enzyme technology, to convert New Zealand trees and grasses into sugars; which can then be fermented and refined into ethanol and other fuels.
They expect to know within six months whether producing transport fuel from trees and other plant materials would economically feasible in this country.
http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/latest/200701240743/agresearch_and_scion_in_biofuels_research_venture

DTI boost for next-generation biofuels
1/22/2007
An Oxfordshire biotechnology company is set to develop a new low-cost 'next generation' biofuel, with £250,000 funding from the Department of Trade and Industry-led Technology Programme and £310,000 from shareholder investors and business angels.
Green Biologics Ltd plans to develop a way of manufacturing biobutanol, identified as a superior 'next generation' biofuel for transport, which will slash the cost of production by up to a third. Biobutanol is currently used as a chemical feed for stock but high production costs have prevented it being widely used as a fuel.
http://www.eemsonline.co.uk/press_releases/22-01-07

USSEC Energy Discovery Presented To Massachusetts Delegation
1/21/2007
Presenting at Northeastern University recently in Boston, Massachusetts, a biofuel discovery for producing green energy was recommended by U.S. Sustainable Energy Corp. to a group of Massachusetts officials and government leaders that included Senator John Kerry, Governor Deval Patrick, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, and other leaders from universities and local government. Highlights included an introduction to the Rivera Process, a major advancement for green energy that creates a quality organic-based fertilizer, while also producing biofuel and biogas natural byproducts at a very low cost. Unlike other biodiesel alternatives however, the USSEC biofuel has a thermal value similar to petroleum diesel, displays no corrosive behavior, and is resistant to all weather conditions up to -90 degrees Fahrenheit.
http://www.oilandgasonline.com/content/news/article.asp?DocID=%7B79811A57-ECF5-4140-97F4-313E1266CF54%7D&Bucket=Current+Headlines&VNETCOOKIE=NO

EMI study finds alternatives are cost competitive
1/2007
A three-year study conducted by the Energy Management Institute (EMI) concluded that alternative fuels are cost competitive with their hydrocarbon-based counterparts. EMI released some of the results of the study earlier this week.
The study was conducted by analyzing three years of pricing data collected from more than 80 urban areas across all 50 states. “We looked at the relationship between the cost of each fuel and the amount of energy one could buy on a BTU-equivalent basis, and compared those values to their gasoline and diesel counterparts in each market,” said Scott Susich, editor of EMI’s Alternative Fuels Index. “Next we had to look at the trends of those relationships to determine whether the results were atypical or part of a sustained pattern. In each case the data showed a continuing trend toward competitiveness.”
http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=2665

ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Consider geothermal energy, U.S. advised
1/22/2007
Geothermal energy is practical, economical and environmentally cleaner than other forms of energy, a U.S. panel led by experts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) reported Monday.
The study was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and is the first in about 30 years to take an in-depth look at the potential for extracting heat from rocks below the Earth's surface.
http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2007/01/22/mit-geothermal.html

Prometheus Energy producing LNG from world's first landfill gas-to-LNG plant
1/22/2007
Prometheus Energy Co said it began producing liquid natural gas (LNG) from the world's first landfill gas-to-LNG plant at the Bowerman Landfill in California.
This landfill currently flares enough landfill gas to make about 40,000 gallons of LNG per day, and this amount is increasing each year, said Prometheus.
http://www.hemscott.com/news/latest-news/item.do?newsId=38534446858868

OTHER LINKS AND REPORTS

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

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/il80web20037/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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