

Repowering Indiana Weekly - 2/2/07

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- Unique Aspect of the Report into the European Solar Cell and Solar Panel Manufacturers Is the Standardisation of Capacities
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- Global group to develop framework for climate change-related risk reporting
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- What the PV Industry Can Learn from Google

Nuclear Energy

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Energy Alternatives

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Other Links and Reports

LOCAL

Vectren rate hike request contested

2/1/2007

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor is recommending state regulators approve about half of Vectren Corp.'s requested natural gas rate hike.

In testimony filed this week, the consumer counselor office, which represents consumer interests in utility rate cases, recommended the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approve \$5.1 million of Vectren's requested \$10.4 million gas rate increase.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2007/feb/01/vectren-rate-hike-request-contested/>

Tallian Calls for Greater Public Scrutiny of Utility Providers

1/31/2007

Troubled by the soaring cost of energy in Northern Indiana, State Senator Karen Tallian (D-Portage) has authored Senate Bill 547, which would allow greater oversight of utility providers. Tallian's legislation would give authority to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to audit the records of gas and electric utility providers and their subsidiaries. Such scrutiny would give customers access to information on the operating expenses, profit margins, management structure and outside investments of utility companies.

<http://www.munciefreepress.com/news/story/2007/1/31/16225/2468>

IU gets D-plus on sustainability report

1/31/2007

Green bottles with the tagline "I Give a Sh*t" have become a common sight on campus. The bottle constitutes a measure to make IU an environmentally sustainable campus, but according to the Sustainable Endowments Institute, IU's list of such measures is not long enough. The institute gave IU a D-plus on its College Sustainability Report Card 2007, released Jan. 24. Only 20 of the 100 schools reviewed received D's.

<http://www.idsnews.com/news/story.php?id=40560&adid=campus>

NIPSCO flat-fee plan raises bills, group says

1/31/2007

Citizen advocates are sizing up a NIPSCO rate case that could mean a price increase for some gas customers, but would bring programs to help reduce utility bills.

Northern Indiana Public Service Co. has dubbed the program rate simplification. It's set for a hearing March 22 before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. The Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor and Citizens Action Coalition have intervened. They have until Monday to file written objection.

<http://www.post-trib.com/business/236256.flatfeeplan.article>

Indiana Michigan Power Identifies Test Sites For Studying State's Wind Potential

1/30/2007

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M), a Fort Wayne, Ind.-headquartered electric utility and subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP), has identified sites to test the economical and technical feasibility of building a wind farm in the state.

The company will install anemometers to test the wind conditions for approximately two years. After that testing period, I&M will determine whether to move forward with any wind projects. The utility has arranged leases with approximately 15 landowners to test the wind conditions - paying more than \$4,000 per year to lease the land.

http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.415

The hypocrisy of (coal) power

1/25/2007

Duke Energy CEO Jim Rogers made the news this week as part of an unusual coalition of corporate executives and environmental organizations calling on the federal government to impose limits on greenhouse gases. Known as the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, the coalition

has issued a blueprint titled "A Call for Action" promoting a cap-and-trade approach to controlling carbon dioxide emissions.

"We can and must take prompt action to establish a coordinated, economy-wide market-driven approach to climate protection," the coalition said in a letter to President Bush. Besides North Carolina-based Duke, the coalition's other members are Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, DuPont, Environmental Defense, Florida Power & Light, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, PG&E, PNM Resources and the World Resources Institute.

But at the same time Rogers is burnishing his green credentials by calling for limits on carbon emissions, he's pushing a plan for his company to increase such pollution.

<http://southernstudies.org/facingsouth/2007/01/hypocrisy-of-coal-power.asp>

NATION

Extracting Earth's Energy: U.S. Geothermal Ready to Tap Steam

1/31/2007

Geothermal energy may be about to enter the nation's alternative energy mix in a significant way. In a remote desert Idaho location, a new \$35 million geothermal energy plant is being constructed at a site where, 30 years ago, proponents believed geothermal promised a true energy breakthrough. This time, however, a new vision -- as well as a substantial federal tax credit, growing concern about global warming and high natural gas prices -- may make the critical difference in giving the technology real legs.

http://www.energycentral.com/centers/energybiz/ebi_detail.cfm?id=272

Utilities behind research

1/31/2007

A Knoxville lab will lead a multiyear research initiative to develop technologies for improved energy efficiency - an effort that its backers hope will lower consumers' electric bills and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Electric Power Research Institute, a nonprofit research and development firm, is launching the program backed by a coalition of more than 35 electric utilities, including the Tennessee Valley Authority.

EPRI's lab in West Knoxville will be the hub for the project, dubbed "Dynamic Energy Management." EPRI engineers will coordinate their research with utilities, universities, manufacturers and national labs such as Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/business/article/0,1406,KNS_376_5316914,00.html

Hydroelectric Upgrades Will Add 3.4 MW of Hydropower to New York

1/30/2007

Up to 3.4 megawatts (MW) of incremental hydropower will be added to New York's renewable power supply due to Brookfield Power's recent receipt of a capacity amendment to its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) operating license for the Lower Raquette River Project. More than \$12 million will upgrade equipment in the four hydroelectric generating stations on the Raquette River in St. Lawrence County, New York. When complete, the improvements will provide 24,912 megawatt-hours (MWh) of incremental renewable power.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47275&src=rss>

Therapeutics, Inc. Converts to Solar Power

1/30/2007

Therapeutics, Inc. recently completed installation of an 82kW solar electric system on the roof of their San Diego facility, down the street from their local utility company, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

Stacy Smith, M.D., co-owner of Therapeutics, Inc. asked Borrego Solar to perform a feasibility study for a commercial solar installation after they had installed a system at his personal

residence. Dr. Smith explains, "I was so pleased with how my system worked at home that when I learned of the additional financial incentives for commercial solar applications, I decided we should consider it."

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47283>

Utilities leaning on lobbyists

1/30/2007

Texas utility companies are poised to spend more than any other industry to lobby lawmakers this year, state records show, as the firms seek to keep permits for coal-fired power plants on track and stave off hard-nosed environmental standards and new controls on prices.

Energy companies have signed off on more than 350 lobbying contracts for 2007 and intend to spend between \$10 million and \$20 million protecting their interests this session, according to a *Dallas Morning News* analysis of state lobbying reports.

That's more lobbying money than has been earmarked for any other field, including health care, special interest groups and municipal governments – which have more lobbying contracts. And the utilities have hired some of the state's best-known lobbyists.

<http://www.kvue.com/news/local/stories/013007kvueenergylobby-cb.3437d031.html>

North Carolina Zoo Offsets Electrical Consumption with Renewable Energy Credits

1/30/2007

It takes a lot of electricity to run the North Carolina Zoo. Most of North Carolina's electricity is generated by coal, the emissions of which are found at the heart of climate change.

So when the zoo had the opportunity to offset some of its 2006 electrical consumption with a block of Renewable Energy Credits, (RECS) it leaped on the opportunity. They applied 400,000 Kwh to their Veterinary Hospital, and another 400,000 Kwh to their Streamside exhibit.

The renewable energy credits were generated by Bruce Cox, of Cox Electric, at a hydro electric facility on the Deep River which is not far from the zoo.

<http://events.biofuels.coop/2007/01/30/nc-zoo-moves-on-renewable-energy/>

Sterling Planet Provides Renewable Energy for Super Bowl XLI and NFL Experience

1/30/2007

Sterling Planet today announced a partnership with the National Football League (NFL) Environmental Program and Florida Power & Light (FPL) Sunshine Energy® program for business customers to make Super Bowl XLI and the NFL Experience Football Theme Park both 100% renewable energy events. This year's NFL championship game will be the first Super Bowl to use 100% renewable energy.

Sterling Planet has agreed to supply Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to indirectly offset greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with conventional electricity consumption at the events.

Sterling Planet and the FPL Sunshine Energy® program for business customers will provide Florida-generated renewable energy from solar and bioenergy sources in the name of Dolphin Stadium, the NFL and the South Florida Super Bowl XLI Host Committee.

<http://www.csrwire.com/PressRelease.php?id=7365>

Report slams Colorado coal power plant carbon emissions

1/30/2007

Colorado's four new coal-fired power plants would emit carbon pollutants in the air equal to the tailpipe exhaust from nearly 2 million cars on the road, according to a report released Tuesday. Authored by environmental groups, the report says those new and proposed plants would emit about 10.8 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, a 27 percent increase over the state's 2003 emissions of 39.6 million tons.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/energy/article/0,2777,DRMN_23914_5316378,00.html

Mesa State Student Group WeCAN Announces Largest Solar Panel Installation on a Western Colorado College Campus

1/30/2007

Western Colorado Action Network (WeCAN), a Mesa State College student organization, along with its partners -- Western Colorado Congress, Mesa State College, Xcel Energy, Mesa State's Associated Student Government and Shell Mahogany Research Project -- are pleased to announce the completion of a two-year effort, the installation of solar panels on the science building at Mesa State. It is the largest solar panel system on any collegiate campus in western Colorado.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/070130/latu096.html?v=85>

Washington state aims to build biofuels industry

1/30/2007

Washington state legislators are considering a bill to promote a biofuels industry in the state and require state-owned fleet vehicles to reduce use of fossil fuels.

A hearing on the measure is scheduled for Wednesday in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

In Oregon, Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski is pushing a "global warming initiative" in the Legislature that includes reduced greenhouse gas emissions, more renewable energy sources, biofuels, and tax credits to spur energy research and development.

The moves in the Pacific Northwest states mirror California's pioneering "green" programs to cap emissions of gases linked to global warming, expand the use of low-carbon vehicle fuels, and require gas and electric utilities to increase supplies of wind, solar, biomass and other renewable energy sources.

http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2007-01-30T202434Z_01_N30211912_RTRIDST_0_WASHINGTONSTATE-FUEL.XML

PG&E and The San Francisco LGBT Community Center 'Rays The Roof' With a New Solar Installation

1/29/2007

Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the San Francisco LGBT Community Center today celebrated the unveiling of The Center's new state of the art solar energy system. Senator Carole Migden, Assemblymember Mark Leno, San Francisco Treasurer Jose Cisneros and San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting joined the celebration along with several hundred community members who could see live readings of the new system's power generation and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions the system has avoided.

http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,51551.shtml

Solar Power Partners Introduces Hawaiian Solar Energy Fund

1/29/2007

To help building owners in Hawaii access renewable energy without investing their own capital, Solar Power Partners, Inc. (SPP) initiated a power purchase agreement (PPA) program for commercial buildings in Hawaii.

This coincides with the establishment of SPP LLC2, a renewable energy fund for investing in Hawaiian commercial solar energy facilities.

"The PPA model is the most effective energy financing method and now SPP is working in partnership with small and independent commercial businesses in Hawaii making solar most affordable," said Craig M. Hunt, Co-founder and CEO of SPP.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47256>

Iowa joins Midwest registry for greenhouse gas emissions

1/29/2007

Iowa, one of the top 25 green house gas emitting states, has now joined several other Midwestern states in the development of a voluntary Midwest registry for greenhouse gas emissions.

... The state environmental directors of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin signed a resolution in support of the registry. The resulting effort will provide a GHG reporting platform, provide information to support policy initiatives and assist companies with corporate GHG management strategies.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17778450&BRD=2703&PAG=461&dept_id=555107&rfi=6

EMG, State Of Illinois Reach Long-Term Renewable Energy Agreements

1/29/2007

Chicago-based Midwest Generation, a subsidiary of Edison Mission Group (EMG), has reached a long-term agreement with Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D-Ill.) to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere.

As part of the agreement, EMG and the state have committed to develop up to 400 MW of new wind power projects - provided the company can obtain commercially reasonable terms for building and selling the output from the projects. According to EMG, the company is the fifth-largest owner of wind energy projects in the U.S.

In addition, the plan calls to cut hazardous emissions at each of Midwest Generation's six plants in Illinois. This includes installing mercury controls at each facility by 2009.

http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.412

Sustainable energy institute to be created at UAlbany nanocollege

1/29/2007

Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering PC of Albany, N.Y., will locate a new business group at the state University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. The new business group is part of the creation of a \$3.5 million National Institute for Sustainable Energy to be located at the college.

EYP will staff the new group with 15 executives, managers, architects, designers and engineers.

At the new institute, EYP and the nanocollege will collaborate on projects focused on energy efficiency and new energy technology, among other things.

http://albany.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2007/01/29/daily5.html?jst=b_in_hl

The benefits of green building

1/29/2007

Incentives offered for energy-efficient construction

Mountains, ocean, forest—everywhere you look in the Pacific Northwest there is natural beauty.

And many of the people drawn to this area are motivated to protect it. Socially and environmentally minded individuals participating in the building industry have contributed to making the Pacific Northwest a leader in “green building”—building design that lessens the impact on the environment through energy efficiency, water conservation, use of sustainable materials, and responsible site development. Yet, even though it is now the fastest growing segment of the building industry, it is in its infancy, and area businesses are finding they still need to educate their clients on the benefits of green building.

Jason F. McLennan, CEO of the Cascadia Region Green Building Council, reports that the growth curve for green building is exponential. “It’s just exploding. It’s very exciting,” he says. The Cascadia area (Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia) claims the most Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-accredited professionals and green building projects than any other region.

http://www.skagitbusinesspulse.com/articles/2007/01/29/green_building/green_building.txt

Multi-Million Dollar Verdict Issued Against Gas Companies

1/29/2007

On Saturday, Jan. 27, a jury in Spencer imposed approximately \$134.3 million in compensatory damages and \$270 million in punitive damages against defendants in the case of Tawney, et al. v. Columbia Natural Resources (CNR) et al. in Roane County Circuit Court.

CNR is a former NiSource Inc. subsidiary, which was sold in 2003. NiSource, Columbia Energy Group and Chesapeake Appalachia LLC are named as defendants in the lawsuit.

<http://wowktv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=19289>

Solar project to highlight alternative power

1/28/2007

Southwest Junior High School will soon plug into the sun to teach students about alternative energy.

Sometime in April, solar panels that generate small amounts of electricity will be installed in a visible location at the school as part of a Solar 4R Schools national renewable energy demonstration project.

"We will actually be producing renewable energy," said Sarah Hill-Nelson, a Lawrence resident involved in the project.

A key part of the project is a Web-based interactive kiosk that will show students how much electricity is being generated and how the solar panels are reducing greenhouse gases.

http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2007/jan/28/solar_project_highlight_alternative_power/

State of the Union: Words vs. Action

1/28/2007

For the first time, President Bush acknowledged the threat of global warming during his State of the Union speech. He also presented a plan to increase fuel economy for cars that, if properly implemented, could offer serious cuts in the amount of global warming pollution generated in the United States.

Unfortunately, the president's proposal to reduce U.S. oil dependence doesn't go far enough to protect against dangerous global warming. We must set an overall cap on heat-trapping emissions for the entire economy- addressing transportation, electricity, and other sources of pollution. Although the president mentioned "changing the way America generates electric power" including advances in solar and wind energy-he stopped short of advocating for sensible legislation that would require utilities to produce 20 percent of the nation's electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar power by 2020.

Furthermore, the president failed to address that technological advances need to be based on unbiased, independent science. America can not effectively address the serious consequences of global warming if our scientists our being stifled by political interference.

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=57&ItemID=11974>

California Strives Toward Green Energy Goal

1/28/2007

California is steadily moving towards its goal of using more green technology and cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions, the main cause of global warming. The state is rejecting coal-fired electrical power and recently approved a major new wind project in the Tehachapi mountains.

California's three major utility companies aren't concerned with the coal ban. Less than one percent of their electricity comes from coal-fired power plants. However, other western states may be affected by California's decision, since the state is a big power customer.

While banning coal in itself will make a positive environmental impact, it will also spur green power technologies, like the Tehachapi wind farm, southeast of Bakersfield.

"Our goal is to provide 10 percent of California's electricity by 2020. We're at just about one and a half percent today. We think that's very achievable," said Nancy Rader of the California Wind Energy Association.

The \$2 billion project is financed by Southern California Edison and Rader says it will link the northern and southern parts of the state.

<http://kcbs.com/pages/191482.php?contentType=4&contentId=297163>

A "How-To" website for building Community Owned Renewable energy - nwcommunityenergy.org

1/27/2007

Ever thought about your community owning a wind turbine? How about a solar panel for your school? A new online tool nwcommunityenergy.org provides the nuts-and-bolts information on how to create locally owned renewable energy facilities. Developed by Seattle based non-profit Northwest SEED -- Sustainable Energy for Economic Development -- the website provides case studies, step-by-step best practices, and other helpful information for what can be a complicated process. While the site focuses primarily on a Pacific Northwest audience, the site reviews case studies from across the US and is applicable in any community project development setting. A 2006 University of Minnesota study concluded that community wind has five times the potential local economic benefit, and three and a half times the local job creation as corporate-owned energy projects.

<http://www.hugg.com/story/12676/>

Solar Home in Va. Getting High Marks

1/27/2007

State Sen. Frank Wagner is staying warm at his temporary address, even in below-freezing weather and without a traditional power supply or fireplace.

The Virginia Beach Republican, a proponent of alternative energy sources, is living for a week outside the Science Museum of Virginia in a solar-powered house designed and built by Virginia Tech students. He moved in Wednesday.

Using a remote control and a computer, Wagner is testing whether the award-winning home can generate enough electricity from the sun to run everyday home appliances _ and still have enough left over to send to Richmond's power grid or charge an electric car.

<http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2007Jan27/0,4670,SolarHouse,00.html>

Kyocera Solar, Inc. and H & H Solar Energy Deliver the Largest PV Installation in the State of Wisconsin

1/26/2007

Kyocera Solar, Inc., a world-leading supplier of photovoltaic (PV) systems, announced the completion of a 44.4 kW solar electric system atop Urban Ecology Center, a neighborhood based, non-profit community center located in Milwaukee's historic Riverside Park. The system is the largest solar electric installation in the state of Wisconsin to date.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47251&src=rss>

Borrego Solar Creates Sunny Electrical Future for 3 Santa Cruz Hotels

1/26/2007

Borrego Solar, Inc. is completing a series of solar electric system installations for three hotels in Santa Cruz, California. A 22kW system installed on the Sunset Inn is up and running, and the Best Western Inn (20kW) and Best Western All Suites Inn (51kW) are awaiting final electrical tie-in with the grid. The systems are designed to take the greatest advantage of the sun, to be unobtrusive, and to provide substantial cost savings to the owners due to tax credits, rebates and lower utility bills, in part funded by new Performance-Based Incentive (PBI) programs. In total these systems will produce enough energy to power more than 30 homes with renewable energy.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47253>

CAISO approves US largest wind energy transmission project

1/26/2007

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Board of Governors has approved the Tehachapi Transmission Project.

With the official approval of this US\$1.8 billion project, the starting gun has been fired for California's new energy economy. The project will accommodate 4,500MW of transmission capacity for new wind projects by 2013, with some segments coming on line as early as December 2008. The transmission project will tap wind in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area,

east of Bakersfield where 700MW of capacity is already operating and over 2,000MW of planned projects are under contract, including a recently announced 1,500MW contract with Alta Windpower Development LLC. In addition to Tehachapi wind, the transmission project lays the groundwork for the integration of large amounts of planned geothermal, solar, and wind generation in Inyo and northern San Bernardino counties.

<http://www.windtech-international.com/content/view/1039/1/>

Raser Secures Second 50-Year Geothermal Lease

1/25/2007

Raser Technologies has secured geothermal rights to the McGee geothermal lease properties in Nevada under the terms of a 50-year lease agreement. This is the second such agreement Raser has made as it pursues its development stage business plan to establish a geothermal power generation business.

"We suspect that the property covered by this new lease is part of a different geological fault structure than the majority of the previously leased properties and helps diversify our geothermal product opportunities," said Brent M. Cook, CEO of Raser.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47229&src=rss>

PSC approves FdL County wind farm

1/25/2007

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) today approved construction of We Energies' Blue Sky Green Field Wind Project in Fond du Lac County.

Approval of the wind project takes Wisconsin another step closer to meeting the state's new renewable energy goal to produce 10 percent of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2015, according to a press release from the PSC.

...In the verbal decision today, the Commission approved We Energies' request to build 88 wind turbines in a 10,600-acre project area in the towns of Calumet and Marshfield in Fond du Lac County. Each turbine will have the capacity of between 1.5 and 2.3 megawatts with a total project capacity of nearly 200 megawatts — enough to power approximately 45,000 residential homes.

<http://www.fdlreporter.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070125/FON0101/70125143/1985>

U.S. needs lesson in wind power

1/24/2007

Supporters say wind power is nearly ready for the mainstream market but President Bush's focus is on other resources and the public's response to wind lacks enthusiasm.

According to a new market study released Tuesday by the American Wind Energy Association, wind power generating capacity increased by 27 percent in 2006 to 11,603 megawatts and is expected to increase an additional 26 percent in 2007.

UPI-Zogby International poll participants, however, ranked wind near the bottom of a list of promising renewable resources despite recent growth in the industry. Out of five choices for most likely fossil fuel replacement -- including ethanol and biomass, solar, hydroelectric and thermal -- wind was only chosen by 4 percent of the 6,882 adults surveyed between Jan. 16 and 18. Also, given the same choices, 9.9 percent of participants chose wind energy as the most useful for the future. The poll had a margin of error of 1.2 percent.

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/energywatch/renewables/features/article_1251098.php/U.S._needs_lesson_in_wind_power

With solar power, ASME prepares for wave of future

1/24/2007

First there was the rowboat. Then the sailboat. Now propelled by gasoline, myriad high-powered machines clip across the sea, and some Northeastern students are part of the next evolutionary step of the boat.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is preparing to build a boat that will use only solar energy for power.

<http://media.www.nu-news.com/media/storage/paper600/news/2007/01/24/CampusLife/With-Solar.Power.Asme.Pre pares.For.Wave.Of.Future-2671313.shtml?sourcedomain=www.nu-news.com&MIIHost=media.collegepublisher.com>

WORLD

Abu Dhabi programme drives adoption of solar power

2/1/2007

Solar technologies are rapidly becoming a major focus worldwide as a sustainable energy source: and the Masdar Initiative, Abu Dhabi's landmark programme in sustainable energy, is driving the adoption of advanced solar technologies here in the UAE.

Projects already in active development in Abu Dhabi include both photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP), providing Masdar with broad coverage of the solar sector. Masdar's PV projects in development include a world-scale polysilicon factory in Abu Dhabi, which will provide the feedstock for additional activities such as PV cell and module manufacturing.

<http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/07/02/01/10101026.html>

Greenpeace urges Middle East to opt for nuclear-free power

2/1/2007

Greenpeace, an international environmental organisation, yesterday urged the GCC and other regional countries to go for renewable and sustainable energy to make the Middle East nuclear-free.

The call was made by Paul Horsman, the organisation's Peaceful Energy Campaign Coordinator, while launching a report on the region's future energy demand.

"We believe nuclear energy is not the answer to energy demand. It is dirty, expensive and dangerous. In this region, the best source is sun.

<http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/07/02/01/10100932.html>

Solar panels help cut Bristol council's carbon emissions

1/31/2007

Easton's Customer Service Point will be the first Bristol City Council building to benefit from the installation of solar photovoltaic panels.

Combined with other energy saving devices also being installed, it is anticipated that the project will help to save 44 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year from being pumped into the atmosphere.

The other energy saving devices being installed includes heating and hot water controls, loft insulation and low energy lighting.

The solar panel project will be launched on February 2 at 10am.

<http://www.24dash.com/localgovernment/15938.htm>

Geothermal Joint Venture Forms in Australia

1/31/2007

A new geothermal energy joint venture (JV) between Petrathern Limited and Beach Petroleum Limited (BPT) will enable the development of Petrathern's Paralana geothermal energy project.

This could enable Paralana, Australia's first large-scale commercial geothermal plant, to be producing electricity by the end of 2009, with potential to expand to base load supply. Paralana is currently 100%-owned by Petrathern and has -- in its first two development stages -- already

achieved one of the country's highest "hot rock" temperature indicators. Stage 3 will involve two new wells close to the Paralana test well, thermal resource definition, circulation tests and the establishment of an underground heat exchanger.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47288>

Europe needs eight actions to spur green power, says EC

1/31/2007

Europe must immediately develop eight main areas of action on green power, says the European Commission.

There must be an "Immediate lifting of administrative barriers, unfair grid access and complex procedures," it concludes in a communication to the European Council and European Parliament in 'Green Paper follow-up action: Report on progress in renewable electricity.' Member states must also "correctly and fully implement" the EU directive on electricity from renewables.

<http://www.sparkdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=72564333&accnum=1>

England plans 'greenest Olympic Games' with renewables

1/31/2007

The 2012 Olympic Games will install a range of renewable energy technologies, providing 20% of the Olympic Park and Village energy demand in the post-games period from renewables.

A 120 m wind turbine is proposed for Eton Manor (north of the park site) to generate electricity for the equivalent of 1,200 homes. If the facility is approved, construction will start next year with the turbine operational by 2010, and will provide power for 20 years.

In addition to the turbine, the Olympic Park will include biomass boilers to supply heat to the site, and organizers are investigating the potential for a microhydro scheme. Integrating ground source heat pumps and solar PV panels into the permanent venues in the park is also under consideration.

<http://www.sparkdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=25329227&accnum=1>

Siemens to Connect British 180 MW Capacity Offshore Wind Turbines to Grid

1/31/2007

Siemens Power Transmission and Distribution (PTD) is connecting the Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind parks, located in the north east of England, to the British power supply network. With 27 wind turbines each, the two wind parks have a combined generating capacity of 180 MW. The wind parks, which are located about 5 kilometers (3 miles) off the coast of East Lincolnshire, are operated by the British power and natural gas supplier Centrica Renewable Energy Limited. The turnkey power transmission and network connection system to be delivered by Siemens has an order value of about 17 million euros, and is scheduled to go into operation in December 2007.

<http://www.cleanedge.com/story.php?nID=4539>

Renewable-energy mandate could save \$96 bln a year

1/30/2007

A binding European Union target to buy 20% of all energy from renewable sources by 2020 would cut the region's fossil-fuel costs by about \$96 billion a year, according to figures from an EU official.

Achieving that target would curb demand for fossil fuels by about 250 million metric tons of oil equivalent a year, said Fabrizio Barbato, the deputy director general of energy and transport at the *European Commission*, the EU's regulatory arm. Barbato was speaking at the *European Renewable Energy Policy Conference* in Brussels. There are about 7.1 barrels in a ton and the price of oil today is about \$54 a barrel. It will be an „uphill battle," to prompt many EU members to agree to binding targets, because they are on average about a third of the way to the 20%, Jorgen Koch, an energy official in Denmark and former director of the International Energy Agency in Paris, told the conference.

http://www.bbj.hu/main/news_21974_renewable-energy+mandate+could+save+%252496+bln+a+year.html

Acciona and Suncor Energy begin construction on Ontario wind power project

1/30/2007

Acciona Wind Energy Canada Inc. and Suncor Energy Products Inc. today announced they have started full-scale construction on their 76-megawatt (MW) wind power project near Ripley, Ontario. The Ontario Energy Board recently granted regulatory approval for the wind farm's two substations and transmission line, completing the project's key regulatory requirements. The Ripley Wind Power Project will include 38 two-megawatt Enercon wind turbines, a transmission line and two electrical substations. The wind farm is located on the eastern shores of Lake Huron in Huron-Kinloss Township, approximately 220 kilometres west of Toronto and 140 kilometres north of London.

http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,52617.shtml

Lorentz delivers 750 photovoltaic tracking systems

1/30/2007

Lorentz has delivered 750 tracking systems for an 8-hectar solar park in Oberruesselsbach close to Nuremberg in Southern Germany. The project size is 1.7 megawatts and is the largest tracked solar power plant in Northern Bavaria.

Lorentz tracking systems work in off-grid systems as well as in solar parks for feed-in into the power grid. The fine tuning of the tracking systems for assembly with field-tested screw foundations is aimed at guaranteeing a smooth and quick erection on nearly all sub-soils.

<http://home.nestor.minsk.by/build/news/2007/01/3013.html>

Korowatt opens largest solar power plant in eastern Europe

1/29/2007

Korowatt said it opened the largest solar power station in the Czech Republic and eastern Europe in Busanovice, southern Bohemia, today.

The facility with a maximum planned output of 600 kilowatts can supply energy to 172 households. Construction costs amounted to CZK 85 million, of which nearly CZK 30 million came from the Industry and Trade Ministry.

The power station was connected to the distribution network today, with permanent operation to be launched on February 1.

http://www.praguemonitor.com/ctk/?story_id=w51069i20070130;story=Korowatt-opens-largest-solar-power-plant-in-eastern-Europe

Japan plans to raise goal for clean energy

1/29/2007

The government said Monday that it wanted to expand the amount of electricity that Tokyo Electric Power and other utilities were required to generate from solar power and other renewable energy sources.

The Trade Ministry said it had drawn up a plan requiring Japanese power producers to generate 16 billion kilowatt-hours of energy from renewable sources by March 2015. This would be an increase of 31 percent from the target of 12.2 billion kilowatt-hours, equal to 1.35 percent of total output, set for March 2010.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/01/29/business/renew.php>

Canadians Pick Kyoto Over New Environmental Plan

1/28/2007

Many adults in Canada believe an international accord should be the cornerstone of their federal government's environmental policies, according to a poll by The Strategic Counsel released by CTV and the *Globe and Mail*. 63 per cent of respondents think Canada should continue to try to keep its Kyoto Protocol commitments, while 30 per cent opt for a "made-in-Canada" plan. The term global warming refers to an increase of the Earth's average temperature. Some theories say that climate change might be the result of human-generated carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. 83 per cent of respondents believe global warming has the potential to harm the well-being of their children and grandchildren.

<http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/index.cfm/fuseaction/viewItem/itemID/14529>

Spain's renewable energy donation

1/28/2007

Serbia and Spain signed an agreement on a 240,000 euros-worth donation to support a renewable energy project.

Serbian minister of energy and mining Radomir Naumov and Spanish ambassador to Serbia Jose Riera Siquier signed an agreement last week on a Spanish donation of 240,000 euros to support the "Strengthening the centre for renewable energy sources of the Serbian Energy Efficiency Agency" project, the government says.

http://www.b92.net/eng/news/comments.php?nav_id=39308

We CAN have a Solar Sydney by 2010

1/26/2007

Climate change is the single greatest threat to Australia's way of life. It's mostly caused by pollution from three sources: transport, power (electricity) production, and food production. However there is a ready solution to one of the causes, power production, responsible for roughly a third of climate change. This clean power solution is not being used due to a failure in market regulation and government; it's called 'solar thermal'.

The technology is proven in Australia using Australian technology (at the Liddell power station in NSW, pictured), and there are two companies able to provide it (Solar Heat and Power and Wizard Power).

<http://www.chrisharris.org.au/?p=125>

Namibia: Citizens Take to Solar Power

1/26/2007

Consumers are turning to solar technologies and other energy-saving technologies in their numbers in a bid to save costs with ever rising electricity bills.

While private households are converting their conventional electric geysers to solar water heating ones, public institutions in education and health have also come on board.

Companies dealing in these technologies have seen a tremendous increase in their sales since early 2006, when power shortages especially in South Africa, which supplies Namibia with most of its electricity, became prominent.

Although some companies have been selling these technologies for the past decade or so, sales began to pick up once consumers got to know how much they could save on solar water heaters and energy-saving bulbs.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200701260577.html>

China Could Be World's Biggest Wind Power By 2020

1/26/2006

China is set to become the world's largest producer of wind power by 2020, when it could draw 150 million kilowatts (kw) from the gusts along its enormous coasts and vast deserts and plains, generating 10 percent or more of its needs. Currently, the country ranks seventh in the world for wind power production, leaping 30 percent on an annual average, since 2000 (350,000 kw) to 1.26 million kw in 2005. And in 2007, says one analyst, the country's wind power capacity is set to rise by 65 percent. All in all, China boasts a total capacity of 3.2 billion kw, of which one billion kw can be developed, according to the GWEC report. But coming anywhere near that capacity--and attracting more crucial foreign investment--will require reforms of the country's wind pricing mechanism.

http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/01/china_could_be.php

EU to launch sustainable energy campaign

1/26/2007

The European Union (EU) will launch the first EU Sustainable Energy Week next week which will see a series of events organized in Brussels and three other European cities to promote the use of energy with low green house gas emissions and to boost energy efficiency.

The event will bring together industry, public authorities and non-governmental organizations from across the 27-nation bloc to boost cooperation on sustainable energy, as a follow-up to the European Commission's recent proposal for an EU-wide energy policy.

http://english.people.com.cn/200701/26/eng20070126_344950.html

Cuban Renewable Energy Lab Wins International Award

1/26/2007

The Energy Globe, the world award for sustainability, was granted to the Renewable Energy Laboratory at the University of Oriente in Santiago de Cuba, in recognition of its efforts to find solar alternatives for energy generation.

The annual international prize, sponsored by the United Nations, the European Council of Renewable Energy, the World Bank and other international institutions, honors environmentally-friendly energy projects.

http://www.periodico26.cu/english/news_cuba/lab012607.htm

World Economic Forum - 'London must take lead on climate change'

1/25/2007

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone will say in Davos today that he aims to make London the world's leading centre for research and financial development on climate change over the next five years. The Mayor is in Davos to attend the World Economic Forum. He will be concentrating today (Thursday) on how government and business can work with cities to accelerate global emissions reductions. London established the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group - to accelerate emissions reductions in the world's largest cities. Last August the Mayor announced a partnership with the Bill Clinton's Foundation to take this forward.

http://media-newswire.com/release_1042208.html

CanWEA applauds Nova Scotia's renewable electricity expansion plans

1/25/2007

The Canadian Wind Energy Association

(CanWEA) welcomes today's announcement that the Nova Scotia government is moving forward with the implementation of mandatory renewable electricity targets. As a result of this announcement, by 2013, almost 20% of Nova Scotia's electricity will be generated by renewable energy. In particular, CanWEA applauds the move to only allow bids for renewable energy projects from independent power producers during the first target period.

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2007/25/c9417.html>

Solar-power flats in store at pub site

1/24/2007

A SUPERMARKET chain plans to open a store with a solar-panelled roof and wind turbines.

German-owned Lidl has applied to open the 1,165 square metre store on the site of the demolished Robin Hood pub in Longbridge Road, Dagenham.

The plans include 26 flats above the store, while the roof's green design features 11 five-metre-tall wind turbines generating electricity for communal areas and solar panels to heat up water for residents.

<http://www.bdrecorder.co.uk/content/barkinganddagenham/recorder/news/story.aspx?brand=RECOOnline&category=newsBarkDag&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsBarkDag&itemid=WeED24%20Jan%202007%2016%3A18%3A17%3A130>

Mozambique: Electrification of Rural Areas Using Solar Power

1/24/2007

The Mozambican government's Energy Fund (FUNAE) plans to instal 2,500 solar powered systems by the end of June in Inhambane and Sofala provinces, as part of the project for electrification of rural areas based on the use of renewable sources of energy.

Under the same project, about 300 schools and the same number of health posts in several provinces will be equipped with solar panels in the first six months of this year.

For this project, the World Bank is disbursing two million US dollars.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200701240668.html>

PUBLIC POLICY

Learning from European Renewable Energy Policies

2/1/2007

The United States has fallen well behind Europe in development of renewable energy. Although the U.S. was a global leader in solar and wind energy for some time, countries like Germany, Spain and Denmark have now taken the lead. But why?

Craig Morris, author of *Energy Switch: Proven Solutions for a Renewable Future*, says that Europeans have much more comprehensive energy policies and have thus been able to develop more renewable energy. Craig lives in Freiburg, Germany and writes extensively about the renewable energy industries. We'll talk about his new book, which offers suggestions for how the U.S. can develop better energy policies based upon the success of European countries like Germany.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/podcast?id=47281>

Michigan plan mandates renewable energy sources

2/1/2007

At least 10 percent of Michigan's retail electricity will come from wind, solar, biofuels, or other renewable energy sources by 2015 if legislators approve a plan unveiled yesterday by Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman J. Peter Lark.

The document, called the state's 21st Century Energy Plan, has been in the making since Mr. Lark was ordered by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in April to assess how the state could address its rising energy needs through diversified sources.

Mr. Lark said his plan "will grow our economy here in Michigan, while powering our state into the 21st century."

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070201/NEWS19/702010340>

Researchers Predict Future Of Federal Climate Change Policy

2/1/2007

The future of federal climate change policy is likely to include a host of strategies such as a national cap on carbon dioxide emissions, mandatory standards on renewable energy, mandatory efficiency standards on vehicles and products, and a national carbon dioxide cap-and-trade scheme, according to new research conducted by the University of New Hampshire.

Stacy VanDeveer, associate professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, evaluates current U.S. climate change policy and assesses future national strategies in "Political Science and Prediction: What's Next for U.S. Climate Change Policy?" published today in the journal *Review of Policy Research*. The article is co-authored by Henrik Selin of Boston University.

According to the researchers, the U.S. government has engaged in few efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and national emissions continue to increase. Their assessment of future federal climate policy is based on statewide, regional and private climate change efforts that have proven political influence.

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/527015/>

Renewable Energy Standard could pass through Senate as soon as Thursday

1/31/2007

A Renewable Energy Standard is expected to be discussed, constructed, amended, and passed out of Senate committee as soon as Thursday, according to Tarryl Clark, Senate Assistant Majority Leader DFL-St. Cloud.

The bill will likely be a hybrid of approaches to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the state, reduce greenhouse gasses, and decrease reliance on foreign oil, say

supporters. But opponents fear higher rates for utilities and rate payers, reliability problems for industry and a lack of flexibility overall.

http://www.grandrapids-mn.com/heraldreview/index.php?sect_rank=1&story_id=227637

House committee OKs bill to promote biofuels

1/31/2007

The U.S. House Science and Technology Committee approved legislation on Wednesday to promote the development of alternative biofuels and create the infrastructure to handle the supplies.

The legislation requires the government to carry out research to make alternative biobased fuels, such as gasoline made of 85 percent ethanol, compatible with existing infrastructure to store and deliver the fuels to the point of final sale.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/31/AR2007013101421.html>

U.S. research centre examines state solar access laws

1/31/2007

A research centre at the University of San Diego has released analyses on two of California's landmark solar access laws.

"The Solar Shade Control Act provides limited protections for solar collector owners whose devices are shaded by neighbouring trees and shrubs," explains the Energy Policy Initiatives Center. "These protections are limited because the Act contains specific requirements that determine which solar collectors are eligible for protections under the Act, including the function of the collector, the manner in which it was installed on the building, and the date the offending tree shrub was planted."

The "landmark law" was examined because its provisions are not well understood and California's solar market will grow significantly in the coming decade as a result of expanded financial incentives for solar energy systems, the authors explain. The paper provides research to help owners of solar collectors determine if they are eligible for protections under the law and to help tree owners determine if they are liable for an allegation brought under the legislation.

The other law, the Solar Rights Act, creates certain rights for homeowners and businesses to access sunlight for the purpose of creating energy, and defines how solar installations can be limited by government agencies and homeowner associations. It explains the ability of property owners to seek a solar easement to ensure access to sunlight across adjacent properties, and allows governments to preserve passive solar heating and cooling opportunities by requiring developers to create easements in certain subdivisions.

<http://www.sparkdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=85398501&accnum=1>

California regulator suggests plan to pay for transmission of green power

1/31/2007

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has been asked to approve a financing plan that would allow green power to be transmitted from remote locations.

The California Independent System Operator Corporation filed the request with FERC in a precedent-setting move that could have national implications, the state regulator explains. If the payment mechanism is approved, it would be an innovative method to remove financial barriers which hinder development of wind, solar, geothermal and other renewable energy resources.

<http://www.sparkdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=61042422&accnum=1>

100+ Groups/Businesses Tell Bush -- "Nuclear Power is Not 'Renewable'"

1/31/2007

In a letter sent today to the White House, 108 environmental, business, consumer, faith-based, and energy policy organizations refuted President Bush's oft-stated claim that "nuclear power is a renewable source of energy." The letter was also signed by 22 individual citizens.

...The groups object to the President's efforts to revive the nuclear industry by defining it as "renewable" so that it might be included in a future federal Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard or supported by federal tax incentives or research and development programs specifically designed to promote renewable energy technologies.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news2007/0131-14.htm>

Bush administration in hot seat over warming

1/30/2007

The Democratic-controlled Congress on Tuesday stepped up its pressure on President Bush's global warming strategy, hearing allegations of new political pressure on government scientists to downplay the threat of global warming.

Lawmakers received survey results of federal scientists that showed 46 percent felt pressure to eliminate the words "climate change," "global warming" or similar terms from communications about their work.

The scientists also reported 435 instances of political interference in their work over the past five years.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16886008/>

Washington State Considers Biofuels Incentive Bill

1/29/2007

Plenty of farmers and others in Washington state love the idea of growing crops to make clean-burning vehicle fuels to cut pollution and the nation's reliance on foreign oil.

The trick is to make producing "biodiesel" profitable. Now, the state Legislature is considering a bill that would provide incentives to increase the production and use of alternative fuel in the state.

"The issue is resonating well with legislators," said Clifford Traisman, a lobbyist for the Washington Environmental Council and other groups pushing the measure.

The incentives would go to farmers to grow crops like canola, and to various government entities to replace or retrofit big polluters like school buses.

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=101345>

Georgia Governor Perdue Introduces Biofuels Tax Credit

1/26/2007

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue today introduced a bill that would give a sales tax exemption for materials and equipment used in the construction of biofuel facilities in Georgia. The bill will be sponsored in the State House by Representatives Jim Cole and Larry O'Neal. The four percent tax incentive will be available to facilities producing and processing certain biofuels (ethanol, biodiesel and butanol) derived from Georgia-grown agriculture products and biomass.

<http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-18262.html>

Mayors Seek \$4 Billion Grant to Fight Global Warming

1/26/2007

More than 260 of the nation's mayors wrapped up the 75th Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors today with a call for a \$4 billion Energy and Environmental Block Grant to help cities combat global warming by increasing community energy efficiency.

"Cities are on the frontlines of the global warming issue with mayors leading the way. But we can't do it alone. We need the federal government to be a real partner with us on climate protection and achieving energy independence. That is why we are proposing an Energy and Environmental Block Grant," said Conference President and Trenton, New Jersey Mayor Douglas Palmer.

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2007/2007-01-26-09.asp>

BUSINESS

BP Selects Strategic Partners for Energy Biosciences Institute

2/1/2007

BP today announced it has selected the University of California Berkeley and its partners the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to join in a \$500 million research program that will explore how bioscience can be used to increase energy production and reduce the impact of energy consumption on the environment.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/pnews/070201/nyth115.html?v=80>

Delta chairman endows solar power research center

1/31/2007

Delta Electronics chairman Bruce Cheng on January 29 endowed Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), with NT\$100 million to construct a center for promoting green architecture, with NT\$40 million of the total being allocated to equip the building for research into solar power, energy and environmental monitoring, and green building research.

http://www.digitimes.com/bits_chips/a20070131VL203.html

Suntech Power Establishes Subsidiary in Europe

1/31/2007

Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. (NYSE:STP), one of the world's leading manufacturers of photovoltaic (PV) cells and modules, has established Suntech Europe Ltd., a wholly-owned corporation, as part of a natural evolution to expand its customer base as well as to deepen the service and support offered to its customers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). The headquarters for Suntech Europe will be in London with sales offices expected to be opened in key cities in the region commencing in 2007.

<http://www.earthtalk.org/archives/suntech-power-establishes-subsidiary-in-europe/>

HelioVolt and Exeltech Announce R&D Collaboration for CIGS-Enabled Solar Energy Systems

1/31/2007

HelioVolt Corporation and Exeltech today announced a joint development agreement to commercialize turnkey systems for cost-effective, reliable solar energy generation. The collaboration will draw on HelioVolt's proprietary FASST™ technology for rapid CIGS thin-film production and Exeltech's core competencies in high performance AC power system design and manufacture. Development and manufacture of the planned solar energy systems will take place at company headquarters in both Austin and Fort Worth.

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070131005225&newsLang=en

Suzlon expands its wind manufacturing

1/31/2007

Indian firm Suzlon Energy Ltd. recently announced plans for a manufacturing facility in China as well as a deal with a gearbox producer.

The new \$60 million Suzlon plant in Tianjin will be the largest comprehensive global manufacturing facility, the Press Trust of India reported. It will manufacture wind energy turbine generators as well as integrate rotor blades, generators, nacelles and control panels.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/25860.html>

Biggest U.S. Companies Fail to Disclose Climate Change Risks to Investors, Study Says

1/31/2007

Despite growing financial losses in various business sectors from climate change, over half of the nation's 500 largest publicly traded companies are doing a poor job of disclosing climate change risks to their investors, according to a report analyzing climate disclosure practices among S&P 500 companies last year.

The Ceres/Calvert report released today concludes that America's largest companies still aren't taking climate change seriously enough. Less than half (47 percent) of the S&P 500 companies responded to a global survey last year by the Carbon Disclosure Project requesting information about their climate risks and strategies, and those that did respond failed to provide much of the information investors are seeking. Nearly a third (30 percent) of the responders, in fact, declined to publicly release their responses, calling them "confidential."

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2007/01/31/76444.htm>

Solar chief sells photovoltaics and drives green

1/30/2007

Stephan DeLuca, the former COO, and now CEO, of solar cell manufacturer DayStar Technologies Inc. has just received a healthy \$50,000 pay rise, plus access to a healthy vehicle. DeLuca, who, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing, is allowed to replace his vehicle every two years has been given some green ground rules to follow when he goes shopping. His new vehicle must be a gasoline-electric hybrid, a fuel-efficient, low-emission diesel engine, or equally "environmentally friendly" automobile in keeping with his company's green image.

<http://www.autobloggreen.com/2007/01/30/reword-a-politically-correct-vehicle/>

Unique Aspect of the Report into the European Solar Cell and Solar Panel Manufacturers Is the Standardisation of Capacities

1/30/2007

Research and Markets (<http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/c49462>) has announced the addition of Market Survey of European Solar Cell and Solar Panel Manufacturers to their offering. Market Survey of European Solar Cell and Solar Panel Manufacturers includes key market trends in sales (2002-2006) and capacities (2002-2007) and individual profiles on the companies.

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070130005582&newsLang=en

Silicon Valley Solar and GSS to Manufacture PV Modules in Germany

1/30/2007

Silicon Valley Solar (SV Solar) finalized an agreement with GSS (Gebaude-Solarsysteme GmbH) to speed the introduction of GSS's Sol-X2 internal flat-plate concentrator solar photovoltaic (PV) modules.

"[GSS is] an integral part of the German solar industry, having won numerous awards and provided innovative solutions for companies such as Conergy AG, Q-Cells AG and Shell Solar GmbH," said Patrick Callinan, CEO of SV Solar.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47273>

Portfolio 21: Vestas Wind Systems Top Green Company of 2006

1/29/2007

Portfolio 21 has released its Top 10 financial performers among companies implementing environmental business strategies. The top performers in the fund posted returns ranging from 41 percent to 131 percent in 2006.

The fund identifies companies that recognize the opportunity that exists to save money by saving natural resources and by providing products, services and technologies that are needed to create a sustainable society, according to Portfolio 21. Specifically, Portfolio 21 seeks companies that understand environmental constraints and risks, such as climate change, and are changing the way they design products and develop business models to reduce their exposure to these constraints and risks.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2007/01/29/portfolio-21-vestas-wind-systems-top-green-company-of-2006/>

Vattenfall AB, Alcan Inc., Duke Energy Corporation, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) promoting evolution of global carbon trading

1/27/2007

Vattenfall AB (Nachrichten), Alcan Inc., (Nachrichten) Duke Energy Corporation (Nachrichten) and the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) will work with other leading industries and financial institutions to accelerate the evolution of carbon trading as one of the key components to addressing climate change. This cooperation was announced today at a press conference at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, where the theme of climate change has been heavily discussed.

<http://www.finanznachrichten.de/nachrichten-2007-01/artikel-7651032.asp>

GSA Locks in Electricity Savings: 17% is Renewable Energy

1/26/2007

World Energy Solutions announced that the General Services Administration (GSA) Northeast Region has finalized power supply contracts for several three- to five-year terms using the World Energy Exchange. GSA is expected to purchase 1.4 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity for federal facilities, of which 237 million kWh is expected to be from renewable energy sources. Jon Harvey, World Energy vice president pointed out that GSA is expected to realize cost-avoidance savings of approximately \$30 million, or 15 percent, over the life of the contracts.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47240>

SunTech Catches Some Air

1/26/2007

SunTech Power (NYSE: STP) announced yesterday that it has entered into an agreement to supply an 800-kilowatt Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) curtain wall to the Wuxi Airport terminal in China. (A BIPV is a solar panel that replaces traditional glass material on a building.) In conjunction with the deal to help supply solar power to Beijing's Bird Nest Stadium for the 2008 Summer Olympics, this announcement is another sign that SunTech is continuing to gain traction in China. This is good news, because there is neither a shortage of new building projects in the country nor a possibility that the demand for low-cost, clean energy solutions will lessen any time in the foreseeable future.

<http://www.fool.com/investing/high-growth/2007/01/26/suntech-catches-some-air.aspx>

AMSC Teams Up with Doosan Heavy Industries on Wind Energy

1/25/2007

American Superconductor Corp. (AMSC) has signed a large-scale wind generator development contract worth more than \$2 million with Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Co. (Changwon, South Korea), an engineering and construction contractor with 5,000 employees worldwide.

According to the agreement, AMSC's Windtec subsidiary will both design and help build and install a prototype 3-megawatt wind energy system for Doosan. Doosan, which specializes in the

construction of power and desalination plants, hopes to begin commercial production of the generators in late 2009.

http://www.assemblymag.com/CDA/Articles/Industry_Headlines/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_100000000000000039783

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

1/31/2007

As scientists sound daily alarms about the dire consequences of global warming, Americans are asking one question: *What can we do about it?*

The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has an answer: *Deploy clean energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies now!*

On Wednesday morning, January 31, 2007 at a press conference in Washington, D.C., ASES unveiled a 200-page report, *Tackling Climate Change in the U.S.: Potential Carbon Emissions Reductions from Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by 2030*. The result of more than a year of study, the report illustrates how energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies can provide the emissions reductions required to address global warming.

<http://www.ases.org/climatechange/>

Urgent warnings on climate

1/30/2007

NEARLY 20 environmentalists have scaled the Eiffel Tower to hang protest banners about the threat of global warming as the world's top climate scientists gathered nearby to issue a key report.

Greenpeace activists overnight climbed to the top platform of the 324m Parisian tower and unfurled three huge banners, one showing a thermometer topping out at 2 degrees celsius.

The European Union has set the target of limiting earth's global temperature rise to 2 degrees celsius or less by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial levels.

Another of the banners was inscribed with the slogan, "It's not too late", in an appeal to policy makers and governments to take action on climate change.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,21140883-661,00.html>

Architecture and Climate Change: An Interview with Ed Mazria

1/29/2007

Last year, Ed Mazria and his New Mexico-based non-profit organization, Architecture 2030, revealed that *architecture* – or the building sector, more generally – is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, worldwide.

To help prevent "catastrophic" climate change, then, the building sector must become *carbon neutral*. Reaching that state before the year 2030 is what Mazria has dubbed the *2030 Challenge*.

In an effort to speed things along, Mazria will be co-hosting an event, on February 20th, called the *2010 Imperative*. This will be a "global emergency teach-in" broadcast live on the web from New York City. The 2010 Imperative – discussed in more detail, below – has been specifically organized around the idea that "*ecological literacy* [must] become a central tenet of design education," and that "a major transformation of the academic design community must begin *today*."

I recently spoke to Mazria about climate change, sustainable design, and carbon neutrality; about the present state, and future direction, of architectural education; about suburban development, Wal-Mart, and SUVs; and about the 2030 Challenge itself.

What follows is an edited transcript of our conversation.

<http://bldgblog.blogspot.com/2007/01/architecture-and-climate-change.html>

Experts split over climate danger to Antarctica

1/28/2007

Serious disagreement has broken out among scientists over a United Nations climate report's contention that the world's greatest wilderness - Antarctica - will be largely unaffected by rising world temperatures.

The report, to be published on Friday, will be one of the most comprehensive on climate change to date, and will paint a grim picture of future changes to the planet's weather patterns. Details of the report were first revealed by The Observer last weekend.

However, many researchers believe it does not go far enough. In particular, they say it fails to stress that climate change is already having a severe impact on the continent and will continue to do so for the rest of century. At least a quarter of the sea ice around Antarctica will disappear in that time, say the critics, though this forecast is not mentioned in the study.

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/world/story/0,,2000533,00.html>

Global group to develop framework for climate change-related risk reporting

1/26/2007

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the formation of a new consortium, the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB), that will develop the framework for climate risk-related reporting by corporations.

The focus will be on the disclosure of the following key climate issues in company annual reports: total emissions; assessment of the physical risks of climate change; and strategic analysis of climate risk and emissions management, according to a WEF release.

CDSB members have agreed to report climate change-related information in a standardized way that facilitates easier comparative analysis by investors, managers and the public, says the press release.

<http://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=64743&issue=01262007>

World: Conference Focuses On Terror Potential Of Abrupt Climate Change

1/26/2007

Much of the attention devoted recently to global climate change has focused, understandably, on its causes and possible prevention. But a group of international experts gathered on January 24 for a conference, organized by a think tank focused on security issues, on the potential for extremists to use the effects of climate change to their own advantage.

Attendees at the conference focused on the large-scale security threats that could accompany catastrophic climate change.

It is an aspect of the challenge facing governments, in particular, as the impact of global warming becomes more clear.

<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/01/1cb42934-d759-46b3-a2e0-724b633e1804.html>

SOLAR ENERGY

What the PV Industry Can Learn from Google

1/31/2007

Topline Strategy analyzes how short early adopter periods can lead to prompt mainstream adoption.

The founder of research firm, Topline Strategy Group of Newton, Massachusetts, Jonathan Klein, has coauthored a research paper, "What the Solar Power Industry can Learn from Google and Salesforce.com," which compares the solar power market with the technology market sectors for early adopters. Written in conjunction with Robert Erlichman of Sunlight Electric, the authors point out many steps solar power market players can take to bring this industry to the next level, which is the homes and businesses of mainstream America: Create industry standards, implement financing, develop minimally invasive and more attractive technologies, make warranties transferable, and remove any identified barriers preventing mainstream adoption in the U.S.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/infocus/story?id=47280>

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Japan's largest utility admits falsifying data at nuclear power plants

1/31/2007

Japan's largest utility operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., has admitted it falsified data at its nuclear power plants for three decades in an attempt to easily pass compulsory government inspections.

TEPCO said it discovered falsifications of technical data on nearly 200 occasions from 1977 to 2002 at three nuclear power plants and reported them to the Trade and Industry Ministry as requested.

The company also found three cases of improper modifications at two thermal plants, it said. However, the modifications did not affect plant safety, the company said in a statement Wednesday on its website.

<http://www.oilweek.com/news.asp?ID=7360>

BIOFUELS

Biofuels not as eco-friendly as hoped

1/31/2007

Scientists say rising demand for palm oil in Europe is creating an environmental nightmare in Southeast Asia.

The popularity of the oil, adopted by European energy companies as a sustainable energy source, has resulted in the loss of huge tracts of Southeast Asian rainforest and the overuse of chemical fertilizer on palm plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia, The New York Times reported. A study released by researchers from Wetlands International and Delft Hydraulics in the Netherlands says the draining and burning of peatland to expand the palm plantations has sent huge amounts of carbon emissions into the atmosphere -- turning Indonesia into the world's third leading producer of carbon emissions after the United States and China.

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20070131-095228-3738r>

Study Burns Biofuels

1/31/2007

A new analysis by a team of Oregon State University economists concludes that biofuels offer only marginal progress toward energy independence and reduction of greenhouse gases and do so at a much higher cost than other alternatives.

The study found that the "net energy" from biofuels - the amount of energy in the end product after subtracting the amount of energy used to produce and distribute it - is as low as 20 percent for corn-based ethanol. That compares with 75 percent for standard gasoline.

Also, although each of the three types of biofuels studied would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the reduction would be as much as 200 times more expensive than other options, such as improving gas mileage or establishing a carbon tax.

<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2007/01/31/a1.biofuel.0131.p1.php?section=cityregion>

What Is The Real Cost Of Corn Ethanol?

1/28/2007

Corn is the most widely produced feed grain in the United States, accounting for more than 90 percent of total feed grain production. Around 80 million acres of land are planted to corn, with the majority of the crop grown in the Heartland region. Although most of the crop is used to feed livestock, corn is also processed into food and industrial products including starch, sweeteners, corn oil, beverage and industrial alcohol, and fuel ethanol. The United States is a major player in

the world corn market. Approximately 20 percent of its corn crop is currently exported to other countries.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced American farmers are expected to get 55 percent more for a bushel of corn in the 2006/2007 growing season than they received in the 2005/2006 growing season. *Average* annual prices are expected to increase from \$2.00 per bushel to about \$3.10 per bushel.

Thanks to Federal mandates and subsidies, corn used for the production of corn ethanol is expected to increase from ~ 700 M Bushels in 2000/2001, to 3.2 B bushels in 2007/2008 – an increase of 357 percent. On December 11, 2006, the USDA estimated 2006-2007 U.S. ending stocks would be 935 million bushels, down from 1.97 billion bushels in 2005-2006. That decreases the ending stocks by more than 50 percent and puts the ending stocks to use ratio at 8%, - the lowest in 11 years. It should be obvious to all, we are going to need a lot more acreage and big yield improvements if corn production is going to keep up to demand. Prices could exceed \$4.50 per Bu by the end of 2008. That's a price increase of 125% over 2005/2006 season prices.

Score one for the agribusiness lobby.

http://federalenergypolicy.blogspot.com/2007/01/what-is-real-cost-of-corn-ethanol_28.html

ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Renewables score high on survey of megacity leaders

1/31/2007

Environmental issues play a central role in urban planning but, in emerging cities, infrastructure growth often takes precedence over the environment, according to the 'Megacity' report.

The survey of 522 decision makers from 25 global cities was conducted by GlobeScan and MRC McLean Hazel research institutes, and supported by Siemens. The results were presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos for the first time.

Among energy experts, 48% said they intend to focus on promoting renewables in coming years. "In most countries, alternative energy contributes less than 10% to the total energy mix," explains George Hazel of MRC McLean Hazel. "Considering the interviews, alternative sources of energy will have a bright future in megacities."

<http://www.sparksdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=98374575&accnum=1>

Renewable Energy Grows Up

1/29/2007

If you had asked me a couple of years ago, I would have said that solar power, the fastest-growing segment of renewable energy today, is by its nature non-centralized: Power where it's needed, competing with retail prices.

This idea has become so ingrained in the photovoltaics (PV) industry that I find it cropping up on the websites of small solar installers, who liken rooftop solar to mobile phones. There's some truth to that idea, but there is more to the story.

My thinking shifted while listening to a company presentation* about the increasingly large scale of PV installations. There is a large and growing market, they reminded me, for solar power installations for major purchasers of electricity. This was around the time that Google announced their commitment to a 1.6 megawatt PV installation at their headquarters-the largest installation in the U.S. at the time and one of the largest in the world.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/reinsider/story?id=47252>

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.wbcds.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/i180web20037/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>

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

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