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Our Top Picks From This Week's Most Relevant and Interesting Business, Technology, and Legal News Relating to Renewable Energy. Week of 3-14-2010

INDUSTRY REPORT SAYS 10% OF US ENERGY FROM SOLAR BY 2030

WASHINGTON, DC - In its report "Building a Solar Future: Repowering America's Homes, Businesses and Industry with Solar Energy" Environment America claims that the US has the potential to obtain a large and increasing share of energy from the sun. Environment America is a federation of state-based, citizen-funded environmental organizations. Senator Bernie Sanders (VT) and three solar business executives joined Environment America to lay out their new vision for solar energy in the United States. The report finds that getting 10 percent of the nation's energy from solar energy within two decades is equivalent to the energy that the U.S. currently produces at nuclear power plants, more than half the energy currently consumed in American cars and light trucks, or nearly half as much energy as we currently obtain from burning coal. About 60 to 65 percent of commercial roof space nationwide is suitable for photovoltaics.

<http://www.environmentamerica.org/home/reports/report-archives/new-energy-future/new-energy-future/building-a-solar-future-repowering-americas-homes-businesses-and-industry-with-solar-energy>

CALIFORNIA TO ALLOW OUT-OF-STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS

SACRAMENTO, CA - California utilities can now purchase tradable renewable energy credits (TREC)s to meet the state's ambitious renewable portfolio standard. The state's utilities had previously been allowed to use only renewable energy credits (RECs) bundled with renewable energy generation. Tradable RECs, on the other hand, can be unbundled from renewable energy generation. Under California's aggressive renewable portfolio standard, state utilities must increase the amount of power they get from renewable sources to 20 percent by 2010 and 30 percent by 2020. By 2009, it had become clear that the state's utilities were not going to meet the 2010 goal. Unbundling RECs from generation allow California's utilities to purchase T-RECs from smaller renewable energy projects, including residential and commercial rooftop solar projects from both inside California and from other states within the Western Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

<http://sunpluggers.com/states/california/2010/03/tradable-renewable-energy-credits-to-generate-more-money-for-solar-owners-000127.php>

BAY STATE LANDFILL TO RECEIVE SOLAR ARRAY

FAIRHAVEN, MA - A plan to install a 500-kilowatt system at a capped landfill in the town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. The town will buy the electricity from the ground-mounted system for use at a local middle school through a 20-year power-purchase agreement with Blue Sky Solar of Boston, which will build and own the system.

<http://sunpluggers.com/states/massachusetts/2010/02/bay-state-landfill-to-receive-solar-array.php>



MIXED RENEWABLE NEWS FROM CANADA

OTTAWA, ON - The new Canadian federal budget fails to include money for a production tax instrumental in supporting wind energy projects. The Canadian Wind Energy Association said it was disappointed with the Canadian government's decision not to include the Renewable Power Program in the 2010 federal budget, although it is supposed to run through 2012. According to the CWEA, the country will not be able to compete with the United States' incentive program for new wind energy projects. But the feed-in tariff in the province of Ontario has approved the first tranche of large solar energy projects. Of the 510 projects approved by the Ontario Power Authority, 95% are for solar energy, with 20 biogas, four hydropower, three onshore wind and one biomass system. The feed-in tariff pays up to C\$0.71/kWh over 20 years for roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, with lower payments for ground-mounted solar and for other renewable energy technologies. Loblaw Companies, Canada's largest supermarket retailer, was approved for rooftop solar installations on 136 of its stores in Ontario. The company will launch four solar pilot projects in select stores and then evaluate the next phase of rollouts. Ontario's feed-in tariff is North America's first comprehensive guaranteed pricing structure for renewable electricity production. It offers stable prices under long-term contracts for energy generated from renewable sources.

http://www.canwea.ca/media/release/release_e.php?newsId=76

<http://www.renewableenergyfocus.com/view/7956/canadian-feedin-tariff-approves-solar-projects/>

<http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=1115&SiteNodeID=1052>

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE FAILS TO CLEAR WIND TURBINE HURDLE

WEST BARNSTABLE, MA - Cape Cod Community College's plans to erect a 243-foot-tall wind turbine on its West Barnstable campus was denied earlier this month by a regional historic district commission, despite having been approved by the state and the Federal Aviation Administration. The Barnstable Old King's Highway Historic District Committee found that the project's size of the turbine was simply inappropriate for the area. Neighbors to the proposed project claimed it would have a negative effect on their property values and quality of life. According to the college, the wind turbine would have produced more than one million kilowatt hours of energy and save the college an estimated \$170,000 annually.

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100303/NEWS/3030307/-1/NEWSMAP>

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO LIMIT ITC GRANTS TO USA MADE COMPONENTS

WASHINGTON, DC - Senator Charles Schumer (NY) and three other Democratic senators have sponsored a bill that would make payment of the investment tax credit grant subject to the Buy American requirements of the stimulus bill. Section 1603 of the stimulus bill passed last year provides tax credits or grants of up to 30% for wind, solar, geothermal and biomass renewable energy projects. The senators claim a significant portion of the grants paid so far have funneled more than \$1 billion to foreign companies based on a new report by a coalition of business, environmental and labor groups who claim the nation's reliance on foreign-made clean-energy equipment is costing the United States thousands of jobs. The report, cited by Schumer, was released by the Apollo Alliance, and estimates that 70 percent of the components for clean-energy equipment like wind turbines and solar panels is currently manufactured overseas and that if the trend is not reversed, it will cost the United States 100,000 jobs by 2015. The Energy Department has defended its allocation of stimulus funding to foreign companies developing renewable energy projects in the United States and claims an assertion made by the author of the American University analysis - that stimulus funding for wind energy projects had generated some 6,000 jobs overseas, and "maybe a couple hundred" in the United States - was "factually false." But at the hearing this month, a DOE spokesman said it is probably true that nearly 80 percent of the companies that received grants were overseas but the funding, together with the manufacturing tax credits, resulted in \$10 billion of foreign investment in the United States over the last year.

http://schumer.senate.gov/new_website/record.cfm?id=322931

<http://apolloalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/wtr3-2010final.pdf>



CHINA'S HUGE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM WILL DWARF US & EUROPE

BEIJING, CHINA - China is reportedly planning to produce 15% of its electricity from low-carbon technology by 2020, and to reduce its carbon intensity by 40-45% from the 2005 level. According to the government-owned newspaper *China Daily*, Zhang Guobao, head of the National Energy Administration, claims the Chinese program will stimulate fast and dramatic action in the renewable energy sector over the next five years and is pursuing smart grids more aggressively than any other country. To realize the goal, the government will invest billions in the construction of nuclear power stations, wind farms, solar power plants and research of renewable energy technologies. Official figures show that renewable energy accounted for 9.9 percent of total energy consumption last year, compared to 8.5 percent in 2008. Amid the global financial crisis, the government has decided to develop renewable energy as part of a stimulus package to keep the economy on the fast track. China is now taking the lead in solar and hydropower generation and its wind power installed capacity ranks fourth in the world.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2010-03/02/content_9521579_2.htm

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2010/03/14/1601s556424.htm>

DELAWARE GOVERNOR INTRODUCES CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT

DOVER, DE - If passed into law, Delaware's Clean Energy Jobs Act would create a longer-range target for the existing Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), with a 10-year extension of the existing standards, putting Delaware on course to receive 30% of its energy supplies from renewable sources by 2029. It would also seek uniformity in the RPS and include a local generation component to maximize the economic development potential from solar and wind. In theory, this would facilitate the potential installation of approximately 300 megawatts (MW) of new solar photovoltaic systems by 2029 and the potential installation of over 1000 MW of utility-scale generation, likely in offshore wind power. Additional jobs would be created by prioritizing Delaware renewable-energy projects and incentivizing the use of locally manufactured systems. The law remains to be drafted into a bill and approved by the state's general assembly.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100311/BUSINESS/3110335/1003/Markell-pushes-for-renewable-energy>

www.ieer.org/reports/NC-Wind-Solar.html along with an Executive Summary

MASSACHUSETTS COMPANY CONNECTS FLYWHEEL TO CALIFORNIA WIND FARM

TYNGSBORO, MA - Massachusetts' Beacon Power Corporation has shipped, installed and successfully connected a flywheel energy storage system at a wind farm in Tehachapi, California. The system is part of a wind power/flywheel demonstration project being carried out for the California Energy Commission to demonstrate advanced control technology with energy storage that can help expand the delivery of wind energy by effectively increasing the capacity of constrained transmission facilities in the area. Tehachapi, California, is a high-potential wind resource area where up to 4,200 megawatts of additional wind power may be added in the coming years. Energy storage and intelligent control technology have been identified by the DOE as key elements to modernize the country's electrical transmission systems and make possible more efficient delivery of power, along with a more flexible, robust, and reliable grid.

www.beaconpower.com



GLASS INVENTOR WINS \$72 MILLION LOAN GUARANTEE FROM DOE

FARIBAULT, MN - A Minnesota-based inventor of a breakthrough glass innovation with a window that can be switched on or off to reject up to 98% of the sun's heat and light on demand has received a total of \$103 million in Recovery Act funding. Sage Electronics has developed this electronically tintable glass that can be switched from clear to darkly tinted and back at the push of a button. According to the DOE, it could radically reduce world energy use, as it makes it possible to switch windows on or off, reducing building energy use by as much as 28%. "This investment will help cut utility bills, reduce carbon pollution, and create jobs our economy needs," said Energy Secretary Chu in granting the loan guarantee. "It's a perfect example of the power of American innovation to create a stronger economy and a healthier planet."

<http://www.energy.gov/news/print/8715.htm>

COURT UPHOLDS MAINE WIND FARM LAW

AUGUSTA, ME - Maine's state's highest court rejected arguments made by the Friends of Lincoln Lakes by reaffirming in a ruling this month the state approval of a \$130 million industrial wind site intended for northern Penobscot County at Rollins Mountain. The Court's unanimous ruling also upheld the constitutionality of a state law fast-tracking the permit process for Maine wind sites. The Evergreen Wind Power III LLC project is a 40-turbine industrial wind site intended for the Rollins Mountain ridgelines in Burlington, Lee, Lincoln and Winn. In opposing the Evergreen project, the "Friends" argued that the Board of Environmental Protection determination that the project met applicable licensing criteria with respect to noise and the effect on wildlife habitats was unsupported by substantial evidence in the record. The court disagreed and found the board's ruling requiring post-construction monitoring of the project's sound and wildlife impacts was reasonable and also ruled that the state could reasonably use the fast-track law to develop alternative sources of energy, such as wind power.

<http://www.lawriter.net/CaseView.aspx?scd=ME&DocId=131&Index=D%3a\dtSearch\INDEX\ME\MECASENC&HitCount=18&hits=15e+16d+188+189+18b+1c9+20c+29e+300+32d+36d+384+4ae+56f+58a+5b1+73e+900+&hc=28&fcount=2&fn=BEP-09-467&id=0&ct=1>

EUROPE COULD PASS GREEN ENERGY TARGET

EU is on track to surpass its goal of generating 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 according to national forecasts submitted to the European Commission this month. 10 out of the EU's 27 member states are on track to exceed their national targets for renewable energy, with a further 12 set to meet their goals using domestic sources of renewable energy. Five member states not meeting their quotas, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg and Malta, could also buy renewable power from other European Union members like Germany, which is on track to beat its quota. The commission is empowered to take countries to court if they fail to meet their objectives.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/265&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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