

April 28, 2009

House panel begins debate on climate bill

Washington Post - April 23

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has started work on the nation's first-ever limit on greenhouse gas emissions, sparking an intense round of lobbying in Washington as interests on both sides of the debate sought to sway undecided lawmakers. As lawmakers deliberated on the benefits and costs of placing a national cap on carbon-based emissions, electric utility executives, environmental advocates and clean-technology entrepreneurs alike made their case in front of the panel as well as behind the scenes. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) raised the possibility that the final version of climate legislation would not be ready a year from now, a day after vowing that the House would pass legislation "this year."

Renewable Energy Focus

Obama looks to offshore wind development

Recharge News - April 23

President Barack Obama has strongly endorsed fledgling efforts by private investors and states to develop offshore wind resources, saying the U.S. must lead the world on renewable energy. The U.S. is years behind Europe in developing offshore wind power and does not have a single project under construction. About one dozen projects have been proposed – mainly in the Atlantic Ocean, where the continental shelf is shallower and less rocky. Obama said that wind could generate as much as 20 percent of U.S. electricity demand by 2030 if its full potential is pursued on land and offshore.

California adopts low carbon fuel standard

Air Resources Board - April 23

California's Air Resources Board has adopted a regulation that will implement the Low Carbon Fuel Standard calling for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the state's transportation fuels by 10% by 2020. The new regulation is aimed at diversifying the variety of fuels used for transportation. It will boost the market for alternative-fuel vehicles and achieve 16 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2020.

U.S. may raise cap on grants for high-tech power grid

Washington Post - April 24

The Energy Department might revise its guidelines for \$4.5 billion in smart grid grants after major electric utilities complained that the proposed \$20 million-per-grant limit was too low to encourage commercial-scale deployment of advanced technologies. The smart grid spending is supposed to both create jobs and improve the efficiency and reliability of the electricity grid by lowering peak demand, reducing energy consumption, integrating more renewable energy sources and easing the pressure to build new coal-fired power plants.

U.S. wind power industry employs 70% more people

Energy Business News - April 15

The U.S. wind power industry directly employs about 85,000 people today, a 70% increase from a year ago, according to a new report from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). The trade association's annual wind industry report found that 10 new manufacturing facilities went online in the past year, while 17 were expanded and another 30 new facilities were announced. The new facilities are located in 24 states, so the economic benefits are being distributed around most of the country.

California solar subsidies could reach 70%

Ventura County Star - April 22

Californians could receive government subsidies for more than 70 percent of the cost of installing solar energy panels at their homes, under a bill by Sen. Tony Strickland that advanced today in the Legislature. Strickland, a conservative Republican, is proposing the state provide tax credits to individuals to cover 30 percent of the cost of installing solar panels or other renewable energy devices on their properties. The proposed new state income tax credits would be in addition to a 30 percent federal tax credit and state solar energy rebates of 10 percent to 15 percent that are funded by electricity ratepayers.

Oregon sets sights on biomass

Portland Business Journal - April 24

Oregon is inching away from biofuel and toward biomass as a focus for their renewable energy developments. The federal stimulus bill includes \$800 million for biomass research, and a bill before the Oregon State Legislature proposes to allocate \$100,000 to create a biomass business plan. The global biomass industry will converge on Portland next week for the second-annual International Biomass Conference & Expo. Local firms are creating a quiet surge of activity in biomass energy using a diverse array of feedstocks from municipal waste to cow manure to the state's never-ending supply of forest trimmings.

Solar downturn weeding out the weak, report says

Mercury News - April 18

The current downturn in the solar industry will make it stronger by winnowing out the weakest players, according to market research firm iSuppli. "For years, the PV (photovoltaic) industry enjoyed vigorous double-digit annual growth in the 40 percent range," Henning Wicht, senior director and principal analyst, said in a report. Wicht says an "ever-rising flood of market participants attempted to capitalize on this growth," which led to overproduction at a time of declining demand. Wicht said the biggest reason for this year's slowdown was a huge drop in expected solar installations in Spain, which had accounted for 50 percent of worldwide installations in 2008. But much like the PC shakeout in the mid-1980s, the solar downturn will lead to a better balance between supply and demand, Wicht said.

Clean tech serious target for venture capitalists

Baltimore Business Journal - April 17

Clean tech will be the largest sector for venture capital investment in the next several years, according to the chief of the National Venture Capital Association, Mark Heesen. In regions across the U.S. clean tech is a growing focus for business leaders and companies looking to capitalize on the need for alternative energy and new advances in biotech. Venture capital clean tech investment in the U.S. hit a record \$4.1 billion in 2008, up from \$1.4 billion in 2006, according to the PwC MoneyTree Report. Despite the momentum, Heesen believes the U.S. is playing "catch-up" with the rest of the world.

Notable renewable energy projects and deals

Southern California Edison signs 20-year wind energy deal

International Business Times - April 16

[Southern California Edison](#) has signed an agreement to buy 90 megawatts of power from a wind farm developed by Seattle-based [Ridgeline Energy](#) and BP Wind Energy. The agreement is valid for 20 years and the company will buy the power from the Goshen II farm in Bonneville County, east of Idaho falls. The agreement between the companies has yet to be approved by the California Public Utilities Commission. Construction is expected to start in 2010.

SAP solar buy boosts top-ranked Palo Alto renewable program

Palo Alto Daily News - April 23

[SAP Labs](#) has become the largest renewable energy customer in the PaloAltoGreen program, committing to buy more than 2.6 million kilowatt-hours of wind and solar power annually. That's the equivalent of one large-scale wind turbine. The solar power is expected to reduce the load of the company's regional computing center on the electricity grid during peak hours. Other major PaloAltoGreen customers include Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Roche Palo Alto.

First large-scale wind turbine at a Marine Corps facility

Navy Compass - April 22

The first, large-scale wind turbine project has been installed at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow in the Mojave Desert of

Southern California. The wind turbine will generate an average of more than 3,000 megawatt hours of renewable power each year for the base's consumption in lieu of brown power. The base will save annually about \$515,000 based on current energy rate. © 2009 JDSUPRA™
http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=995c808d-9877-493a-8139-5e3b049a7beb

Solar firms poised to lease out systems

The Arizona Republic - April 24

[American Solar Electric Inc.](#) in Arizona is partnering with California's [SunRun](#) to offer solar-electricity systems for lease, allowing people to generate their own electricity for \$1,000 up-front rather than buying a system for several thousand dollars. Similar financing programs that remove the initial financial burden from installing the systems have drawn the interest of thousands of people in Arizona as utilities and energy companies strive to get more people making their own energy. SunRun will monitor, maintain, repair and insure the systems.

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Events

WINDPOWER 2009

Conference & Exhibition

May 4-7, 2009

Chicago, IL

Recent Opportunities

Hand in Hand: Fuel Funding & Regulation

California Energy Commissions Extends a Helping Hand to the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Industry

Renewable Electric Power RFP (Palo Alto, CA) &

Fuel Cell Power Generation RFP (Inland Empire, CA)

San Diego County Water Authority Solar Power Projects Request for Proposals

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[Energy Related Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 May Help California Reach State Renewable Energy Goals](#)

[Pending California Legislation Mandates Dramatic Increase in Renewable Energy Resources](#)

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