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Energy & Clean Tech Connections

April 2012

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In the April edition of *Energy & Clean Tech Connections*, we've gathered recent information from a wide variety of sources in an effort to keep you abreast of new developments in the world of clean energy. We draw your attention to the latest industry developments, news from local governments to Capitol Hill, grant opportunities, and upcoming events.

This month, our client [Practically Green](#) was selected by the organizers of the [Fortune Brainstorm GREEN Conference](#) as one of the presenters at Great Green Ideas of 2012. Considering that GreenBiz named "Green Gamification" one of the top trends to watch in their [State of Green Business report](#) earlier this year, founder Susan Hunt Stevens was ahead of the curve in 2010 when she started a company to provide fun sustainability engagement programs to organizations. Hearty congratulations to Practically Green for developing a simple digital tool that motivates people to live sustainably.

On Capitol Hill, the House passed a short-term transportation bill, and is using the extension as a vehicle to go to conference with the Senate on a two-year, \$109 billion reauthorization ([S. 1813](#)) of federal transportation programs. The Surface Transportation Extension Act ([H.R. 4348](#)), which extends transportation funding from June through September 30, was approved 293-127. Notably, the transportation bill includes approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, in spite of the president's threatened veto, and a controversial measure to disallow the EPA's regulation of coal ash. Meanwhile, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies approved a \$32.1 billion energy and water appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013, paving the way for markup by the full committee. The bill would provide \$26.3 billion for the Department of Energy, a \$358 million reduction from current funding levels and \$1.8 billion below the president's request for 2013. The Senate Appropriations Committee cleared its \$33.4 billion energy and water spending bill and will now consider amendments. The [bill includes](#) language authorizing the Energy Department to set up one or more interim nuclear waste storage facilities. While it cuts \$373 million from fiscal 2012's spending level, it would give a bump to renewable energy and efficiency programs and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy. Recently, the House Science, Space, and Technology Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee and the Energy and Environment Subcommittee held a joint hearing to discuss tax policies. The debate focused primarily on the Section 1603 Treasury grant program and the cost effectiveness of renewable energy tax incentives, with Democrats praising the programs, and Republicans criticizing them as expensive, and unsuccessful at creating jobs.

In upcoming events, we hope to see you at the [Cleanweb Hackathon](#), May 4-6 in Boston. Come to connect with developers, designers, and business professionals dedicated to optimizing resource use and accelerating clean tech development. The [6th Annual ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#) will also in Boston next month from May 7 to May 8 and will bring together investors, financiers, utilities, and policymakers to learn about the latest in financing, capital, and deal-sourcing for energy efficiency. For our readers

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involved in clean transportation, we recommend attending the [2012 Alternative Clean Transportation Expo](#) in Long Beach, CA May 15-17, 2012. The event will bring together buyers, sellers, and project developers, and showcase the advancements and successes taking place in the field.

We hope that you enjoy this month's edition of the newsletter. For the most up-to-date information on federal legislation and programs, read the most recent [ML Strategies Energy & Environment Update](#) and check back for weekly updates.

Mintz Levin's Monthly Incubator Profile

This month, instead of our normal incubator profile, we would like to introduce you to the semi-finalists in the [MIT Clean Energy Prize Program](#), an annual contest offered by the MIT Clean Energy Prize, MIT Enterprise Forum, and NSTAR Electric. The competition, which is now in its fifth year, takes a different approach to supporting clean tech innovation by offering \$20,000 prizes to three teams, who then have the opportunity to demo their projects at the [2012 National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition](#) in Washington D.C.

This year's [fifteen semi-finalists](#)' ideas are innovative and bold, ranging from electricity-generating solar windows, to waste heat recovery technology in automobiles, to solar lighting solutions for rural areas without access to electricity. At the end of the month, one winning team will be selected in each category: renewable energy, energy efficiency, and deployment and infrastructure. For our Boston-based readers, we encourage you to check out the competition's [showcase and award ceremony](#) on April 30, 2012.

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In the News: United States

Comverge, Inc. Announces End of "Go Shop" Period
Market Watch – April 26, 2012

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Harvest Power, With \$100M+ in Revenue, Raises \$110M in Tough Cleantech Market
Xconomy – April 12, 2012

[More info...](#)

Hydrogenics and Embridge join forces in C\$5m Deal
New Energy World Network – April 23, 2012

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First Wind Secures \$76m Funding to Build Bull Hill

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Wind Project

New Energy World Network – April 23, 2012

[More info...](#)

Renewable Electricity Generation Up Considerably in Most US States

Clean Technica – April 23, 2012

[More info...](#)

How to Interpret Q1 Greentech VC Numbers

Greentech Media – April 20, 2012

[More info...](#)

Cogenra and Kendall Jackson Unveil Nations Largest Rooftop Solar Array

Clean Edge – April 20, 2012

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Banco Santander Take \$125m Stake in Arizona CSP Project

Recharge News – April 20, 2012

[More info...](#)

Butamax Taps Fagen for First Ethanol to Butanol Conversion Plant

Bloomberg Businessweek – April 19, 2012

[More info...](#)

The Pending Subsidy Cliff, And the Way Out

Renewable Energy World – April 19, 2012

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The Networked Grid 100: The Movers and Shakers of the Smart Grid in 2012

Greentech Media – April 19, 2012

[More info...](#)

U.S. Faces Clean Energy Bust as Subsidies Expire, Report Warns

CNN – April 18, 2012

[More info...](#)

40 Hottest Partners in Bioenergy and Bio-based Products

Biofuels Digest – April 16, 2012

[More info...](#)

Oakland's BrightSource cancels IPO at 11th hour

San Francisco Chronicle – April 13, 2012

[More info...](#)

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Q1 2012 Green Investment Falls Off a Cliff

Greentech Media – April 12, 2012

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Greentech IPO Spring: BrightSource, Enphase, Enerkem, Luca Debut

Greentech Media – April 9, 2012

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Efficiency Programs Spent Well Over \$1.1 Billion in 2010 According to ACEEE

Clean Edge – April 9, 2012

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Global Clean Technology Venture Deals Rise While Dollars Fall in 1Q 2012

Clean Edge - April 6, 2012

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The Chinese Try to Harness the Nevada Sun

Bloomberg Businessweek – April 5, 2012

[More info...](#)

Sapphire Energy Announces \$144 Million Series C Funding

PR Newswire – April 2, 2012

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Renewables Expand 27% Since 2008, Now 12% of Domestic Energy Production

Clean Edge – April 2, 2012

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Enphase IPO Raises Half of Goal After Shares Price at Bottom

Bloomberg Newsweek – March 30, 2012

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In the News: Europe and Asia

Clean Energy Crowdfunding – Crowdfunding Wind & Solar Projects in the UK

Clean Technica – April 23, 2012

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US Re-takes Lead in Clean Energy Race from China – But Not for Long

Renewable Energy World – April 20, 2012

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How Chinese Panels Are Impacting the European Solar Market

Renewable Energy World – April 20, 2012

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Introducing an Air-breathing Battery That Could Power a Breakout Electric Car

GigaOM – April 19, 2012

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Grid Storage Market Will Grow to \$113.5 Billion, According to Lux Research

Clean Edge – April 19, 2012

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China to Give Stimulus for Development of Electric Vehicles

Bloomberg – April 18, 2012

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Asia Report: Are China's Sinovel, Goldwind Seeking Vestas Takeover?

Renewable Energy World - April 16, 2012

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China's Xinjiang Goldwind Says Q1 Profit Could Be Wiped Out

Reuters – April 13, 2012

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US Retakes Lead From China in Clean Energy Race According to Pew Report

Clean Edge – April 13, 2012

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The Wheels of Chinese Justice Turning Slowly Toward US Wind?

Greentech Media – April 11, 2012

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EU CO2 Target Upgrade to List Price to 12 Euros

Daily Herald – April 10, 2012

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China Sets Waste-to-Power Price Double That of Coal-Fired Plants

Bloomberg – April 10, 2012

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Wind Power Seen Surging as Custom Barges Cut Set-up Costs

Bloomberg – April 10, 2012

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Everyone Wins in Latest UK Smart Meter Plans

Greentech Media – April 9, 2012

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Solar Panel Maker Q-Cells to File for Bankruptcy

BBC – April 2, 2012

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Government Financial Assistance

Grants

Renewable Energy Incentives for Homes & Businesses

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Tax Incentives and Rebates

Federal

Federal Business Energy Investment Tax Credit

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Federal Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit

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Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency

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Federal Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction

Application Deadline: January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2013

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State

California Self-Generation Incentive Program

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California Property Tax Exclusion for Solar Energy Systems

Expiration Date: December 31, 2016

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Massachusetts Incentives/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency

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Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: Commonwealth Wind Incentive Program – MicroWind

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Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: Commonwealth Solar II

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Energy Efficiency Programs Offered by Massachusetts Utilities

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BIRD Energy: U.S.-Israel Joint Renewable Energy Grants

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New Generation Energy Grants, Loans & Microloans

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GE Ecomagination Challenge: Powering the Grid

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The Energy Foundation Grants

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The Carbon Trust: Entrepreneurs Fast Track

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Federal and State Happenings

Obama vs Romney on Energy (Chart)

Clean Technica – April 22, 2012

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Bill Slashes Funding for Clean Energy Investment

Greentech Media – April 20, 2012

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Wow: California Votes NO On Fossil Fuels

Sustainable Business – April 20, 2012

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Cuomo Wants to Streamline Permit Process for Solar Projects

The Business Review – April 20, 2012

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House Clears Highway Bill with Keystone Pipeline Mandate, Thwarts Obama

The Hill – April 18, 2012

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Obama Energy Aide Strongly Backs Biofuels

Biofuels Digest – April 18, 2012

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Energy Department Report Finds Major Potential to Increase Clean Hydroelectric Power

DOE - April 17, 2012

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Obama Administration Announces New Partnership on Unconventional Natural Gas and Oil Research

DOE – April 13, 2012

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Energy Department Announces \$2.5 Million to Advance Technologies for Clean-Burning, Efficient Biomass Cookstoves

DOE – April 13, 2012

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Congressional Districts with Best Wind Capacity Are Republican

Greentech Media – April 13, 2012

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Secretary Chu Announces \$30 Million for Research Competition to Develop Next Generation Energy Storage Technologies

DOE – April 11, 2012

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Energy Department's First-Ever "Apps for Energy"

Competition Begins Today

DOE – April 5, 2012

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CT Approves \$1B in Renewable Energy Credits

Hartford BusinessJournal – April 4, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – April 22, 2012

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MA Senate Bill Would Revise Incentives for Renewable Energy Development

Mintz Levin – April 17, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – April 15, 2012

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IRS: Value of Facility-Specific Power Purchase Agreement Capitalized into Basis of Wind Facility

Mintz Levin – April 12, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – April 8, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

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Events

May

Solar Summit 2012

Phoenix, AZ

May 1-2, 2012

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Cleanweb Hackathon

Boston, MA
May 4-6 2012

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The 6th Annual ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum

Boston, MA
May 7-8, 2012

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Reznick Group Renewable Energy Conference

Dana Point, CA
May 7-9, 2012

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World Renewable Energy Forum

Denver, CO
May 13-17, 2012

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2012 Alternative Clean Transportation Expo

Long Beach, CA
May 15-17, 2012

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Western Region – Joint Venture SV – Silicon Valley Energy Storage Symposium

Mountain View, CA
May 30, 2012

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June

AWEA Wind Power Conference and Exhibition

Atlanta, GA
June 3, 2012

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The Small Wind Conference

June 11-13, 2012

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Renewable Energy World Conference and Expo Europe

Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany
June 12-14, 2012

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Cleantech Conference and Showcase 2012

Santa Clara, CA
June 18-21, 2012

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Cleantech Open National Conference

San Jose, CA
June 21, 2012

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6th Concentrated Solar Thermal Power Conference and Exhibition

Las Vegas, NV
June 27-28, 2012

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September

Renewable Energy Markets 2012

September 23-25, 2012

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