

Energy & Clean Technology

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Energy & Clean Technology Connections: Your Law Firm Link to Industry News

MAY 2013

In the May edition of *Energy & Clean Technology Connections*, we've gathered recent information from a wide variety of sources in an effort to keep you abreast of what's new 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, the Energy & Clean Technology Practice would like to highlight the [New England Women in Energy and the Environment \(NEWIEE\) Third Annual Awards Gala](#) held on May 8. The event recognized the leadership and achievement of four outstanding women in the energy and environmental fields by honoring Susan Coakley, Mary Beth Gentleman, Rebecca L. Tepper, and Sue Tierney. The event was anchored by a special keynote address from Commissioner Cheryl A. LaFleur of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. If you are not already a part of this terrific organization, we encourage you to [become a member](#)! Mintz Levin is proud to be a part of this wonderful organization, and particularly this great event.

In Washington last month, President Obama released his [proposed FY 2014 budget](#), which aims for a 17% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2020. The budget asks for increased funding for many renewable initiatives and programs, including making permanent the wind production tax credit, and advocates for continued work on the renewable fuels standard. Of the items outlined in the budget, President Obama included support for extending master limited partnerships (MLPs) and real estate investment trusts (REITs) to renewable energy projects. Separately, Senator Coons (D-DE) introduced the [Master Limited Partnerships Parity Act](#) to accomplish that goal. The bill has bipartisan support and was cosponsored by Senators Jerry Morgan (R-KS), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

In other news, Senator Max Baucus's (D-MT) impending retirement at the end of this term leaves his chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee open at the start of the next Congress. The committee oversees energy tax policy and Senator [Ron Wyden \(D-OR\) is next in line](#) for the position on the Democratic side, considering that Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) is also retiring.

On April 10, the Senate confirmed Sally Jewel as the Secretary of the Interior with an 87 – 11 vote. Secretary Jewell was sworn in on April 11. On April 9, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee considered the nomination of Ernest Moniz as Secretary of Energy. Mr. Moniz stressed the need for a low-carbon economy and an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy during his hearing. Although Mr. Moniz [garnered 21 of 22 committee votes](#), Senator Lindsey Graham announced that he would place a [hold on the nomination](#). Additionally, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on Gina McCarthy's nomination to head the EPA. On April 25, the Senate panel focused

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more on the EPA's [e-mail transparency practices](#) than on any regulations or rules that Ms. McCarthy might pursue. No vote on her confirmation has been held as of publication. ML Strategies is confident about their nominations and looks forward to working with both of them following their confirmations.

In upcoming events, our very own Tom Burton will be featured as the keynote speaker at Gexpro's Energy Summit in Dallas, Texas from May 21 to 22. Gexpro, a worldwide energy leader, will host electrical contractors, energy service providers, original equipment manufacturers, and members of the oil and gas industries, to discuss the future of energy production in a changing energy marketplace. The summit will focus on creating energy solutions to reduce energy use, increase efficiency, reduce operational costs, and support energy production initiatives, mainly in the solar arena. Tom will speak about the governmental and private energy movements in the United States, particularly on the Gulf Coast.

Mintz Levin's Energy & Clean Technology blog brings you the latest information and events impacting the energy and clean technology industries. The blog includes in-depth analysis from the Associates and Members that work within our Energy & Clean Technology Practice. Please visit the following link that will bring you directly to the blog: <http://www.energycleantechmatters.com/>

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](#).

Mintz Levin's Monthly Innovator Profile

Although one of the nation's longest-established clean energy incubators, the [Austin Technology Incubator \(ATI\)](#) at the University of Texas continues to lead with a focus on electricity and transportation. The ATI Clean Energy Incubator (CEI) works closely with Austin Energy to run a \$30 million smart grid/smart premises demonstration project in Austin. Similarly, the [ATI CEI recently established a partnership with National Grid](#), a prominent electricity distribution company in the UK and the northeastern United States, to develop creative clean energy solutions. National Grid and ATI CEI believe that, by utilizing ATI's proven ability to bring start-ups from concept to investment and National Grid's industry knowledge, this partnership can help foster innovations in the clean energy market. ATI CEI is also expanding its liquid fuels service line, both in algae-based and fungal-based biofuels. By working successfully with these companies, ATI CEI believes that it can leverage the University of Texas's ties with the petroleum industry in Houston to spur further innovation. In the past five years, ATI has helped start-ups raise more than \$250 million in investor capital.

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In the News: United States

Verizon to Invest \$100 Million in US Solar and Fuel Cells
Renewable Energy World – April 30, 2013

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Bright Future for Renewable Energy Subsidies

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SunPower and MidAmerican Start Building California Solar Project

Bloomberg – April 26, 2013

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Utilities Have Far to Go in Smart Grid Maturity

Greentech Media – April 24, 2013

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The End of Paying for Electricity by the Kilowatt-Hour

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Google Sees Renewable Energy Tariffs as New Utility Product

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Solar Smackdown: Utilities Take On Rooftops

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The US Solar Industry Puts People to Work in All 50 States

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NextEra Downsizes California Solar Project from World's Largest

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Sempra to Buy Renewable Energy from Five California Projects

Bloomberg New Energy Finance – April 17, 2013

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Ormat Links First US Enhanced Geothermal System to Power Grid

Bloomberg – April 12, 2013

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SolarCity Sees Energy Storage "Viable" Within 10 Years, CEO Says

Bloomberg – April 12, 2013

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Report: Federal "Clean Coal" Power Project Faces Uncertain Future

The Hill – April 12, 2013

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The \$25 Billion Impact of the Wind Industry

Greentech Media – April 11, 2013

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First Solar Acquires 60 MW Solar Power Project

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Power Engineering – April 10, 2013

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Duke Energy Buys 21 MW of Solarworld Farms in California

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The Next Challenge for Geothermal: Turning the Corner
Toward Private Investment

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Surprises from First Solar: TetraSun Acquired for High-
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First Solar Crushes CdTe Solar PV Efficiency Record

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First Solar Snags Rooftop-Ready Technology in TetraSun
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5 Super-Sized Solar Projects Transforming the Clean Energy
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US Department of Energy – April 8, 2013

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Fisker Struggles Mark Blow to Obama's Electric-Car Goal

Bloomberg – April 8, 2013

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New York Renewable Power Plan Would Cost \$382 Billion
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Bloomberg – April 8, 2013

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Edison Backs Clean Power Finance's Online Solar
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Bloomberg – April 8, 2013

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BP-Backed Skyonic Poised for Carbon Capture Funds on
Shale Boom

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Breakthrough in Hydrogen Fuel Production Could
Revolutionize Alternative Energy Market

Renewable Energy World – April 5, 2013

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Xzeres Making a Fundraising Name for Itself

Sustainable Business Oregon – April 5, 2013

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PG&E Cancels California Solar Power Contracts with
BrightSource

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Michael D. Van Loy, PhD

Bloomberg – April 3, 2013

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Tesla to Begin Model S Financing with U.S. Bancorp, Wells Fargo

San Francisco Chronicle – April 3, 2013

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Survey Finds Most Republicans Seek Action on Climate Change

New York Times – April 3, 2013

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Global Solar Photovoltaic Industry Is Likely Now a Net Energy Producer, Stanford Researchers Find

Stanford News – April 2, 2013

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With Drought Season Off to a Bad Start, Scientists Forecast Another Bleak Year

Inside Climate News – March 28, 2013

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Carbon Markets Drive China, India Climate Efforts, Center Says

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Is China's Solar Business Not-for-Profit?

Greentech Media – April 26, 2013

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Suzlon's German REpower to Cut 23% of Jobs on "Volatile" Outlook

Bloomberg – April 26, 2013

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Power-One Investor Sues Over Solar-Equipment Maker's Sale

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Replacing Diesel with Renewables: Negotiations for a 1-MW Wave Project at Tongatapu

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Siemens, Mainstream Agree on Leases on UK Offshore Wind Power

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Asia Report: Balancing China's Solar PV Market Volatility

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Making Sense of PV Parity: Quantifying Solar's Competitiveness

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Bloomberg Announces 2013 New Energy Pioneers

Greentech Media – April 23, 2013

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Saudi Arabia Looks to NREL for Solar Monitoring Expertise

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ABB Buys Power-One for \$1 Billion to Add Solar Inverters

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Renewables Investment Seen Tripling Amid Supply Glut

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World's Tallest Broadcast Tower Shows Tokyo's Green Push

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Google Calls on Utilities to Sell It Clean Energy for Data Centers, Starting in North Carolina

Gigaom – April 19, 2013

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PNE Wind Shares Rise After Buying Stake in German Developer WKN

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Lark Energy Completes, Connects UK's Largest Solar Power Farm

PennEnergy – April 19, 2013

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China Set to Approve 27.9 GW of Wind Power Projects

Renewable Energy World – April 19, 2013

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China Plans to Complete Climate Change Law Draft in Two Years

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Vestas, GE Lead Wind-Turbine Market as US Installations Surge

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Northern French Coal-Gas Gains Political Interest Amid Frack Ban

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RES Begins Building Wind Farm in Kansas Owned by GE and Enel

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BT, BAE Poised for UK \$12.1 Billion-Pound Smart-Meter Program

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Japan to Install Battery in Hokkaido to Ease Solar Pressure

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Wind Power Ascendant in 2013

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France to Revive Plan to Open Hydroelectric Power to Competition

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EcoMotors CEO Talks \$200 Million Deal with Chinese Manufacturer

Xconomy – April 15, 2013

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Climate Change Seen Leaving Arctic Ice-Free by 2050

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Making Enhanced Geothermal Energy Real

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ADB to Lend Dynagreen \$200 Million for Waste-to-Energy Plants

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Geothermal Energy Expected to More Than Double by 2030

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Germany's Photovolt Development Plans 400 MW Solar Farm

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The Land of the Rising Solar

Climate Spectator – April 10, 2013

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Japan Considering 21 Geothermal Plans After Fukushima, METI Says

Bloomberg – April 9, 2013

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Dutch Power Company Eyes Funding to Convert Coal to Biomass Plant

Power Engineering International – April 9, 2013

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Eco Renewable Systems Seeks Investors to Advance UK Wind Plans

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Itron to Modernize Water-Meter Infrastructure for Spain Utility

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Poland Plans to Cut Subsidy for Renewables as Deficit Grows

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China Boosts Wind Power Output 41%, Edges Closer to 2015 Target

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UAE's Largest Power, Water Desalination Plant Is Inaugurated

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Tidal Lagoon Looking for Money to Build Welsh Tidal Power Plant

Bloomberg – April 8, 2013

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Cleantech Start-Up Investing Out of Favor? Not So for Corporate Investors

peHUB – April 8, 2013

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Crowdfunding's Tally: \$2.6 Billion in 2012 and Growing

Upstart Business Journal – April 8, 2013

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India to Auction Unsold Rooftop Solar Projects Across 7 Cities

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BrightSource's Cancelled Projects Highlight Hurdles for Desert Solar Thermal Plants

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Shell's VC Fund Looks to Green the Fossil Fuel Business

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Nissan Wins License to Trade in Japanese Power Market

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BP to Sell US Wind Business in Retreat to Fossil Fuels

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Giriraj of India Completes 33 MW of Solar Capacity in Rajasthan

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Least Developed Countries Agree to Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Guardian – April 3, 2013

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Suntech Unit Bankruptcy Had Roots in Deadbeat Customers

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EU Carbon Rises as Traders Focus on Plan to Fix Permit Surplus

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Indian Demand for Clean-Energy Credits Almost Triples in March

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UK Steelmakers, Farms Agree to Boost Energy Efficiency

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Citigroup Blows by Santander as Greenest Bank on Wind Power Push

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EU Carbon Emissions Declined 1.4% in 2012, Initial Data Show

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Fracking Debut Nears in Boost to Reliance, ONGC: Corporate India

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Marubeni Targets National Park in Japan for Geothermal Power

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\$1.9 Trillion Spent on Energy Subsidies Every Year

Clean Edge – April 1, 2013

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Sinking Under a Big Green Wave: Shipowners Face an Onslaught of New Environmental Laws

The Economist – March 30, 2013

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Wind Farm Receives 18 Billion Yen Loan From Japanese Banks

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China Faces \$243 Billion Climate Finance “Gap” per Year by 2020, Exploring Reforms to Expand Clean Tech Investment

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NYC Mayor Signs Legislation to Study Geothermal Feasibility

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Senate Panel's Paper Suggests Looking at Carbon Tax

The Hill – April 25, 2013

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San Francisco and Seattle Lead US Cities Pulling Funds from Fossil Fuel Firms

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US House Plans Hearings on Federal Ethanol Mandate This Year

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North Carolina Rejects Cuts to Renewable Energy Mandates

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US States Turning Against Renewable Portfolio Standards as Gas Plunges

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Portraits of a Maturing Solar Market: How Key States Are Faring

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Texas Energy Sector: Booming, Contradictory, Promising

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Murkowski Sees Wider Support for Clean Energy Tax Break

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State Department Criticized by EPA on Pipeline Report

New York Times – April 22, 2013

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Shaheen-Portman Energy Efficiency Bill Is Back

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Republicans Revolt as Arizona's Utility Proposes Cut in Solar Programs

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Update: Solar Wins in Louisiana Net Metering Fight

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Seattle, King County to Spend \$1.5 Billion on Wastewater Upgrades

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Texas, River Authority to Partner on Gulf Coast Desal Plant Study

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Nevada Deploys First US Commercial, Grid-Connected Enhanced Geothermal System

US Department of Energy – April 12, 2013

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Arizona Utility Picks Up Solar Installation Pace

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Sally Jewell Sails Through Senate Confirmation

Politico – April 11, 2013

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Environmental Questions Take Back Seat at Hearing for EPA Nominee

New York Times – April 11, 2013

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President Obama's Budget Promises Action on Climate Change

Politico – April 11, 2013

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Health Care and Military Spending Bear the Brunt of Proposed Cuts

New York Times – April 10, 2013

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Energy Department Renews Funding for Bioenergy Research Centers

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Smooth Hearing for Ernest Moniz

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California Governor Clears Way for Carbon Market Link to Quebec

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Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions Declined in 2012

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EPA Proposes to Revise Industry Potentials for Global Warming Under Reporting Rule

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Obama's Science Advisors Press for Carbon Standards

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BLM Seeks Public Interest to Develop Solar Energy

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IRS Issues “Begin Construction” Guidance for Renewable Energy Tax Credits

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President’s 2014 Budget Prioritizes Clean Energy Funding

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In Time of Austerity, President’s 2014 Budget Prioritizes Clean Energy Funding

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ML Strategies – April 8, 2013

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Energy & Environment Update

ML Strategies – April 1, 2013

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National Security Advisor Donilon on Climate Change as a Security Threat

Center for Climate and Security – April 25, 2013

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US Senators Re-Introduce MLP Act to Level Playing Field for Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy World – April 25, 2013

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EPA Issues Plan on Tainted Water from Power Plants

New York Times – April 19, 2013

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EPA Will Delay Rule Limiting Carbon Emissions at New Power Plants

New York Times – April 12, 2013

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Greenhouse Gas Rules Will Be Enacted Soon, Says Obama Aide

The Hill – April 8, 2013

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[Events](#)

Ongoing

Solar Roadshow 2013

March 28 – June 23, 2013

Locations across the country – Lancaster, MA on May 31

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May

VERGE Boston

May 13 – 14

Boston, MA

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Introducing New Choices for Solar Inverters in Commercial Applications

May 14

Webinar

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Best Practices for Effective Energy Efficiency Program Design: From Strategy to Savings

May 15

Webinar

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Offshore Wind: A Soon-to-be-Born US Industry or Cost-Prohibitive Fantasy?

May 15

Webinar

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Gexpro Energy Summit

May 21 – 22

Dallas, TX

Metering, Billing / CRM Asia

May 22 – 23

Bangkok, Thailand

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June

Renewable Energy Storage Symposium

June 12 – 14

San Diego, CA

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Ultra Light Startups – Future Energy

June 13

New York, NY

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The Smart Grid Customer Education Symposium

June 17

Nashville, TN

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ACORE Regional Roundtable

June 24

New York, NY

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Renewable Energy Finance Forum – Wall Street

June 25 – 26
New York, NY

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July

HydroVision – Waterpower Hydro Basics Course

July 23 – 26
Denver, CO

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Greentech Media's - Avant EE

July 29
San Francisco, CA

[More Info »](#)

October

Greentech Media's Softgrid 2013

October 1 – 2
San Francisco, CA

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Global Cleantech 100 Summit & Gala 2013

October 9 – 10
Washington, DC

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November

Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo

November 12 – 14
Orlando, FL

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