

SE News V046

Sustainable Energy News

<http://www.fivestarconsultants.com>

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4/12/06

"New Name. Same old gas."

- Mad Magazine, referring to Exxon's name change from Esso.

BREEE News is Now SE News

Readers: After 45 issues and many hundreds of hours invested in publishing BREEE News, and with support of BREEE's core members, I am privatizing BREEE News.

SE News (Sustainable Energy) will continue to be no cost, spam-free, inbox friendly, occasionally feisty and blunt, and Boulder and Colorado-centric as before.

SE News will take a few small sponsoring ads. For details contact regelson@mac.com

Hot Picks

Make Things "Bettah"

Sign a plug-in hybrid petition. Sponsored by CalCars.org, the folk that brought us the first plug-in Prius. Short flash presentation and petition:

<http://www.bettah.org>



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From Boulder & Colorado:

Short Takes

Rick Gilliam, Morey Wolfson, Robin Hubbard, Ron Larson, Ron Lehr, Matt Baker, Ken Regelson, and Stephanie Bonin were honored with the Wirth Chair's Community Award for their work on Amendment 37.

<http://www.cudenver.edu/Who+Am+I/Faculty+and+Staff/Newsletter/Mar2006/mar06fullstory/Wirth+Chair.htm>

Round 4 of triple-R begins for A 37 rules. See entries for March 30 (round 4) and March 8 (round 3).

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/RecentRulemakingDecisions.htm>

Denver Post: Rebates Put Shine on Solar Energy.

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_3614681

NYT: Xcel Collects Taxes But Does Not Pay Them to Government. This is legal in Colorado
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/15/business/15utility.html?ei=5070&en=dfab5ca6fa92ff90&ex=1143090000&emc=eta1&pagewanted=print>

Presentations from the Interconnection & Net Metering Workshop held at Tri-State in Westminster on 2/22 with more than 90 people attending.

<http://www.state.co.us/oemc/presentations/060222/index.html>

Daily Camera: Boulder Creeps Toward Kyoto

http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/county_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2423_4564097,00.html

Subscribe to the City of Boulder's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Program Newsletter by emailing Carolyn Weinreich at

WeinreichC@ci.boulder.co.us

Daily Camera: economics of installing solar electric for a business. *Payback period... Approx. 5 years.*

<http://www.newwest.net/index.php/citjo/article/7228/C94/L94>

From Joe McCabe, Charlie Stevens, Carolyn Weinreich, and others.

Xcel RFP for Central Solar Plant in Alamosa

Requests for proposals for approximately 13,700 MWh of annual solar electric energy to be generated from photovoltaic or concentrating photovoltaic technologies built on land, which PSCo has optioned, near PSCo's Mosca Substation approximately 20 miles north of Alamosa, Colorado...

For example, this RFP could be met by a "a 7 –10 MW DC solar photovoltaic facility."

http://www.xcelenergy.com/XLWEB/CDA/0,3080,1-1-1_1875_27393_28246-25565-2_68_134-0,00.html

RFP at:

<http://www.xcelenergy.com/docs/corpcomm/PSCoAlamosaSolarRFP20060330-RFP.pdf>

Colorado Daily: Electric Election Coming to Boulder in 2007? (Municipalization)

"Given that the city is involved in certain stages of feasibility studies, we think it's reasonable for them to continue to do so," said Powers (Boulder Chamber of Commerce community affairs manager)

http://www.coloradodaily.com/articles/2006/03/05/news/c_u_and_boulder/news3.txt

From Doug Grinbergs.

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From Elsewhere:

Short Takes

The perfect Lithium battery? 5 minute recharge to 90%. Long life. Works in large temperature range. Safer - no explosions, no thermal runaway. Being used in new line of Dewalt power tools now. Coming soon to a hybrid or solar system near you?

<http://www.a123systems.com/html/tech/life.html>

<http://www.a123systems.com/html/tech/safety.html>

<http://www.a123systems.com/html/tech/power.html>

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/14.03/start.html?pg=9>

Camry Hybrid Review. About 40 MPG. More powerful than the standard 2007 Camry. Available mid-summer.

<http://hybridcars.com/camry.html>

Super Lexus Hybrid due in 2007. Ultra quiet. 6 seconds 0 to 60 (very quick). ...*combines great fuel economy with oodles of space and comfort, yet gives sports car performance.*

http://www.wheels24.co.za/Wheels24/NY_Motor_Show/0,,1369-2021_1916354,00.html

Renewable geothermal or hydro power feasibility study for new Aluminum smelter in Iceland.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=44276>

Ocean currents to provide 10 MW of power to Bermuda by 2010.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=44257>

Solar roasted coffee.

<http://www.solarroast.com/>

Detailed article on California's solar initiative. 40 MW of solar was installed in 2005. Rising to 100 MW per year over the next few years.

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/news/article/mps/uan/640/v/3/sp/>

Pew poll on energy & the environment. *In January, 58% rated "dealing with the nation's energy problem" a top priority, up from just 47% a year ago and 40% in January of 2003...57% rated "protecting the environment" a top priority, up from 49% a year ago and just 39% in 2003.*

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=44274>

Report:

<http://pewresearch.org/obdeck/?ObDeckID=8>

CNN Poll. 3 out of 4 fear that oil supply will not keep up with demand.

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/03/16/oil.poll/>

A breathtaking description of a 360 MW coal-fired power plant ... *Holcomb Station is a man-made marvel without peer in western Kansas. The 71,000-square-foot main building climbs 232 feet above the gently rolling plains, and the boiler chimney soars to a breathtaking 474 feet. The imposing presence of Holcomb Station dominates the horizon for miles in every direction, capturing the imagination of all who look its way.*

<http://www.sunflower.net/holcomb.htm>

B2 (2% biodiesel) a requirement in Washington State by 2008.

<http://nbb.grassroots.com/FY06NewsReleases/WAGovB2Bill/>

Utilities Urge Emission Limits. Congress asked to set standards on carbon dioxide so industry knows what to expect.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/3771939.html>

Over the next three years, PG&E expects to provide more than \$1 billion of funding for various energy efficiency programs and customer demand reduction programs that will eliminate the need for construction of more than 1,000 megawatts of new generation facilities. Or \$1 per watt.

http://www.pge.com/news/news_releases/q2_2006/060404.html

Ranking of 100 global companies on climate change strategy. Xcel Energy scores 53. Highest score: 90 for BP. Lowest score: 21 for PPG. News release and report.

http://www.ceres.org/news/news_item.php?nid=154

http://www.ceres.org/pub/docs/Ceres_corp_gov_and_climate_change_0306.pdf

Oil Crash Movie.

<http://www.oilcrashmovie.com/film.html>

From Morey Wolfson, David Schaller, Rick Gilliam, Mike Bowman, Leslie Glustrom, Albert Melcher, and others.

44% Growth in Worldwide PV Manufacturing Capacity

...from nearly 1200 MW in 2004 to 1727 MW in 2005.

Global production of PV cells continued its historic growth even in the face of a tight supply chain, particularly in silicon. As in prior years, Japan led the way in total cells produced with 833 MW, a growth of 38%. European cell production grew slightly faster at 44%, resulting in 452 MW of cells produced. The U.S. market grew, but only at 10% over the prior year as both GE and Shell lost ground. The real surprise is the more than doubling of cell production in the rest of the world to 289 MW, a dynamic likely to continue to shape the market in 2006.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story.jsessionid=9B24E23EA67FDF669908ED2440E1AF74?id=44286>

According to Rona Fried, PhD in the March/April 2006 issue of Solar today:

The silicon shortage may actually be good news for many solar manufacturers. The industry has responded to tight silicon supplies by improving efficiencies throughout the supply chain and thus reducing the need for silicon - using more recycled material, cutting thinner wafers, reducing waste, and making more efficient cells. These efficiency increases mean the industry will be able to wring an extra 225 MW from the same amount of silicon in 2006.

Survey: New California Solar Homeowners Extremely Satisfied

- *Nine out of ten respondents said they would recommend a solar home to a friend and/or purchase a solar home again;*
- *8 out of ten believe the solar power system would be a selling feature if they were to sell their home;*
- *95 percent of the homeowners think more homes should come with solar power features;*
- *86 percent have had no problems with their solar system and 90 percent say their solar system has either no effect or a positive effect on the appearance of their home.*

"I wasn't a big solar fan before buying this home. In fact, I didn't even know it came with it," said John Hemingway, owner of a solar home in East Palo Alto. "Now, I'm the biggest fan and I hope the governor and the legislature follow through on this issue and get more of these things on roofs across the state."

Press release and report:

<http://www.environmentalcalifornia.org/newsroom/energy/energy-program-news/new-survey-shows-solar-homes-get-hig-marks-from-home-owners>

<http://www.environmentalcalifornia.org/reports/energy/energy-program-reports/rave-reviews-for-solar-homes-a-survey-of-homeowners-in-california>

Plug-in Hybrids

As noted at the start of this SE News, help make things a little "bettah" by signing plug-in hybrid petition. Sponsored by CalCars.org, the folk that brought us the first plug-in Prius. Flash presentation and petition:

<http://www.bettah.org>

Early results from the bay area's second plug-in prius - 130 miles driven in 2 days on 1.1 gallons of gas - 118 MPG. Extra time to plug-it-in when getting out of the car in the garage at home - 9 seconds. See the blog article from 4/12: *Power, Plugs, and People*.

<http://www.hybridcars.com/blogs/power>

Also, download CalCars.org's latest fact sheet on plug-ins:

<http://www.calcars.org/conversions-factsheet.pdf>

Early (and unconfirmed) notes on the 2008 Prius: Lithium ion batteries. 113 MPG (note, based on British gallons, so more like 90 MPG US gallons). Could this be the first production plug-in hybrid? Or, just an extremely efficient regular hybrid?

http://www.autoexpress.co.uk/news/66260/prius_hits_113mpg.html

(This is the end of SE News)
