



U.S. Department of Energy

**Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** *Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clear, abundant, reliable, and affordable*

## EERE Program News

The business, programs and policies of moving new energy products into the marketplace

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### April 2009

Editor: [Jack Jenkins](#)

Associate Editor: [John Horst](#)

Associate Editor: [Mariel Sala](#)

A new Congressional Budget Office report finds that corn-based ethanol was not the major factor in last year's rise in food prices. ([Jump to details](#))

Higher energy costs had a greater effect on food prices than did the use of ethanol as a motor fuel. Dramatically higher fossil fuel prices bumped up the costs of farm inputs, transportation and food processing.

The study also found that ethanol reduced overall U.S. gasoline consumption by about four percent in 2008.

Looking ahead, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that [future growth of corn-based ethanol will slow](#).

In [News](#), Massachusetts is gearing up to implement smart grid technologies that will help consumers make energy cost-saving choices. ([Video](#)).

Boulder, Colo. continues with its 2008 commitment to become the nation's first "Smart-Grid City." ([Video](#))

The first Recovery Act weatherization funding has flowed to the states ([analysis](#)), while cities and counties are [on-tap](#) to receive nearly \$1.9 billion through the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#). States and territories will receive nearly \$770 million, and more than \$54 million will flow directly to tribal governments.

Starting this month, we introduce "[Solar Decathlon Team News.](#)" a newsletter section following individual teams as they design and build their solar-powered home entries for the October 9-18, 2009 competition on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

[FEATURES](#) digs into high efficiency cars, plug-in hybrids and new battery technologies.

A CNN Money reporter gives his test-drive impressions of the new Chevy Volt, due to hit the U.S. market in November 2010. ([Video](#))



Entries in the [X Prize competition for 100 miles-per-gallon cars](#) might be permitted tandem seating to help reduce aerodynamic drag, as in this concept car from Rinspeed.

Photo courtesy of: [Rinspeed](#)

[\\$2 billion of Recovery Act funding](#) will go to projects involving manufacturing advanced batteries and related drive components for transportation vehicles. Another \$400 million is slated for transportation electrification demonstration and deployment.

See: [Recovery Act - Transportation Electrification \(DE-FOA-0000026\)](#), or [Recovery Act - Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative \(DE-FOA-0000028\)](#).

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## News

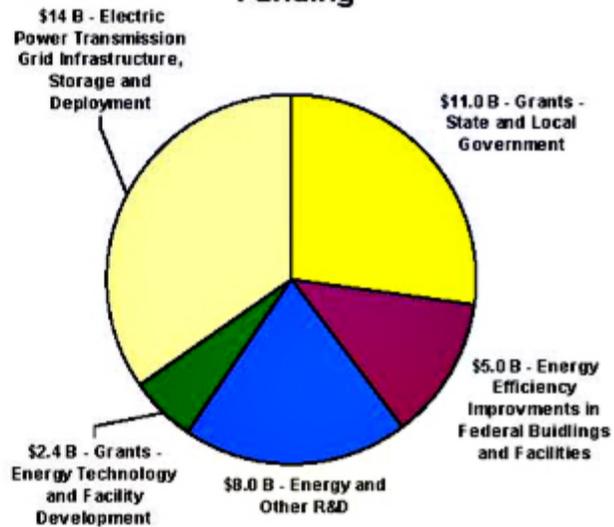
**[How Recovery Act energy money is being spent](#)**

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009



- Over \$40 billion of the \$787 billion recovery plan is allocated for clean energy
- Investment focus:
  - \$16.8 billion for EERE
  - \$14.0 billion for electric power transmission grid infrastructure, storage and deployment  
- incl. \$6 billion for loan guarantees
  - \$9.6 billion for other energy programs
  - Expanding workforce training
  - Promoting Mass Transit Systems
- New and modified clean energy tax incentives are estimated at \$20+ billion

## Breakdown of Clean Energy Funding



Funds are supplemental to annual appropriations

Source: Congressional Research Service, "Energy Provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5)"

Quick breakout of [Recovery Act spending on energy](#).

## Comments:

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## Cell phones and smart grids

Wireless communication providers are competing to become major players as the U.S. and Europe begin employing [smart grid electricity service](#).



With smart grid technology, electricity customers will gain the possibility of monitoring and controlling home energy use from wherever they are.

Photo courtesy of: StockPhotos, Hillary Fox

According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless and Vodafone, along with smaller players, are making an aggressive push to provide wireless communication links to millions of "smart meters" being installed by electric and gas companies.

Congress has authorized roughly \$4.5 billion to propel smart-grid development, and at the same time, utilities in California and Texas alone are spending \$6 billion on advanced, digital meters and related systems, key building blocks in a smart electric grid.

This means the latest technology will be pushed down to the household level, instead of being restricted to commercial or industrial customers who have typically paid about \$5 a

month for a similar service.

[The Smart Grid: An Introduction \(PDF 4 MB\)](#) ( [Download Adobe Reader](#))  
[Grid 2030 vision \(PDF 1.1 MB\)](#)  
[Smart Grid E-Forums](#)

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## 58 megawatts of solar power in the Nevada desert

First Solar Inc. will build the [largest photovoltaic \(PV\) power plant in the U.S.](#) The 48-megawatt expansion will be added to an existing 10 megawatt PV system operated by Sempra Generation.

The expanded facility will be located near the existing 480 MW [El Dorado Energy natural gas-fired power plant](#) near Las Vegas, Nev. When completed, the solar plant will produce power for roughly 30,000 homes.

The solar expansion is part of [Sempra's push into renewable energy](#), especially solar and wind. Sempra's plans include "in excess of 300 megawatts" of solar power near its existing power plant in Arizona, said Sempra's chief executive, Mike Allman, in an interview with the Wall Street Journal.



Sempra Generation's current 10 megawatt solar array in the Nevada desert will be upped to 58 megawatts.

Allman said, "This is the lowest-cost solar power ever delivered...nobody can hold a candle to our costs." He stressed that part of the advantage comes from building close to existing generating facilities, which means there's no need to secure permission or financing for new power lines. Also, solar power provides the most power during the afternoon, the peak demand time for homeowners and businesses in the Western desert.

Photo courtesy of: Sempra Generation

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## Stay cool, save money, with new DOE Web site

Summer is coming, and Americans will be using more energy than at any other time of year to keep their homes and businesses cool. To help combat summer's potentially higher energy bills, DOE has launched a [Stay Cool, Save Money](#) Web site loaded with energy-saving tips.

The site offers quick, cost-effective, energy saving solutions, as well as long-term strategies, to save on cooling. The tips are modeled after whole-house building design, in which all the parts work together to optimize efficiency and save money.

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## U.S. corn-based ethanol growth slows



Modern equipment and bio genetics allow farmers to rapidly adjust planting goals.

Photo courtesy of: Agriculture Online

### **Background:**

- U.S. ethanol production increased from less than 3 billion gallons in 2003 to more than 9 billion gallons in 2008, with close to a third of total corn use going to ethanol production in the 2008/09 corn crop year.

### **Assumptions:**

- The USDA study assumes the tax credit available to ethanol blenders will continue, and the 54-cent-per-gallon tariff on imported fuel ethanol will remain in effect.

### **Projections:**

- Growth in use of corn for ethanol production will continue over the next 10 years, but at a slower pace;
- By 2020, ethanol production will account for about 35 percent of U.S. corn use;
- In 2020, corn-based ethanol will exceed nine percent of annual U.S. gasoline consumption;
- Long-term economic factors, coupled with continued ethanol demand, will hold corn prices above historical levels, but lower than the record highs seen in early 2008;
- Consumer dietary concerns and preferences will limit increases in the use of high fructose corn syrup, glucose and dextrose;
- U.S. corn exports, as a share of world markets, will hold in the 55-60 percent range.

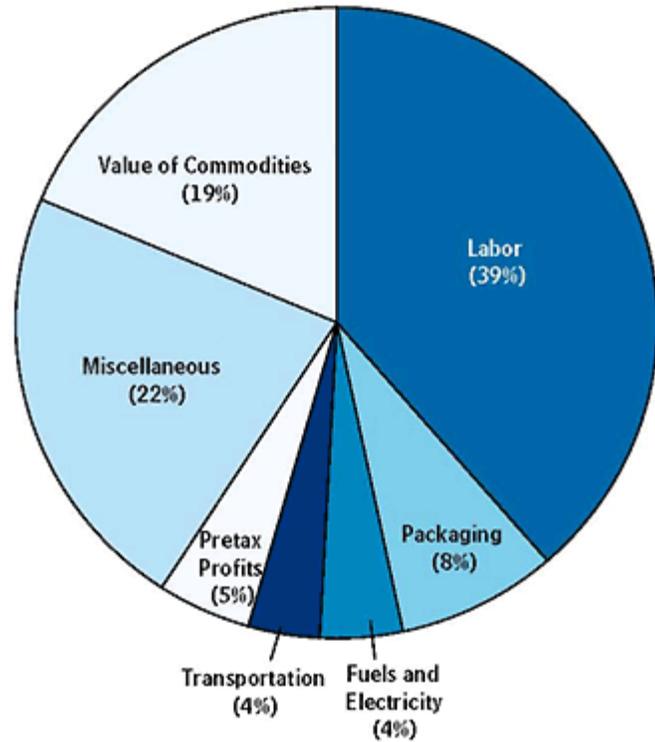
A report from the Congressional Budget Office finds that [ethanol was not the major culprit in last year's rise in food prices](#). This is primarily because commodity prices are only one component of retail food prices, as can be seen in the chart to the right.

[Congressional Budget Office Report \(PDF 2.5MB\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sees a substantial slowing in the growth of corn-based ethanol over the next 10 years.

This projection will be influenced by factors as varied as legislatively-mandated ethanol requirements, continuation of ethanol subsidies and import tariffs, competing cropping opportunities for farmers, world currency markets and, as always, the weather.

# Food Price Components



[\(Download Adobe Reader\)](#)

Source: Congressional Budget Office based on data from the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service

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**Features**



In this artist's concept, solar-powered parking stations flow the sun's power directly into the batteries of electric-powered vehicles. The reality may not be too far in the future for some commuters.

Illustration courtesy of: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

## What cars will we drive in 2020?

No one knows what our automotive choices will be in 2020, but it's a safe bet that electricity, in some capacity, will play a significant role. A strong confluence of economics, market acceptance and electric vehicle technologies drives this prognosis.

Past projections extolling electric vehicles have often met with skepticism. Time magazine declared General Motors' EV-1, electric car, as one of "[The 50 worst cars of all time](#)," while others thought it a great beginning. Electric vehicle critics in the past also pointed to poor cold weather performance, heavy expensive batteries and limited driving range as insurmountable obstacles.

But things look better this time around.



GM has just revealed the Cadillac Provoq, a four-door crossover concept car that runs on a small 5th-generation hydrogen fuel cell stack married to a rechargeable lithium-ion battery pack. It is a zero-emissions vehicle.

Last year's oil-price shocks reawakened our national sensitivity to imported energy. Higher-priced gasoline shook up the economics of existing transportation fuel choices, and the continuing success of hybrid vehicles, such as the Toyota Prius, have helped pave the way for improved public acceptance of electric vehicles. This is particularly true in urban and suburban driving situations, where many of us rack up our daily commuter miles.

The Chevy Volt is targeted directly at this market. It will have a lithium-ion battery and an electric motor that can take the car 40 miles on a single charge before being

Photo courtesy of: General Motors  
before refueling.

supplemented with power from a small gasoline engine to travel up to 300 miles

Later this year, Toyota will introduce a lithium-battery powered, plug-in Prius into a limited number of markets, with about 150 coming to U.S. fleet and lease companies.

Ford has partnered with several utilities around the country and is currently testing a small fleet of hybrid electric vehicles. The company plans to market a plug-in hybrid beginning in 2012.

Chrysler is testing five different electric-drive vehicles and plans to bring one to market within a year.

[\(Associated Press looks at the new hybrids\)](#)

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## **Lightweight batteries with big power punch**

Why all the buzz about lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries for cars?

Light weight and high energy capacity. Lithium is the lightest of all metals, has the [greatest electrochemical potential](#) and provides the largest energy density per unit of weight.

[How Stuff Works](#) lays out the advantages:

"The electrodes of a Li-ion battery are made of lightweight lithium and carbon. Lithium is also a highly reactive element, meaning that a lot of energy can be stored in its atomic bonds. This translates into a very high energy density for Li-ion batteries; they are generally much lighter than other types of rechargeable batteries of the same size.

- A typical Li-ion battery stores 150 watt-hours of electricity in one-kilogram of battery.
- A NiMH (nickel-metal hydride) battery pack stores perhaps 100 watt-hours per kilogram, although 60 to 70 watt-hours might be more typical.
- A lead-acid battery can store only 25 watt-hours per kilogram.
- Using lead-acid technology, it takes six kilograms to store the same amount of energy that a one-kilogram Li-ion battery handles. That's a huge difference."

Lithium, as an advanced battery material, offers these advantages, but is expensive, found in limited geographic areas and carries some safety concerns in automotive use. Research and development teams are working to overcome these barriers, and Li-ion automotive batteries are beginning to come into use. ([Vehicle technologies video](#)) ([Mercedes-Benz offers Li-ion hybrid at \\$12K premium](#))

[DOE's Argonne National Laboratory](#) (ANL) has recently developed a new high-energy cathode material that can greatly increase the safety and extend the life-span of future lithium batteries. It has been developed through close international collaboration with researchers at [Hanyang University](#) in South Korea.

ANL has also entered into partnership with the

[Commonwealth of Kentucky](#), the [University of Kentucky](#) and [University of Louisville](#) to establish a national Battery Manufacturing R&D Center that will help develop and deploy a domestic supply of advanced battery technologies for vehicles.

In commercial news, [A123Systems](#) of Massachusetts has signed an alliance with Chrysler to provide Michigan-made Li-ion batteries for that company's upcoming line of electric vehicles.



Lithium ion battery pack for Chevy Volt

Photo courtesy of: General Motors

DOE's Office of Vehicle Technologies offers an [Annual Energy Storage Research and Development Report \(PDF 6.5MB \)](#) ([download Adobe Reader](#)) summarizing current battery and energy storage research.

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## Linking smart grid technology to plug-in hybrids

Imagine a world in which millions of plug-in hybrid vehicles can take full advantage of smart grid electricity delivery systems to utilize off-peak power supplies, thus greatly improving the efficiency of our electricity systems as well as transportation systems.



General Electric's TV Scarecrow imagines just how much more energy efficient we will be when old technologies have a brain.

Photo courtesy of: General Electric

It may be closer than we think. Richard Canny, CEO of Norway's Think City electric vehicles, says, "[The future of electric vehicles](#) probably belongs to collaborations between car makers, governments, and electric utilities." Canny's company has formed a collaboration with the Austrian government to supply his company's vehicles to the [Vlotte EV Project](#) in the Bregenz region.

"Projects like this are awesome," Canny said, "because by working with municipal utilities they have the option of helping develop smart grids that can automatically recharge the cars only very late at night when power demand

is the lowest."

"The juice can also flow two ways," he said, "both from the grid into the cars and from the cars to the grid. That's called [vehicle-to-grid or V2G](#), and it's looking very promising as a way to reduce peak loads and offset the need for future carbon-spewing power plants."

[Smarter, interactive grids](#) are a cornerstone of the Obama energy plan, and Canny has visited the U.S. to share his vision of collaborative vehicle-smart grid development.

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**Multimillion \$ prize offered for first 100 mpg car**

In 1919, a \$25,000 prize was offered to the first pilot who could fly non-stop between New York and Paris. Charles Lindbergh picked off the prize in 1927.

Now, the [X Prize Foundation](#) wants to do the same sort of thing to stimulate development of a clean, production-capable vehicle able to achieve a fuel economy equivalent to at least 100 miles per gallon of gasoline. The X Prize rules call for a car that can carry four adults and sip gas while traversing all kinds of terrain and negotiating real-world traffic.

To date, 111 teams from around the world, from Tata Motors in India to Tesla Motors in Silicon Valley, Calif., have signed on to take up [the challenge](#).

"Achieving 100 mpg? Any bright engineer can go do that," declares Chris Theodore, vice chairman of ASC Inc., who advised the X Prize committee. "But add in the rules of cost, safety, desirability and functionality, it becomes much more challenging."

To win the prize, the car builder must demonstrate that the vehicle can be profitably offered for sale in volumes of 10,000 units, in a form that meets federal crash safety and emissions requirements. If this weren't enough, the competition really is a race, because the money goes to the fastest car that can do all of these things.

"No souped-up Prius with extra batteries is going to be successful in this contest," said S.M. Shahed, senior research fellow at Honeywell Turbo Technologies. "It will require a huge weight reduction; you can't simply add more heavy batteries."

Maintaining safety in lightweight cars will be a challenge, Shahed acknowledges. But it can be met by having the car sacrifice itself to protect the occupants at a lower crash speed than is typical today. "If the price you have to pay for having a 100-mpg car is totaling the car at 25 mph, then I'm willing to pay that price," he said.

**Comments:**

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**2009 Solar Decathlon Team News**

Twenty teams of college students from the U.S., Canada, Spain, and Germany are participating in this year's Solar Decathlon. They have been working for up to a year to design, build, and then operate the most attractive, energy-efficient solar-powered home.

The competition peaks in early October when the teams arrive to build a "solar village" on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The public is welcome to inspect the homes October 9-20, except Oct. 14, when the homes will be closed for competition monitoring. See details at the [Solar Decathlon Web site](#).

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**The Ohio State University**

*"Our house is designed specifically for Ohio (yes, solar energy works in our state!), and will showcase Ohio's manufacturing capability and agricultural heritage."*

— Kurtis Meyer, OSU Solar Decathlon team member

Sixty students from Ohio State University are taking their first shot at the Solar Decathlon competition. They are constructing their entry, *Solar House 1*, in the shadow of historic Ohio Stadium. Currently, the team has completed rough framing, and the engineering team is finalizing design. ([Construction web cam](#))



Photo courtesy of: The Ohio State University

The home draws inspiration from Ohio's agricultural heritage. Clad in reclaimed barn siding, it includes rain collecting devices to irrigate plants and simulate vegetation needs.

To optimize efficiency, interior walls can be moved to meet occupants' needs. For example, the space can become a kitchen, or bedroom, or theater by moving modular components. Free standing objects such as furniture are designed to be stored behind the modular interface when not in use.

Occupants connect with the exterior and the environment through a *second skin* that connects to the home's passive cooling strategies with an ability to control natural ventilation, views, daylight and privacy. ([Columbus Dispatch article](#))

## Team Alberta

*"It's amazing to see how the idea has evolved over the last six months into more than 100 students, faculty and staff working on the project. The biggest thing that can be learned is the power of collaboration."*

— Mark Blackwell, University of Calgary student

Alberta has pulled together a Solar Decathlon team that is a dynamic mix of students, faculty and staff from the University of Calgary, SAIT Polytechnic, Mount Royal College and the Alberta College of Art + Design.

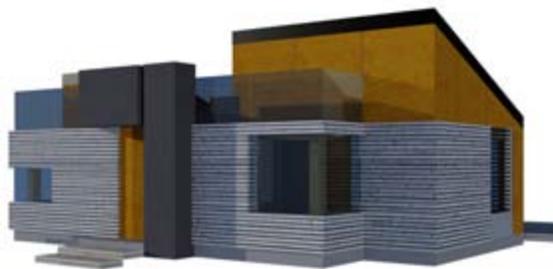


Illustration courtesy of: Team Alberta

The team's solar home design reflects the materials and landscape of the province's natural beauty and open space. The team combines exposed wood post and beam construction with a clean, modular design.

A solar thermal water storage mass is located on the home's southern facade, bounded by wood and glass components. Stone is used to protect and house the solar thermal water storage, while also

adding interior texture.

Central to the home's core, a glazing key-way provides space between the stone and wood components, allowing the sky and sunlight to flow through the roof and walls onto the floor.

Integrated photovoltaic cells are incorporated into the roof, clerestory windows, roof

balcony railing and solar louvers to maximize solar collection.

## University of Louisiana at Lafayette

*"Our house represents our home and team in personality, aesthetics and function. Our inspiration comes from life and culture in Louisiana"*

**— Cat Guidry, student team officer**

*"We're aiming to create more energy than we use"*

**— Gretchen Vanicor, ULL graduate student, BeauSoleil project manager**

The [University of Louisiana at Lafayette](#)'s Solar Decathlon team has chosen BeauSoleil, meaning "Beautiful Sun" in French, or simply "Sunshine" in Cajun French, as the inspiration and name of their solar home.



Illustration courtesy of: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The team has produced a great [You Tube Video](#) outlining their aspirations for the design and build of the BeauSoleil home. The video exhibits the passion and enthusiasm for the sustainable design that is the hallmark of successful Solar Decathlon teams.

The home is a balanced technological hybrid of passive and active systems that allow relaxed living. The kitchen is key, offering easy, open entertaining.

Nature is taken into consideration in building materials, ventilation, and the ability of the home to generate its own power following major storms.

### Comments:

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## **EERE News Releases**

April 15, 2009

[EIA Expects Gasoline Prices to Rise Moderately by Summer](#)

April 15, 2009

[U.S. Government Accelerates its Purchase of Fuel-Efficient Vehicles](#)

April 14, 2009

[Secretary Chu Announces \\$41.9 Million to Spur Growth of Fuel Cell Markets](#)

April 14, 2009

[President Barack Obama announces intent to nominate Daniel B. Poneman as DOE Deputy Secretary](#)

April 9, 2009

[Department of Energy and Commercial Real Estate Executives Launch Alliance to Reduce Energy Consumption of Buildings](#)

April 4, 2009

[Automotive X Prize to Award Megabucks for Fuel-Efficient Cars](#)

April 2, 2009

[DOE Recognizes Top ENERGY STAR Partners](#)

March 27, 2009

[Cathy Zoi, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy](#)

March 26, 2009

[Obama Administration announces \\$3.2 billion in funding for local energy efficiency improvements](#)

March 20, 2009

[Obama Administration offers \\$535 million loan guarantee to Solyndra, Inc.](#)

March 19, 2009

[President Obama announces \\$2.4 billion in funding to support next generation electric vehicles](#)

March 12, 2009

[Administration announces nearly \\$8 billion in weatherization funding and energy efficiency grants](#)

March 4, 2009

[DOE announces investment of up to \\$84 million in geothermal energy](#)

Feb. 27, 2009

[Secretaries Donovan and Chu announce partnership to help working families weatherize their homes](#)

Feb. 19, 2009

[DOE Secretary Chu announces changes to expedite economic recovery funding](#)

Feb. 18, 2009

[Energy Department, Northwest Food Processors Association set energy efficiency goals for industry](#)

Feb. 17, 2009

[American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allots \\$16.8 billion for EERE](#)

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## Reader Comments

### March — AT&T switches to alternative fuel vehicles

Since when is natural gas carbon neutral?

Or really an "alternative fuel". The only green AT&T is saving here is the paper kind.

How can the US DOE allow itself to reprint this sort of corporate propaganda?

— P.H.

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## Speeches, Op-Eds and Testimony

March 19

[Remarks of President Obama at Southern California Edison Electric Vehicle Technical Center](#)

"...The nation that leads on energy will be the nation that leads the world in the 21st century. So we have a choice to make. We can remain one of the world's leading importers of foreign oil, or we can make the investments that will allow us to become the world's leading exporter of renewable energy...."

April 1

[Howard Gruenspecht, Acting Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Before the Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management](#)

Subject: Energy Markets and their Implications on Agriculture

March 26

[David Rodgers, Director for Strategic Planning and Analysis Committee, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources](#)

Subject: Legislation Regarding Strengthening American Manufacturing Through Improved Industrial Energy Efficiency

March 25

[Howard Gruenspecht, Acting Administrator Energy Information Administration, before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy](#)

Subject: Energy Markets Transparency Legislation

March 24

[Steve Chalk, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, before the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment](#)

Subject: Examining Federal Vehicle Technology Research and Development Programs

March 19

[David Rodgers, Director for Strategic Planning and Analysis, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#)

Subject: Appliance Standards Improvement Act of 2009

March 17

[Statement of Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy, before the Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.](#)

"Today, we import roughly 60 percent of our oil, draining resources from our economy and leaving it vulnerable to supply disruptions. Much of that oil is controlled by regimes that do not share our values, weakening our security. Additionally, if we continue our current rates of greenhouse gas emissions, the consequences for our climate could be disastrous. Meeting these challenges will require both swift action in the near-term and a sustained commitment for the long-term to build a new economy, powered by clean, reliable, affordable, and secure energy...."

March 11

[Statement of Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy, before the Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate](#)

"The Recovery Act will create new jobs making our homes and offices more energy efficient. It includes \$5 billion to weatherize the homes of low-income families; a \$1,500 tax credit to help homeowners invest in efficiency upgrades; \$4.5 billion to green federal buildings, including reducing their energy consumption; and \$6.3 billion for state and local efficiency and renewable efforts.

"It also includes \$6 billion for loan guarantees and more than \$13 billion in estimated tax credits and financial assistance instruments (grants and cooperative agreements) that

may leverage tens of billions in private sector investment in clean energy and job creation. The bill also makes investments of \$2 billion in advanced battery manufacturing, \$3.4 billion for fossil energy research and development in support of clean coal efforts, and \$4.5 billion for our efforts to modernize the electric grid...."

**Comments:**

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**Events**

*If you have an event scheduled in the next year of regional or national interest to the energy efficiency and renewable energy communities, please contact us with pertinent information and a web link and we will include it in EERE Program News. — [Jack Jenkins](#), [John Horst](#), [Mariel Sala](#)*

[Renewable Energy in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean](#) — April 27-29, San Francisco, Calif.

Conference will explore successes/challenges/solutions to creating sustainable renewable energy environments in the emerging markets. Optional visits to see solar sites, wind farms, and/or biofuel plants. Match-making opportunities to create renewable energy partnerships between U.S. entities and emerging market consumers.

[Federal Energy Management Program \(FEMP\) workshops](#) — May-June, various locations  
FEMP holds technical workshops around the nation on a continuous basis; this link provides updated information on these meetings.

[The 31st Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals](#) — May 3-6, San Francisco, Calif.

Forum for experts from around the world to discuss latest results in research, development and deployment of renewable fuels and chemicals technologies.

[2009 Nanotech Conference and Expo](#) — May 3-7, Houston, Texas

Conference will bring together over 5,000 technology and business leaders, along with experts from academia, government, startups and Fortune 1,000 companies. Meeting will showcase advanced research and best practices, along with the latest tools and equipment.

[Bio 2009 Annual International Convention](#) — May 17-20, Atlanta, Ga.

This event is billed as the world's largest annual nanotechnology conference and expo. Now in its 12th year, organizers expect over 5,000 attendees and 250 exhibitors.

[Meeting Energy Reduction Requirements. It Can Be Done](#) — May 21, New York, N.Y.

A workshop focusing on the challenges of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Executive Order 13423, and the Energy and Independence Security Act of 2007.

[34th IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference](#) — June 7-12, Philadelphia, Pa.

Conference will present groundbreaking research papers on all aspects of photovoltaic-relevant materials, devices, systems and applications. The deadline for electronic abstract submission was Jan. 14, 2009.

[2009 International Fuel Ethanol Workshop & Expo](#) — June 15-18, Denver, Colo.

The ethanol industry has developed significantly in recent years. Join industry leaders and participate in business development and networking opportunities.

[2009 Wind Turbine Reliability Workshop](#) — June 17-18, Albuquerque, N.M.

Workshop will identify and examine turbine reliability issues among plant developers, operators, manufacturers and others.

[11th Annual SolWest Renewable Energy Fair](#) — July 24-26, John Day, Ore.

This year's theme is "Alternative Vehicles, Renewable Fuels," and admission includes more than 50 free workshops on both off-grid and grid inter-tied renewable energy and sustainable living topics.

[2009 Annual NACO Conference & Exposition](#) — July 24-28, Nashville, Tenn.

Registration for the 2009 Annual Conference & Exposition opened in late January 2009.

[GovEnergy 2009](#) — Aug. 9-12, Providence, R.I.

A forum to educate, inspire and motivate people and organizations to be more energy efficient in their facilities and to raise awareness and knowledge of latest energy-saving strategies and products.

[GRC 2009 Annual Meeting and GEA Expo](#) — Oct. 4-7, Reno, Nev.

The geothermal energy industry's largest gathering of professionals participating in conference sessions, educational seminars, a trade show exhibition and tours of local geothermal projects.

[2009 Solar Decathlon](#) — Oct. 9-18, Washington, D.C.

Next edition of this popular DOE-sponsored showcase for solar-powered, energy efficient homes designed and constructed by university teams from North America and Europe.

[Solar Power International \(formerly listed as Solar Power 2009\)](#) — Oct. 27-29, Anaheim, Calif.

The largest solar power conference in the United States about the U.S. solar industry and market opportunities, sponsored by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA).

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