



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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July 2009

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News explores how air-freight carriers are cutting back on jet fuel to reduce global warming.

At readers' request we give more details on how the city of New Orleans is expanding efforts to rebuild "green" within municipal programs as well as through voluntary efforts.

On a broader scope, we dig into how DOE is disbursing Recovery Act funding for energy projects.

It's mid-summer, and the [2009 Solar Decathlon](#) rolls closer. Four more teams share how they are working to make their solar home entries unique.

Features investigates why an ever-increasing number of companies and government agencies encourage employees to telework from home or remote office locations.

Universally, they find that teleworking cuts commuter traffic congestion and also yields measurable increases in worker productivity, job satisfaction and employee retention.



As the 2009 Solar Decathlon edges closer, student teams pick up the pace to complete their entries for October judging on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Photo courtesy of Team Missouri

[View Santa Clara University's video message](#) to California Governor Schwarznegger, giving him the ten-best-reasons to check out their solar home and keynote the kick-off celebration sending it to Washington.

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Recovery Act energy funds roll out the door

The pace of moving Recovery Act energy efficiency and renewable energy funds into the marketplace is accelerating, with Weatherization Assistance Program and State Energy Program funds leading the way. See [NEWS RELEASES](#) for June and July award details.

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New Orleans grows greener

Between 1998 and 2007, new Orleans experienced the largest decline in population that any major U.S. city has ever experienced from a single event. Hurricane Katrina decimated the city and its population, impacting 80 percent of the built environment and

chasing away 90 percent of the population, some never to return.¹

After our feature last month focused on the rebuilding of New Orleans by voluntary organizations, readers asked for more information on what the city itself is doing to rebuild in a sustainable manner.



New Orleans continues on its "green rebuilding" path following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Photo courtesy of: [Wikipedia](#)

John Moore, a 4th-generation New Orleanian, gave us the answers. Working in the New Orleans [Office of Recovery Management](#), he talked about the city's green rebuilding projects and also shared a bit of his personal experience.

"I had gone away to school," he said, "and hadn't planned to come back to New Orleans. Then the hurricane hit.

"After the flood waters went down, my family was struggling, right along with everybody else, to rebuild our lives and our city. [I wanted to be part of a sustainable rebuilding process.](#)

"I'd seen the chaos and I knew something needed to change. That led me into the green rebuilding effort."

Here are a few of the current New Orleans sustainable rebuilding projects:

- [Recovery School District](#), City of New Orleans, has committed to assisting all schools to reach LEED Certification. This follows efforts of [Global Green's Green Seed School Program](#) and involvement of the [U.S. Green Building Council](#);
- Working with local utility [Entergy Corporation](#) to install solar panels on several schools;
- Working with DOE's [Solar America Cities Program](#) to develop a solar education curriculum for schools;
- Completing a carbon footprint analysis in collaboration with the [International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives](#) and Global Green;
- Working with [Make it Right](#) and the city's [Job1](#) to develop workforce development training programs;
- Working with local [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) funding recipient [Total Community Action](#) and the [Louisiana Department of Natural Resources](#) to standardize city-wide weatherization assistance programs — and to ensure that no duplication of efforts occur;
- Holding engagement meetings, inviting all players to the table to discuss green jobs and weatherization assistance.

1. *draft City of New Orleans Carbon Footprint Report, by GreenNOLA*

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Building the Green Power Express

Two midwestern companies are planning to build what they call the "Green Power Express," a series of high-voltage electricity transmission lines linking Great Plains wind farms with cities of the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions.

The \$12 billion Green Power Express will carry as much as 12,000 megawatts when completed. The renewable energy it will make available is projected to cut carbon emissions by as much as 34 million metric tons, compared to electricity generated by equivalent coal-fueled power plants.

The proposed transmission lines will run about 3,000 miles through North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana.

Current developers, [MDU Resources Group Inc.](#), Bismarck, N.D., and [ITC Holdings Corp.](#), an independent electricity transmission company located in Novi, Mich., are expected to be joined by other companies as the project progresses.

ITC is the nation's largest independent electric transmission company. It focuses solely on electric transmission and consists of three operating companies – ITC *Transmission*, Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC (METC), and ITC Midwest. These companies, combined, serve more than 13 million people in five states.



Building high-voltage transmission lines from rural areas to major metropolitan areas is key to renewable energy's future.

Photo courtesy of: [KAP Gallery](#)

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Air cargo carriers slashing fossil fuel use

United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) will [cut its airline fleet's greenhouse gas emissions 42 percent from 1990 levels](#), by burning less fossil fuel.

Rival parcel-carrier Federal Express (FedEx) has announced it will attempt to get 30 percent of its fuel from petroleum alternatives by 2030.

U.S. Department of Transportation data shows that aviation accounts for about 10 percent of transportation-caused, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

UPS will invest in more fuel-efficient aircraft, introduce biofuels, reduce runway idling and better optimize flight routes, among other things, to slash its fuel costs and emissions of greenhouse gases.

FedEx is switching from MD-11s to Boeing 777s for its long-range, international routes. The company will also phase out Boeing 727s, replacing them with 757 models, which are 47 percent more fuel-efficient.

"[These planes carry more cargo](#), thus making fewer trips and requiring less fuel per payload," FedEx Chairman and CEO Fred Smith said. "They operate more efficiently and produce fewer emissions."

Both UPS and FedEx are also making the switch toward more fuel-efficient and alternative-fuel vans for local delivery, as well as updating their long-distance trucking

operations.



U.S. air freight carriers are switching to fuel-efficient aircraft to reduce their carbon footprint and cut operating costs.

Photo courtesy of: [Wikipedia Commons](#).

In a similar move, Northwest Airlines Cargo (NWAC) is purchasing 4,200 lightweight cargo/luggage containers which the airline says could save up to 1.3 million gallons of fuel per year.

Additionally, NWAC has replaced engines on five of its freighter aircraft with more fuel efficient and higher performance engines for a five percent improvement in fuel efficiency.

The move will save the airline an estimated 2.4 million gallons of fuel per year and eliminate over 26,000 tons of carbon emissions.

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U.S. farmers confound pessimists

U.S. farmers responded to complex 2009 commodity price signals and weather patterns by [planting 321 million acres of crops](#), 3.9 million fewer acres than in the previous year.

Within that planting mix, they bumped up corn 1.2 percent to 87 million acres, and soybeans 2.3 percent to 77.5 million acres.

This represents the second-largest corn acreage in more than 60 years, and a record area of land devoted to soybeans. Farmers accomplished this in spite of an unusually wet spring that, at times, had analysts stewing about whether growers could even get their crops planted at all.

"For the third straight year, American farmers are expected to produce a record or near [record amount of corn on fewer acres than were farmed a half-century ago](#)," Renewable Fuels Association President Bob Dinneen said. "Farming efficiencies and new technologies are yielding production gains for American agriculture that continue to exceed demand for food, feed and, increasingly, renewable fuel alternatives to petroleum."



U.S. family farmers combined management expertise, up-to-date machine and computer technologies and modern plant genetics to overcome this spring's wet planting season.

Photo courtesy of: [Listening In](#)

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The best way to cut down on commute-time traffic is to stay home. Increasingly, companies and government agencies are offering more employees opportunities to telework and do just that.

Photo courtesy of: [Denver Post](#)

Just say no to rush hour

Can teleworking save transportation fuel and cut drive-time pollution?

Yes.

There are many valid reasons to telework, and reducing rush-hour commuting is one of them.

- Commuter traffic delays have increased 41 percent since 1990;
- Commuter traffic congestion has tripled in the last 20 years;
- Vehicle efficiency dips to its lowest levels during stop-and-go traffic;
- The rate of vehicle-caused air pollution is highest in stop-and-go traffic;
- Transportation-caused "brown clouds" contribute to sickness and disease;
- Commuter traffic time cuts into people's lives and reduces business productivity;
- Imported oil used for commuting burdens our national economy.

Yet most people who could telework, don't.

An independent study has found that while 40 percent of the U.S. workforce have jobs that would allow them to work from home, less than four percent actually do so. The same study estimates that if all eligible people switched to teleworking, our nation would eliminate 154 trillion miles of driving during the most traffic-congested hours of the day. Other studies indicate that well over 50 percent of U.S. workers could work from home at least part of the time.

[University of Maryland research](#), based on more conservative estimates, calculates that if all potential teleworkers did so at least two days a week, the U.S. could save 1.35 billion gallons of gasoline annually — preventing 26 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

Tennessee officials estimate that [if 20 percent of state employees teleworked just one day](#)

[a week for ten months, commuter-driving would be reduced by 15 million miles](#), keeping 142 tons of carbon monoxide emissions from choking the sky.

A [report](#) from the Portland Cement Association (concerned with building roads and highway infrastructure) estimates that U.S. traffic congestion wastes 3 billion gallons of fuel and contributes 27.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. The report goes further to say, "Overall economic impact of traffic delays adds up to \$80 billion per year."

So what holds us back from teleworking, and are there signs the situation is improving?

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Tilting toward telework

The U.S. telework environment is changing fast -- in favor of more people staying at home or traveling only short distances to nearby satellite offices to do their work. Record-high gasoline prices last summer accelerated the practice, and now, both employers and employees are discovering additional benefits that turn them into telework advocates.

The greatest percentage of teleworkers are found at medium-sized companies (100-999 employees); the same companies that have created over 60 percent of all the new jobs in the last decade, are among the nation's most productive and crank out almost 30 percent of U.S. exports.



Companies supporting telework find that employee productivity improves.

Photo courtesy of: [Teach ITC.com](#)

According to [Telecommute America](#):

- Teleworking is currently increasing about 20 percent per year;
- 41 percent of federal employees currently telework — up from only 19 percent at the same time last year;
- Teleworkers save 29-32 miles and 1.1 trips per telework occasion.

Three factors have held back teleworking in the past:

- Management and worker resistance to change;
- Inadequate communication and electronic infrastructure;
- Lack of experience and data on how well it works.

These barriers are rapidly crumbling. Facts are piling up that teleworking *does* work, and in fact, tends to increase productivity right along with worker satisfaction.

IBM is one company that has long embraced teleworking, offering it to its work force since 1992. The results have been very positive. Today, some 40 percent of IBM's global workforce of 386,000 have an option to work from a remote location.

Andrea Jackson, manager of work life, flexibility and mobility programs for IBM, said, in a [Google interview](#), "We focus on results. And with that in mind it really doesn't matter where you work. Flexible work options allow employees to be more productive."

IBM software marketing manager Joanne Senn lives in Austin, Texas and spends 95 percent of her work time at home, where she can consult emails, participate in conference

calls with colleagues in Europe and across the U.S. and share ideas quickly via instant messaging.

"It is remarkably refreshing not to have to deal with commuting," she said. Senn avoids a 15-mile, 45-minute, twice-daily drive to and from Austin on most days.

[Telework Under the Microscope -- A Report on the National Science Foundation's Telework Program](#) found that telework is a win-win-win for managers, employees and the environment.

Anthony Arnolie, NSF's chief human capital officer, said, "Employees win on three fronts - better work/life balance, reduced carbon footprints, as well as decreased commuting time and costs. The agency wins too as telework helps us recruit and retain highly skilled workers and overall productivity increases."

By not commuting, each NSF teleworker reclaims an average of 62 hours of their lives back and saves \$1,201 a year. NSF teleworkers each year collectively spare the environment more than a million pounds of emissions and save more than \$700,000 in commuting costs.

Sixty-seven percent of employees who manage teleworkers also telework themselves.

The majority of those who manage teleworkers do not find it difficult to evaluate teleworkers. They also find that telework requires minimal or no change to how work is done.

Managers who directly supervise teleworkers find those employees' productivity increases or remains the same while teleworking.

The NSF telework experience is right in line with what other telework organizations find; the vast majority report that employee productivity greatly improves, that it is far easier to attract good employees, and once hired, those employees tend to stay with the company longer; retention rates are much higher than in organizations not offering telework options.

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How to succeed at teleworking

For managers and employees wanting to try teleworking within their organizations, experienced managers say three things are necessary:

Transparency:

- Teleworking has to be open and inclusionary.
- Everyone needs to understand why teleworking is being instituted, how it will affect them and what will be expected.
- When formulating telework policy, gather information from people at all levels of the organization.
- No hidden agendas.
- Telework policy must be concise, written, shared and agreed-to by all involved.
- Work goals should be clearly stated and agreed to.
- Some level of accomplishment reporting is required.

Flexibility:

- In teleworking, one size does not fit all.
- Not all jobs are suited to teleworking.

- Not all people are suited to teleworking.
- Line managers must have the flexibility to effectively implement telework within corporate policy, guidelines and best practices.
- Telework opportunities change over over time and within situations; corporate policy should be flexible enough to allow managers to capitalize on those variables.
- Manage by objective, not attendance.
- Don't write telework policy on a stone tablet; be prepared to modify it as you learn more about how it is working in your organization.
- Remember: rules are written to serve people, not for people to serve rules.

Communication:

- Open communication is key.
- Managers and employees must talk regularly, just as they would in the office.
- Communication and access must be open throughout the workday.
- Potential problems must be addressed up front and early.
- Work solutions must be jointly arrived at between managers and teleworkers.
- Potential scheduling conflicts should be discussed and resolved by all concerned.

One source of ideas for first steps is [Telework Exchange](#) (TE), a public-private partnership focused on helping firms and people get started teleworking.

TE is currently supporting Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine's effort to reduce energy consumption and efficiency through a statewide [Telework Day](#). The [Commonwealth of Virginia](#), [Telework!VA](#), and [Telework Exchange](#) are encouraging organizations and individuals to telework from home or a remote location on Monday, Aug. 3.

TE hosted its sixth [Telework Exchange Town Hall Meeting](#) in Washington, D.C. Sept. 24, providing an open dialogue on best practices in building and expanding telework programs.

Other good sources of telework implementation information include:

[GSA Telework Portal](#)

[OPM Telework Portal](#)

[Telework.gov](#)

[Telework VA](#)

[Telecommuting: Worldwide Resources](#)

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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 the U.S. Department of Energy's 2009 Solar Decathlon. They have been working for almost two years to design, build and then operate attractive, energy-efficient solar-powered homes.

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

University of Kentucky

"The Solar Decathlon empowers me to raise public awareness of our capabilities to conserve. If people implement just a few new systems or practices, I believe I will have made a difference."

—Jeffery Kellow, engineering graduate student

The University of Kentucky's [S. ky blue house](#) is the catalyst for a number of projects to bring solar-and-sustainability-oriented architecture to the Bluegrass state.



Combining solar technology with a traditional "Kentucky feel" inside is the challenge of the S.ky blue house.

Photo courtesy of: [S.ky Blue Live.Light](#)

The team received ideas from 139 students competing to help design a solar home, and the top five ideas were incorporated into the S.ky blue house.

A breezeway design blends an open loft concept with a series of integrated outdoor spaces. The house combines traditional Kentucky-style architecture — Shaker built-in cabinetry, wall-integrated folding tables and chairs — with modern energy-efficient systems.

Designed to be lived in by "aging-in-place" homeowners, [the house](#) adapts to the occupants' changing needs by offering features such as counters that raise and

lower with the push of a button and by being ADA-compliant.

The S. ky blue house includes:

- Rainwater harvesting;
- Solar-tracking PV arrays;
- Electronically tintable glass;
- High-efficiency appliances;
- Reverse cycle heat pump;
- Demand-controlled ventilation, and;
- Automatic energy controls linked to zip-code-specific weather forecasts.

After the competition, the S.ky blue house will be used as the Visitors Center at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Ky.

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Universidad de Puerto Rico

"We really want to show people on the island that efficient solar home design is possible — and we, in turn, get pumped when they become more enthusiastic."

— Shellar Garcia, undergraduate architecture student

The Universidad de Puerto Rico's Solar Decathlon team is in full swing, building their [Caribbean Affordable Solar House \(CASH\)](#) in San Juan.



CASH combines open, island living with affordability and efficient solar design.

Photo courtesy of: [Universidad de Puerto Rico](#)

home to energy efficient solar design, while also utilizing prevailing breezes for cross ventilation.

A unique thermacoat paint will be applied to the rooftop to reduce solar gain, while dozens of windows, moveable doors, walls and screens allow ventilation control as desired.

Significantly, the students select components and materials originating in Puerto Rico ranging from a high-tech solar electric system to reclaimed wood from abandoned park benches. The idea is to show local people that the home is economically feasible while also being practical to live in.

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Team Missouri

“Not to say we have seen eye to eye on all topics, but the partnership between MST and the University of Missouri architecture students has been a huge success.”

— **Luke Sudkamp, project manager**



Team Missouri's house combines collection of electrical energy and hot water into one system.

Photo courtesy of: [Team Missouri](#)

Team Missouri's [Expanding Horizons](#) home includes:

CASH is Puerto Rico's fourth entry in the Solar Decathlon competition. The team has refocused their intention to capitalize on being the only group participating from a tropical region. They have designed their entry to be affordable and well adapted to Caribbean living.

CASH is designed to withstand hurricane-force winds of 175 mph, going way beyond what is required by the Solar Decathlon.

The home is "L" shaped, taking full advantage of the Caribbean environment. Oriented east-west, the most prominent exterior area faces south, opening the

Missouri University of Science and Technology (MST), after participating in four previous Solar Decathlon competitions, has joined forces with architectural students of the University of Missouri to create an appealing, ADA-compliant solar-powered home.

The "Show-Me" Solar team has been working since the conclusion of the 2007 competition. More than 50 students on both campuses have contributed to the project. Disciplines range from architecture, interior design, engineering, electrical engineering, marketing and computer engineering.

- Passive solar techniques;
- Chameleon climate-automation system with touch-screen capability to monitor energy and hot water use;
 - [MST's next-generation solar thermal electric panel system](#);
 - Roof-top, evacuated tube arrays to supply hot water for heating;
 - Radiant hot water flooring that improves comfort and indoor air quality.

After the competition, the Expanding Horizons home will be returned to MST, joining a street of previous Solar Decathlon homes.

Rice University

"Our big hope, and the hope for the Solar Decathlon, is to show the public that solar energy is real; it's here now and it's accessible."

— **Roque Sanchez, a student team leader**

Rice University's [ZE-Row House](#) (Zero Energy Row House) is targeted to prove the practicality of solar-powered homes for moderate income families in the southern U.S. The house will be built for about \$160,000, less than half the cost of many Solar Decathlon entries.



Ze-Row House, in early construction phase, with entry designed to mimic the traditional "shotgun" houses in Houston's Third Ward.

Photo courtesy of: [Rice University](#)

Ze-Row House has been specifically designed for the [Row House Community Development Corporation](#) (RHCD) of Houston, Texas.

The fully solar-powered home is designed to withstand Houston's Gulf Coast climate — where it will spend most of its operational life after the competition. It features bamboo floors, limited windows to reduce summer heat gain and a state-of-the-art air conditioning system. Solar panels and a roof-mounted solar water heater save energy and money. Extra power feeds back into the grid.

Following the competition, the home will be returned to Texas to serve as the next model home for RHCD's single family housing development in Houston's Third Ward. RHCD was formed in 2003 to help save one of Houston's oldest neighborhoods of single family bungalows or row homes.

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News Releases

July 22, 2009

[DOE, Agriculture Department to award \\$6.3 million for biofuels research](#)

July 21, 2009

[DOE delivers more than \\$63 million for weatherization programs](#)

July 20, 2009

[DOE awards more than \\$162 million for state energy programs](#)

July 16, 2009

[DOE announces nearly \\$14 million to go to 28 new wind energy projects](#)

July 15, 2009

[DOE announces up to \\$22 million for community renewable energy deployment](#)

July 14, 2009

[DOE announces nearly \\$300 million for energy efficient appliances](#)

July 10, 2009

[Obama administration awards more than \\$141 million for state energy programs in six states and territories](#)

July 10, 2009

[Obama administration delivers more than \\$448 million for weatherization programs in 13 states](#)

July 9, 2009

[Treasury, Energy Departments announce more than \\$3 billion in Recovery Act funds for renewable energy projects](#)

July 6, 2009

[Obama administration awards more than \\$153 million for state energy programs in seven states and territories](#)

June 30, 2009

[Obama administration announces up to \\$32 million initiative to expand hydropower](#)

June 29, 2009

[Obama administration launches new energy efficiency efforts](#)

June 26, 2009

[DOE delivers more than \\$304 million for weatherization programs](#)

June 25, 2009

[Obama administration awards more than \\$154 million for state energy programs in four states](#)

June 24, 2009

[Obama administration awards more than \\$204 million for state energy programs in 10 states](#)

June 22, 2009

[Obama administration announces more than \\$32 million for energy projects in Michigan](#)

June 22, 2009

[Obama administration announces more than \\$16 million for energy projects in Iowa](#)

June 18, 2009

[Obama administration delivers more than \\$453 million for weatherization programs in 15 states](#)

June 11, 2009

[New funding boosts carbon capture, solar energy and high gas mileage cars and trucks](#)

June 9, 2009

[DOE's Solar Decathlon to highlight innovation, future green jobs](#)

June 8, 2009

[DOE delivers over \\$80 million in weatherization funding to first four states](#)

June 2, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces nearly \\$50 million of Recovery Act funding to accelerate deployment of geothermal heat pumps](#)

June 1, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces \\$256 million investment to improve the energy efficiency of the American economy](#)

May 27, 2009

[President Obama announces over \\$467 million in Recovery Act funding for geothermal and solar energy projects](#)

May 26, 2009

[Secretary Chu joins world leaders to sign international partnership for energy efficiency cooperation](#)

May 12, 2009

[Secretary Chu, Governor Patrick announce \\$25 million for Massachusetts Wind Technology Testing Center](#)

May 7, 2009

[Secretary Chu: President's energy budget creates jobs, restores America's scientific leadership and puts nation on path to energy independence](#)

May 6, 2009

[DOE selects 53 new projects focused on wind energy for up to \\$8.5 million](#)

May 6, 2009

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

May 5, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces nearly \\$800 million from Recovery Act to accelerate biofuels research and commercialization](#)

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Reader Comments

June — Cities use LED street lights to cut energy costs

"Is it true that LED street lights are cooler and in the north they need to expend potentially more energy on them to heat them back up so snow and ice doesn't build up?"

— B. K.

Editor: According to Pacific NW Lab researchers, LEDs put out some heat, and actually have heat sinks to dissipate heat.

The only application in which snow buildup might be an issue is with upward-facing, airport landing lights. Researchers say that enough heat is generated to "eventually" melt the snow/ice. Specific incidents of this potential issue have not yet been noted.

With vertical signal lights, there could be a temporary issue of blowing snow or ice sticking to the signal, but there has not been any issue raised thus far. The City of Anchorage has been a test site for LED signal lights and has shown great success.

With downward-facing lights there should be no issue. In fact, for street lights (facing down) the snow on top would actually improve the efficiency, because 80% of the energy going to an LED dissipates as heat, which is why the heat sinks are necessary.

June — Size of U.S. coal supply called into question

"...Using coal for energy (groan!) Solar energy is limitless & clean. Work on that! And whatever happened to the concerns about global warming. This is going to "blow it out of the water!"

— R. W. M.

June — Size of U.S. coal supply called into question

"I recently subscribed to EERE Program News; the information is thoroughly helpful.

Among other things, it is satisfying to see news on research that suggests that estimates of some coal reserves may be too high. A wealth of policy and education/awareness ideas can develop from that.

Again, many thanks for your work!"

— J. A.

June — First cellulosic ethanol flows into Canadian cars

"Ever since the rise in oil prices there has been a steady drum beat of our energy dependence on foreign oil.

Now that the wolf is at our door and the price of gas has gone through the roof, we are [becoming] aware of the things ecologists have been saying for years [global warming, environmental disasters].

The whole issue of our country's dependence on foreign oil may come back to bite us. Are we willing to start WW III in order to get the natural resources we need?

We live in a world that is inter-dependent where food, manufacturing, jobs, and every thing else is shared on a global basis. Is it not better to share the wealth of technology and the fruits of earth's bounty? If the fuel of the future is indeed bio, should it not be shared among the world's population? No homo sapiens is an island."

— K.

June —Out of Disaster - Opportunity

"As a native Kansan, I rejoice at the policy directions, the achievements and the wide dissemination of the Greensburg response to the '07 tornado.

It is a source of on-going chagrin to me, however, that a much more insidious disaster at Picher, Okla. and surrounding the Tar Creek Superfund Site has been hit by the true, industrial/natural perfect storm with very little press, and essentially no governmental response --- other than to evacuate people from the affected area.

Picher was undermined by nearly a century of lead-zinc mining, then the recipient of highly acid-metals contaminated water pollution emerging from the mines when they closed.

The mines are so shallow that at least two-thirds of the town is in danger of structural collapse.

As though this were not bad enough, in 2007, Picher and nearby Miami were severely flooded, then in May 2008, Picher was devastated by an F4 tornado.

As a nation, we bear a national responsibility to regenerate this area's economy, as a stimulus to ecological and cultural restoration, given that the lead and zinc mined there fed munitions to all the American-fought wars from the Spanish-American to Viet Nam.

The Tar Creek Superfund Site is, moreover, occupied by at least eight First Nations Tribes, most of the land falling under Quapaw Tribal control. Renewable energy development could be the foundation of a regenerative, restoration effort.

Biomass, solar and wind resources should be developed. This land was once highly biologically productive. It can be made so again.

Yes, Greensburg is a laudable case, but Picher and nearly the entire Quapaw landholding has also been severely affected by natural and man-made disasters. I am astonished when it receives little or no creative energy or discussion.

Please give Tar Creek another look from the regenerative, renewable energy development point of view, rather than 'just' moving people off the land, as has been done too much in the past. Let's get busy, get together, and get this done!"

— I. W.

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Speeches, Op-Eds and Testimony

July 22, 2009

[Opinion piece in the Richmond \(Va.\) Times-Dispatch by Secretary of Energy Steven Chu](#)

Subject: The U.S. Can Lead a "New Industrial Revolution" in Clean Energy

July 16, 2009

[Drury Crawley, EERE, before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management](#)

Subject: Benefits of Green Buildings

June 4, 2009

[Harvard University Commencement Address by DOE Secretary Steven Chu](#)

"...There are immediate and significant savings in energy efficiency and conservation. Energy efficiency is not just low-hanging fruit; it is fruit lying on the ground. We have the potential to make buildings 80 percent more efficient with investments that will pay for themselves in less than fifteen years. Buildings consume 40 percent of the energy we use, and a transition to energy efficient buildings will cut our carbon emissions by one third."

May 19, 2009

[Secretary Steven Chu before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies](#)

Subject: FY 2010 Budget Request

May 14, 2009

[Victor Der, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, Before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#)

Subject: Carbon Capture, Transportation and Storage

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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](#) or [John Horst](#)

[Federal Energy Management Program \(FEMP\)](#) — holds technical workshops around the nation throughout the year, plus webinars; check this link for continually updated information on these events.

[Industrial Technologies Program \(ITP\)](#) — holds specialized workshops and on-line webinars year-around. Check this link for a continuously updated schedule.

[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.

[Solar Economics Forum USA](#) — Sept. 9-10, Washington, D.C.

The forum will bring together solar industry players to explore the economics of the solar industry, understand the impact of current policies and find ways to further accelerate market growth and cut costs to reach grid parity.

[Renewable Energy Markets 2009](#) — Sept. 13-16, Atlanta, Ga.

Power marketers, renewable energy developers, large purchasers, retail and wholesale green power suppliers, electric utilities, equipment manufacturers, government agencies, energy consultants and nonprofit experts will present on the major issues facing the industry.

[International Conference on Laboratory Sustainability](#) — Sept. 22-24, Indianapolis, Ind.

This laboratory sustainability conference is co-sponsored by DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories.

[CEFPI 86th Annual World Conference and Expo](#) — Sept. 27-29, Washington, D.C.

Build "Six degrees of connection" as you network and share best practices with a global array of experts on educational facility planning. Attend select session tracks on navigating today's challenging economy.

[2009 EEBA Excellence in Building Conference and Expo](#) — Sept. 28-30, Denver, Colo.

Builders, remodelers, developers, architects, designers and manufacturers will be coming to this Energy and Environmental Building Association conference to learn the science behind green and sustainable building practices, and to understand new regulations and legislation.

[Michigan Clean Transportation Expo & Awards](#) — Sept. 29, Novi, Mich.

Event will cover biofuels, what's new in transportation policy, the latest battery/energy storage and power technology, and tomorrow's vehicles from passenger cars to heavy-duty trucks.

[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 DOE Solar Decathlon](#) — Oct. 8-13 and 15-18, Washington, D.C.

2009 edition of this popular DOE showcase for solar-powered, energy efficient homes designed and constructed by collegiate 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).

[2009 Remodeling Show](#) — Oct. 27-30, Indianapolis, Ind.

A national event that places serious buyers and serious sellers face-to-face for three days of serious business.

[Sunbelt Builders Show](#) — Oct. 29-31, Grapevine, Texas

A trade show and education conference for residential and light construction industries; offers an opportunity to exhibit the latest building products and services, learn from the nation's construction industry experts, while networking with thousands of building professionals.

[AIChE Annual Meeting](#) — Nov. 8-13, Nashville, Tenn.

Premier educational forum for chemical engineers. A wide range of subjects relevant to the latest research and newest technologies in emerging growth areas will be covered.

[2009 Greenbuild International Conference and Expo](#) — Nov. 10-14, Phoenix, Ariz.

U.S. Green Building Council conference will offer workshops, tours and informational sessions on all phases of green building.

[2009 Behavior, Energy, and Climate Change Conference](#) — Nov. 15-18, Washington, D.C.

A conference to catalyze collaboration across government, utility, business and research sectors, and to share recent research and program information on meeting long-term energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

[Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Workforce Education](#) — Nov. 18-20, Albany, N.Y.

Conference will offer the most current information on instructional strategies, curricula development, and best practices for training in the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields.

[Ecobuild America](#) — Dec. 8-10, Washington, D.C.

Ecobuild America educates design and construction professionals on how to improve our built environment. Emphasis on creating high performance, sustainable structures, and doing it faster and more profitably.

[International Builders Show](#) — Jan. 19-22, 2010, Las Vegas, Nev.

This show will center on how builders can retool their businesses and educate themselves to be ready when the housing market turns around.

[ASHRAE Winter Conference](#) — Jan. 23-27, 2010, Orlando, Fla.

Conference will seek to advance the state of the art in indoor environmental control by focusing the technical program on the theme "Humidity and Sustainable Indoor Environment;" will include tracks on energy conservation and alternative energy sources, sustainability, humidity and load calculations.

[Better Buildings: Better Business Conference](#) — March 3-5, 2010, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Learn how to build homes that deliver the energy savings customers want, about renewable energy technologies that reduce energy costs and how energy efficiency and green building practices keep your business competitive.

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