



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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June 2009

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Associate Editor: [John Horst](#)

News explores stories ranging from clean energy job creation, to LED street lights in San Francisco, to keeping track of the clean energy incentives available through the Recovery Act.

Features investigates how New Orleans, La. and Greensburg, Kan. are still working to recover from weather-caused disasters.

Everyone is aware of what Hurricane Katrina did to the Gulf Coast, and quite a few have heard of how an EF-5 tornado ripped apart the tiny town of Greensburg in 2007.

But few have heard of how both communities are turning to renewable energy technologies and energy efficient buildings as local citizens make their homes and businesses better than ever. **Features**

dives into these stories and the role DOE has played in the rebuilding. ([Greensburg video](#))



Fossil fuels vs. renewables: Chevron CEO Dave O'Reilly and Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope debate America's energy future.

[Video Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#).

Photo and video courtesy of: Wall Street Journal

Video recorded at the [Commonwealth Club](#)

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News

Cities use LED street lights to cut energy costs

Cities across the country are turning to light-emitting diode (LED) street lights to save energy and money.

[USA Today reports](#) that at least 30 cities have requested more than \$104 million in Recovery Act funding to help make the change to LED street lighting. Several cities, including Ann Arbor, Mich., and Anchorage, Alaska, have already installed new, LED street lights, and dozens more are planning conversions.

Compared to traditional sodium vapor lights, LED street lights cut energy use by about 50 percent. They also produce whiter, brighter light and offer improved reliability and longer product life. Up-front cost is higher than conventional lighting, but lifetime cost is greatly reduced, primarily through energy savings and reduced maintenance.

DOE has long supported LED technologies and research through its Solid State



New Light-emitting diode (LED) street lights eliminate unwanted glare, energy waste, light trespass and sky glow that accompany traditional incandescent streetlamps.

Photo courtesy of: OKSolar.com

Lighting (SSL) program. The agency's [GATEWAY demonstration project](#) showcases high-performance lighting and provides decision-makers with [real-life experience and data](#) on product performance and cost effectiveness.

Following a [GATEWAY project in San Francisco](#), city officials installed 50 energy-efficient LED street lights as a next step in making the switch to the new, more efficient lighting. [CBS-5 News video](#)

A California utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, has announced a San Francisco-area [consumer incentive plan for LED street lights](#). Initially, the plan applies only to customer-owned street lights, but will soon be followed by financial incentives for metered street lights as well. Other outdoor LED lighting will also be encouraged through various future incentives.

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First cellulosic ethanol flows into Canadian cars

Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's largest oil company, has announced that one of its Canadian service stations has become the [world's first to fill customers' tanks using a gasoline blend containing advanced biofuel made from wheat straw](#).



Shell and Iogen Energy Corporation have partnered to provide customers their first fill of cellulosic ethanol at a service station in Ottawa, Canada.

Photo courtesy of: Shell

For one month, customers at a service station in Ottawa, Canada, are buying regular gasoline blended with 10 percent cellulosic ethanol. Shell and Iogen Energy Corp. are partners in a demonstration, cellulosic ethanol plant producing about 40,000 liters of fuel a month.

While the event has yielded good publicity for cellulosic ethanol, Shell spokesperson David Williams said in a [New York Times article](#), "Cost-competitive advanced biofuels in substantial quantities are probably five to 10 years away. Our ultimate vision is large-scale production and significant commercial availability."

Shell's belief in commercial biofuels is supported by a new report from [Pike Research](#). The firm forecasts a global ethanol-biodiesel market

approaching \$247 billion by 2020, up from a projected \$76 billion in 2010.

Pike Research Managing Director Clint Wheelock said, "The economics of ethanol and biodiesel are not yet competitive with petro fuels, and governments have pulled back some of their near-term support. However, in 10 to 15 years, the outlook remains very positive.

"The long-term commitment of national governments to foster a robust biofuels market remains solid. Technological advances and economies of scale will dramatically improve the economics of biofuels versus petroleum."

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Size of U.S. coal supply called into question

The Gillette coal field in Wyoming's Powder River Basin produces more than one third of our nation's coal. Each day, some 1.2 million tons of low ash, low sulfur coal are shipped from the field, a long, black stream filling more than 75 unit-trains of 125 to 150 cars each. This massive output has long been considered a lynchpin of U.S. energy security.

Now, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) suggests that the Gillette field might not hold as much economically recoverable coal as previously assumed.

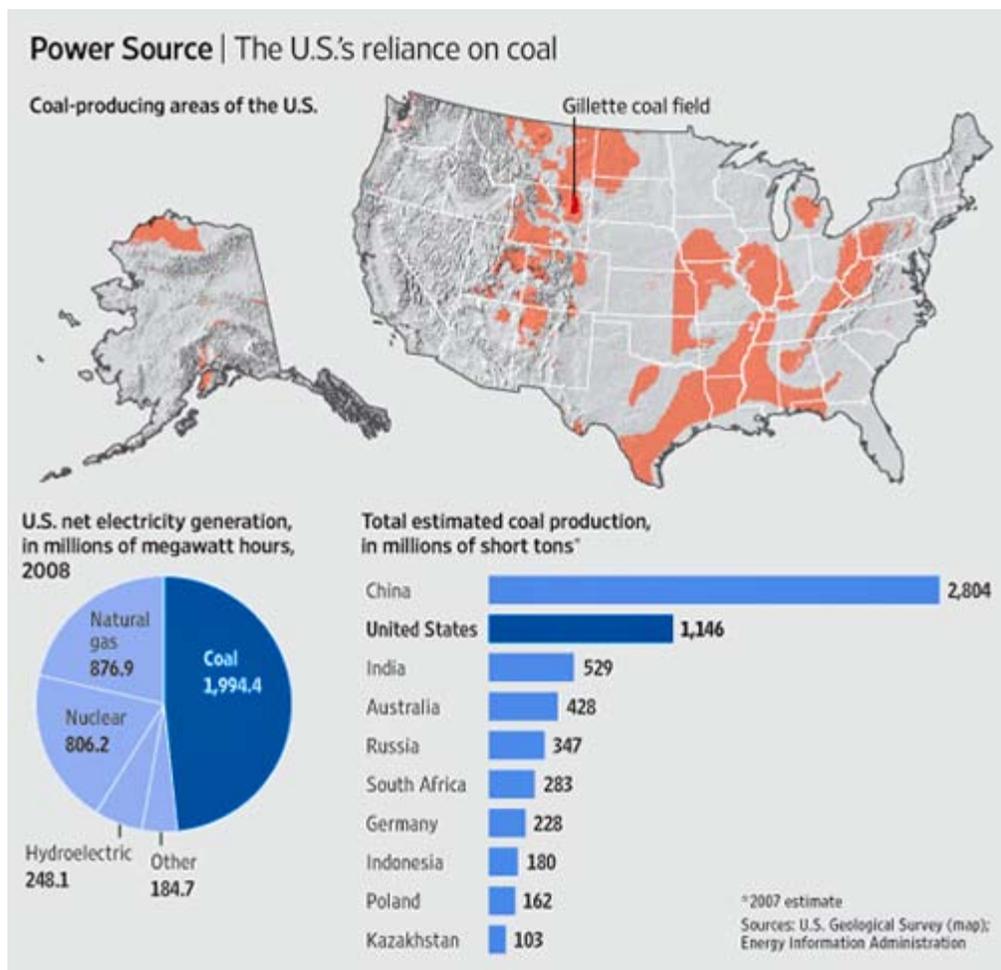
USGS engineers, geologists and economists reached this conclusion after three years of analyzing data from 10,200 drill holes, the most comprehensive study ever attempted in the region.

The team estimates that the Gillette field contains 201 billion tons of coal, but they believe environmental rules and the physical challenge of extraction puts much of the coal beyond economic reach.

The team concluded that with coal selling for a projected \$10.50 a ton (current price is \$8.75), less than 6 percent of the coal could be profitably extracted.

If, on the other hand, Powder River coal prices hit \$60 a ton (in current dollars) about 47 percent could be profitably extracted.

Bottom-line: the USGS report estimates that the Gillette field contains only 77 billion tons of recoverable coal.



Critics increasingly question the wisdom of burning coal to produce electricity. Now, the U.S. Geological Survey also calls into question some long-held assumptions about the amount of economically recoverable coal in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

Illustration courtesy of Wall Street Journal

Alternatively, some coal industry experts believe concerns about future coal supplies are

overblown. They argue that improved technology will increase the amount of coal that can be profitably extracted. Kim Link, spokeswoman for Arch Coal Inc., told the [Wall Street Journal](#), "Coal is certain to remain an enormously competitive energy resource by virtually any conceivable measure."

On the other side of the debate, renewable energy advocates believe wind, solar, geothermal and biomass will continue to become more attractive as alternatives to coal, particularly in the low carbon-emission environment now being advocated by global policy-leaders.

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Clean energy accelerates job creation

For 10 years, the renewable energy industry has added jobs at twice the national job creation rate, according to a new [survey by the Pew Charitable Trusts](#).

Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia saw their clean energy job growth rate outperform total job growth in the decade leading up to 2008.

Venture capital investment in clean technologies totaled \$12.6 billion in 2008. Clean energy jobs now employ people with an amazing range of skills, from engineers and electricians to machinists, teachers and journalists.

"Last year, even with the recession, we saw a quantum leap in resources and institutional appetite for clean technologies. Now, more than ever, clean energy represents the biggest opportunity for job and wealth creation," said Nicholas Parker, executive chairman of the Cleantech Group.



Amanda Farria has recently graduated from the LA Green Corps training program at the Alliance for Affordable Energy. Here, she installs a radiant barrier, which will help reduce summer attic temperatures by 30 degrees.

Texas, for instance, in 2007, offered more than 55,000 clean energy jobs. The state also attracted more than \$716 million in venture capital funds for clean technology between 2007 and 2008.

Photo courtesy of: Alliance for Affordable Energy

In Colorado, clean energy jobs grew at a rate of 18.2 percent annually, while traditional jobs grew by 8.2 percent.

Tennessee cultivated enough jobs in recycling, waste treatment and water management to grow its clean energy economy more than 18 percent in the 2006-2008 period — compared to a 2.5 percent growth rate for total jobs in the state.

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Keeping up with new energy incentives

The proliferation of federal programs to stimulate clean energy uptake can be confusing.

A number of web sites help sort through the maze. Energy Star offers regularly updated, consumer-oriented information on [federal tax incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy](#).

Go to [DOE's Recovery and Reinvestment Act Web site](#) to learn about Recovery Act energy funding in your own state or municipality. Also, check [EERE's Recovery Act Web site](#).

For federal tax incentives on vehicles, check the [Internal Revenue Service Hybrid Vehicles Web site](#), or the [Internal Revenue Service Alternative Vehicle Web site](#).

The [Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#) keeps current with incentives offered by states, municipalities and utilities.

[Recovery.gov](#) outlines Recovery Act funding across all federal program areas.

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Features



Habitat for Humanity single-family dwellings in New Orleans' Ninth Ward represent the new, practical, energy efficient homes being built as part of the city's reconstruction following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Photo courtesy of: New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity

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Out of disaster — opportunity

Features this month looks at the incredible commitment of several organizations, local citizens and businesses to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Greensburg, Kan. after a devastating EF-5 tornado ripped through the town in 2007.

The most intriguing part is that both cities are reinventing themselves green from the ground up, with energy efficiency in the forefront of recovery and spurring new opportunities.

These areas, forced to start over, are ripe for change and fully embrace innovative strategies, modern design and green building techniques that showcase renewable and energy efficient technologies.

What this means, in fact, is the growth of a new job market capable of addressing concerns of helping families reduce their electric bills while also significantly leading the way in reducing our nation's carbon footprint.

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Greensburg goes green



The EF-5 tornado that hit Greensburg — the largest rating on the Enhanced Fujita Scale — was the first in Kansas since the new scale was implemented. The twister was 1.7 miles wide, on the ground for 22 miles non-stop and lasted 30 minutes. Maximum winds were estimated at 205 mph. It was the first fatal storm in southwest Kansas since 1967.

Photo courtesy of: Wikipedia Commons

An EF-5 tornado, the worst of its kind, destroyed 95 percent of the homes and businesses in Greensburg, Kan. on May 4, 2007.

Two years later, only 800 hard-working residents now call the Midwestern farming town home, in comparison to the 1,400 before the storm. But residents and volunteers are determined to rebuild it into a better, greener place to live.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy play big roles in this rebuilding. Progress being made to [green up Greensburg](#) is amazing.

With the help of non-profit organizations, state agencies, [DOE](#), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other federal agencies, energy efficient homes, shops, schools, hospitals and more are springing up everywhere.

To keep track of all this activity, the city has developed the [Greensburg Building Database](#). It includes information on all rebuilding efforts and case studies that reflect a commitment to rebuild with smart design measures and energy-saving solutions.

Greensburg's rebuilding solutions, to date, encompass:

- Energy efficiency (solar orientation, insulation, day lighting, high efficiency heating/cooling systems);
- Water efficiency (water-efficient fixtures and appliances and native landscaping);
- Renewable energy (solar electricity, wind, geothermal systems);
- Air quality (nontoxic products, ventilation), and;
- Sustainable building materials (recycled materials, construction waste, reclaimed wood).



Historic Kiowa County Courthouse, while damaged, withstood the storm and is now being repaired and upgraded to new levels of energy efficiency using high-tech lighting and controls, and ground source heat pumps to capture geothermal energy.

Photo courtesy of: NREL/Lynn Billman

The local city council passed a resolution requiring all new city buildings larger than 4,000 square feet to meet U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum certification — reducing energy consumption by 42 percent compared to standard buildings.

Steve Hewitt, Greensburg city administrator, said, "Maybe it's a little crazy; there are fewer than 20 platinum buildings in the country, and when it's all said and done, I'd like four or five right here in Greensburg."

Among the many rebuilds underway in Greensburg is the 95-year-old [Kiowa County Courthouse](#), completely renovated

with high-tech lighting systems and ground-source heat pumps that tap geothermal energy.

The eco-friendly [BTI-Greensburg John Deere Dealership](#) features a showroom illuminated with natural daylight, captured through light tubes from the roof. This simple technology, combined with high R-factor insulation, cuts electricity use and reduces environmental impact. The shop area, where mechanics work, is also well insulated and uses natural daylighting, supplemented with high-efficiency luminaire fixtures.

Greensburg's new, high-tech hospital is being built to LEED Platinum standards; city leaders are hoping it will be the first such facility in the nation to earn such certification. When finished, the center will provide basic medical services for current citizens while also having expansion capabilities for the future.

The city also hopes to attract new green businesses by offering affordable options for such development. One Greensburg company, Sun Chips, has built a business incubator facility to help support this move.

On the renewables front, Greensburg has entered into a joint partnership with the Kansas Power Pool and John Deere Renewables to develop the Greensburg Wind Farm, a project that will provide the town with 100 percent renewable electricity as early as 2010, from ten new, 1.25 megawatt wind turbines.

Rebuilding Greensburg continues to demonstrate how a rural American town can rebound from disaster and turn it into opportunity.

"The biggest success story in Greensburg, to me, has been the resiliency and determination of our local citizens to make a difference in their world.

"We're new pioneers in the sustainability movement."

— **Greensburg Mayor Bob Dixon**

Additional information:

[Rebuilding Green in Greensburg, EERE](#)

[After disaster, town rebuilds by going green \(CNN Video\)](#)

[Greensburg to rebuild as LEED platinum city](#)

[Greensburg, a story of community rebuilding](#)

[Greensburg wind farm development \(PDF 332 KB\) \(Download Adobe Reader\)](#)

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Green building takes hold in Katrina's wake



Almost four years after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the city continues to rebuild. The good news is that many of the new homes and buildings feature improved energy efficiency and green building technologies.

Photo courtesy of: [Unidata](#)

The challenge to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina compares to nothing in recent years. The storm claimed lives, separated families, leveled businesses and neighborhoods and ruined thousands of homes. Essentially, it drowned most of the city. [Times-Picayune video](#)

Millions of words have been written about New Orleans' recovery, but few examine how energy efficiency is being pushed to the forefront in the rebuilding.

DOE has helped the process along, beginning in the immediate aftermath of the storm with a \$100,000 grant to Louisiana, Mississippi and other affected Gulf Coast states to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainable design practices into their rebuilding strategies.

The Department then went on to partner with [Home Depot](#), [Entergy Corporation](#), the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) and other agencies and businesses,

holding homeowner and contractor workshops about energy efficient building practices.

Following the initial crisis, DOE also responded to a state of Louisiana request to develop [web-based training](#) for architects, engineers and code officials, bringing them up to speed on the state's 2005 ASHRAE Commercial Energy Building Code.

As a result of these and other efforts, retrofitted, energy efficient homes and buildings are popping up in several New Orleans neighborhoods, including the communities of St. Bernard, Holy Cross, Central City, and also in areas of the Lower and Upper Ninth Ward, Gentilly, Lakeview and Broadmoor.



A Rebuilding Together New Orleans volunteer performs a green repair by installing radiant barrier in a home attic.

Photo courtesy of: NORebuildingTogether2

Through it all, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) continues working through the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency and local community action agencies to retrofit low income homes with proven, cost-effective energy efficiency improvements that the program has developed over its [30-year lifetime](#).

Solar energy was given a boost in 2006 when New Orleans was named one of 25 [DOE Solar America Cities](#) and awarded a \$450,000 grant to implement and accelerate the adoption of solar technology within the city.

In 2007, DOE's [EnergySmart Schools Program](#) committed \$1.5 million in technical assistance to provide comprehensive energy audits in New Orleans area public

schools. The audits are identifying potential improvement areas that can save the city up to \$1 million annually in cooling and heating costs.

The [National Renewable Energy Laboratory continues to provide energy efficiency advice and consulting](#) in the design of New Orleans homes, working side-by-side with volunteer organizations to identify measures lowering energy use in homes. The goal is to achieve energy savings of 30 percent over the existing code requirements.

More than two dozen community-based organizations are helping New Orleans get back on its feet with homes that are energy efficient, affordable, safe and comfortable. This effort includes work being done by [New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity \(NOAHH\)](#), [Rebuilding Together New Orleans \(RTNO\)](#), [Make it Right Foundation](#), [Alliance for Affordable Energy](#) and [Global Green](#), among others.

[NOAHH's work](#) has resulted in 220 new homes being built, and another 2,400 gutted and repaired. Currently, 50 more homes are under construction, mainly in the Upper Ninth Ward, Holy Grove, Central City and the West Bank. More than 80,000 volunteers have helped in this effort. Musicians' Village, built on an empty school lot, is nearly 90 percent complete housing 70 families, so far.

[RTNO](#) has completed 197 projects, enlisting almost 12,000 volunteers from around the country, donating more than 245,000 hours of work, at a value of about \$4.4 million. RTNO has also been [helping elderly and disabled homeowners return home to New Orleans](#).

All these community-based efforts reach beyond rebuilding New Orleans' housing infrastructure; they are also striving to create a new, green job market that will last into the future. The drive toward energy efficiency emphasizes new jobs and new opportunities.

"Like a growing number of young people across the country, our New Orleans youth are training for careers in green building while at the same time helping those most in need reduce their bills through energy efficiency."

— **Forest Bradley-Wright, Sustainable Rebuild Director of the Alliance for Affordable Energy**

The [Alliance for Affordable Energy runs a work-force training program](#) to teach New Orleans youth basic energy efficiency home improvement skills. Over the course of 14 weeks, trainees in the program learn to weatherize homes by sealing air leaks, repairing ductwork, installing radiant barriers and insulation.

Participants train on-site in low-income homes, improving energy efficiency where it's most needed in the community. Program graduates leave with the skills needed to get green jobs, using technologies such as those used in [DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program](#).

The value of green building and expanding a new knowledge base of ideas, backed by a trained work force, has never been more apparent than in disaster-struck New Orleans.

Additional news stories:

[The American Prospect: Housing New Orleans, Still A Work In Progress](#)

[NY Times: New Orleans Program Links Green Jobs, Youth Development](#)

[Green Strides: A Growing Market for Green Collar Jobs](#)

[Times-Picayune: Gentilly school goes green](#)

[The Inspired Economist \(May 2009\)](#)

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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 October 9-13 and 15-18. [Solar Decathlon Web site](#)

[Virginia Tech](#)

"The Eclipsis Screen System will provide a multi-layer facade providing the homeowner with an almost entirely glass structure."

— **Alden Haley, architecture student**

Virginia Tech's [LUMENHAUS](#) features a flowing, open plan that connects occupants to each other within the house and to nature outside. [\(Video\)](#)



Virginia Tech's LUMENHAUS is designed for maximum flexibility. It can be fully opened up on summer evenings, joined to similar modules or even stacked.

Illustration courtesy of: Virginia Tech 2009 Solar Decathlon Team

The house's interior and exterior seamlessly transition when the Eclipsis System is open. In good weather, with the screens open, the floor space doubles in size as the north and south walls become nonexistent, making the rooms seem boundless.

The house is designed to adapt to the owner's changing needs on a daily basis. Each area has specific activities, but has been designed to be flexible.

The doors within the central core contain office, storage and entertainment space within its lining and doors that can be pulled out to close off the bedroom.

The kitchen counter can be transformed into a bar for entertainment and the dining room table is on castors so it can be moved outside during warm summer evenings. The modular design means the whole house itself is also flexible. Multiple units can be connected or stacked with plug-in stairs and entryways to create two-, three- or four-bedroom houses to adapt to the owners' changing life circumstances.

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Iowa State University

"We're building a home that gives baby boomers an opportunity, once they retire, to live on their own, to feel comfortable in a downsized home and to live around people they know, without having to dread moving."

—Eric Berkson, IT coordinator and architecture student

Iowa State University is the state's first competitor chosen to compete in the DOE Solar Decathlon. The team's design concept is **Interlock** — something that closely fits together to operate as a unit.

With 75 students from 11 majors, the team itself personifies the interlocking, interdisciplinary quality of sustainable design.



Iowa State University's Solar Decathlon entry is designed as a self-contained home for retirees who want to live independently and sustainably.

The team's **Interlock** home targets a growing market segment: active retirees who want to live independently, economically and sustainably in their own home — all within the security of an established neighborhood and their own personal support network.

The Iowa State home is designed to fit into an existing backyard. It is American Disabilities Act accessible and features sun porches, louvers and clerestory lighting. It uses photovoltaics and evacuated tubes to reduce energy

Illustration courtesy of: Iowa State University

demands, while also incorporating a liquid desiccant dehumidifier to control humidity and reduce cooling load.

Other innovative technologies include passive tracking louvers (photovoltaic louvers using dampers, balancing fluids and shades to passively track the sun) and a soybean-based, high R-value, spray-polyurethane foam insulation. ([Video](#))

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Team Ontario/BC

"North House demonstrates a suite of technologies appropriate to varying climatic regions, as well as widely varying seasonal conditions within a given climate region."

—**Lauren Barhydt, team manager**

Team Ontario/BC, also known as Team North, is comprised of more than 100 students from three Canadian schools, the University of Waterloo, Ryerson University and Simon Fraser University. ([Team Blog](#))

The team's entry, [North House](#), is designed for an extreme northern climate experiencing radical weather shifts. [A flexible, solar living infrastructure](#) is fully equipped with mobile and interactive technologies allowing occupants to control the home's energy use both on-site and away.



Team North is building a marketable solar-powered home using the latest in high-performance architecture and mobile communication technology.

Illustration courtesy of: Team North

[North House is constructed in several performance layers](#). The outer most layer is a dynamically-controlled exterior shading system that allows thermal energy into the building when heat is needed, and also protects the building when heat is not required.

The second layer is a highly-insulated glazing system with effective high solar heat gain.

The third layer is an interior blind that moderates privacy and view.

The final interior layer is a thin skin touch-screen, information system

allowing occupants to chose desired energy settings.

Power is provided by rooftop and façade-mounted photovoltaic panels, while natural daylight is captured through floor to ceiling windows, combined with daylight sensors and interior and exterior shading.

North House is framed and sheathed using reclaimed lumber provided by a Canadian forestry initiative. The expansive deck creates an outdoor living space while concealing a water-based heat rejection pond, as well the home's other mechanical and plumbing systems.

After the Solar Decathlon competition, the team plans to exhibit **North House** at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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News Releases

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](#)

April 29, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces \\$93 million from Recovery Act to support wind energy projects](#)

April 29, 2009

[DOE announces launch of Hospital Energy Alliance to increase energy efficiency in healthcare](#)

April 22, 2009

[On Earth Day, Vice President Biden announces \\$300 million in Recovery Act funds for Clean Cities Program](#)

April 22, 2009

[DOE promotes special Earth Week feature on energy.gov](#)

April 17, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces up to \\$10 million to support plug-in hybrid electric school buses](#)

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

[DOE 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](#)

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Reader Comments

May — All three Features articles on wind power

"I am publisher/editor of [Earth Odyssey](#), an educational guide to sustainability and spiritual well being. Would it be possible to reprint the above articles in my monthly

magazine?

— **A. H-A.**

Editor's reply: Thanks for the request. These articles are in the public domain and may be reprinted.

April — What cars will we drive?

Very good job on your newsletter. DOE has some outstanding programs in place, but those are not sufficient by themselves.

Dr. Chu brings logic and intelligence to Washington and he needs to use that in order to move this nation forward. I believe the President and Congress must quickly implement policies that will achieve energy independence, security and a sustainable economic recovery.

Here are the 8 policies we need to consider:

- Implement a \$2-per-gallon gas tax, with additional increases of 50 cents-per-gallon each year for 6 years.
- Implement trade policy that levels the playing field for all nations, including environmental and labor standards.
- Implement economic stimulus plans based on buying American-made products.
- Implement policies that streamline and encourage U.S. manufacturing.
- Set energy policy that incorporates the American consumer in making cost-based environmental choices for a sustainable energy future.
- Set a carbon tax on oil, coal or natural gas used in electricity generation.
- Switch the nation to E25 (gasoline that is 25 percent cellulosic ethanol).
- Produce batteries in US that make electric vehicles practical.

— **R.W.M.**

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Speeches, Op-Eds and Testimony

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.

[SSL Efficiency: DOE SSL Market Introduction Workshop](#) — July 13-15, Chicago, Ill. The fourth annual solid state lighting (SSL) market introduction workshop will be hosted by DOE and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. Workshop will provide reliable information and guidance on new solid state lighting products.

[DOE Office of the Biomass Program, Program Peer Review](#) — July 14-15, Arlington, Va. Meeting will review the strategic direction of the Biomass Program and the results of the Platform Reviews.

[World Congress on Industrial Biotech & Bioprocessing](#) — July 19-22, Montreal, Canada The conference will present an overview of technological developments while fostering the exchange of ideas and providing "real world" scenarios that can be applied in daily practice.

[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. Conference will feature detailed Recovery Act forums on housing, employment, energy and transportation, as well as other topics.

[IEEE Power & Energy Society 2009](#) — July 26-30, Calgary, Alberta, Canada The conference theme "Investment in Workforce and Innovation for Power Systems," will provide an international forum to address policy, infrastructure and work force issues.

[IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting](#) — July 26-30, Calgary, Alberta, Canada The IEEE General Meeting will explore the many different perspectives of the Smart Grid. (See immediately preceding event for full conference details.)

[Southeast Building Conference and Green Building Show](#) — July 30-Aug. 1, Orlando, Fla. Conference to educate and inspire building industry professionals through economic forecasts, financing strategies, green building techniques, while doing more with fewer resources.

[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 (I2SL)

[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, developuers, 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 Buildings Council conference will offer workshops, tours and informational

sessions on a 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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