



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

[EERE Program News , web version](#)

[Subscribe to EERE Program News](#)

May 2009

Editor: [Jack Jenkins](#)

Associate Editor: [John Horst](#)

News concentrates on Recovery Act funding available for renewable energy and energy efficiency, and the current economics of developing renewable energy projects.

Features celebrates Oregon's becoming the seventh state to reach an installed wind-generating capacity of more than 1,000 megawatts (mw).

The state's march toward wind power started in 2001 with a 16-turbine wind farm near Wasco, Ore., turning out enough electricity to power 6,100 homes.

Today, Wasco's Klondike Wind Projects (I, II and III) carry an installed generating capacity of over 400 megawatts, capable of powering up to 115,000 homes.

The Klondike story, and [one farm family's involvement](#) in it, demonstrates the multi-year complexity of bringing renewable energy power into production, and also shows what such development can mean to local communities.



The new 'dragon' stadium in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, is the world's first stadium designed to get all its power directly from the sun.

Encompassing 19 hectares and seating 55,000 spectators, the stadium includes 8,844 solar panels built into the roof.

In addition to powering its own 3,300 lights and two giant television screens, the stadium feeds excess power back into the grid on days when no events are scheduled.

The 'dragon' stadium will be the venue for the main events of the 2009 World Games starting in July.

Photo courtesy of: [Greenpacks.org](#)

Index

[News](#)

- [\\$467 million in DOE funding for geothermal and solar energy](#)
- [IEA predicts first drop in world electricity use since 1945](#)
- [GE to build locomotive-battery plant](#)

- [Recovery Act energy funds flow to American industry](#)
- [\\$50 million to geothermal heat pumps](#)

[Features](#)

- [Chronology of an Oregon wind farm](#)
- [Bankers and turbines – farmers and investors](#)
- [Regulatory and administrative wind catchers](#)

[Solar Decathlon Team News](#)

- [Team California – Santa Clara Univ. and California College of the Arts](#)
- [University of Minnesota](#)
- [TeamSPAIN – Universidad Politecnica de Madrid](#)

EERE Program News Archive

- [April 2009 – Driving Miss Daisy -- into a Green Future](#)
- [March 2009 – Harness the social media power surge](#)
- [February 2009 – 'It begins with energy'](#)
- [Listing of earlier issues](#)

[News Releases](#)

[Reader Comments](#)

[Speeches, Op-eds and Testimony](#)

[Events](#)

News

\$467 million in DOE funding for geothermal and solar energy

\$467 million of Recovery Act funding is being invested in geothermal and solar energy technologies, dwarfing previous government commitments in these fields.

Geothermal funding will support projects in four critical areas:

- Demonstration projects (\$140 million);
- Enhanced geothermal systems technology research and development (\$80 million);
- Innovative exploration techniques (\$100 million);
- National data system, resource assessment and classification system (\$30 million).

Solar funding will support projects in three critical areas:

- Photovoltaic technology development (\$51.5 million);
- Solar energy deployment (\$40.5 million);
- Concentrating solar power research and development (\$25.6 million).

[Geothermal and solar funding announcement](#)

[Recovery Act funding opportunities](#)

Comments:

[return to index](#)

IEA projects first drop in world electricity use since 1945

The global economic downturn has caused an unprecedented slowdown in the demand growth for electricity. At the recent G8 Energy Ministerial Meeting in Rome, the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicted that [global electricity consumption will fall this year for the first time since 1945](#).



Asian manufacturing, as well as residential and business use of electricity, are gaining in significance in both world electricity use and global warming.

Photo courtesy of: NASA

IEA projected a drop of as much as 3.5 percent in global electricity demand in 2009. Three-quarters of the decline is attributed to reduced industrial use, with reduced manufacturing in China and India having significant impact.

Previously, global electricity demand, as measured by IEA, had increased almost 25 percent between 2000 and 2006. [Financial Times article](#)

IEA also told the energy ministers that global investment in renewable energy could drop as much as 38 percent in 2009, compared to its peak investment year of 2007. Investment in renewable energy assets had surged in recent years, recording year-on-year growth of 85 percent in 2007. But activities slowed in 2008 as sources of finance contracted and lower fossil fuel prices reduced the economic incentive for new investment, particularly in the last few months of the year. [Bankers and](#)

[turbines — farmers and investors](#)

According to IEA, the slump in renewable energy investment accelerated in the first quarter of 2009, though the agency acknowledges that government incentives offered in the U.S. Recovery Act will help, to some extent, offset the investment slowdown.

Long-term growth in global electricity demand and increasing investment in renewable energy technologies are both expected to pick up following the current recession and continue recent, rapid growth patterns.

Comments:

[return to index](#)

GE to build locomotive-battery plant

[General Electric Co. \(GE\) plans to build a \\$100 million plant](#) near Albany, N.Y. to build high-tech batteries for hybrid locomotives. The plant will employ 350 people.

GE has already invested \$150 million in these technologies over the last ten years. The company says it expects the denser, more powerful locomotive-style batteries will also be used in utility generator applications, boats, ships and mining trucks.

To help construction, GE will tap a \$15 million grant from New York state, and is seeking

roughly \$40 million from the federal economic-stimulus package.

New York political and business leaders hope this will be a first step in developing a "Lithium Valley" for battery technology along the Erie Canal.

Comments:

[return to index](#)

Recovery Act energy funds flow to American industry

DOE will provide \$256 million of Recovery Act funding to support energy efficiency improvements in America's major industrial sectors.

The goal is to reduce energy consumption in the manufacturing and information technology (IT) industries.

This new industrial funding will help create near-term jobs, as well as future employment for the technicians and experts needed to maintain and operate the new technologies.



Computer "server farms" have become a major component of electricity use.

Photo courtesy of: OpenSalon.com

Recovery Act industrial energy funding will be focused in three main areas:

- \$156 million: combined heat and power, district energy systems, waste energy recovery systems and efficient industrial equipment;
- \$50 million: improved energy efficiency for information and communication technology;
- \$50 million: advanced materials in support of advanced clean energy technologies and energy intensive processes.

[Industrial funding announcement](#)

Comments:

[return to index](#)

\$50 million to geothermal heat pumps

DOE has announced [funding opportunities for geothermal heat pump \(GHP\) projects](#) in three areas:

Innovative Technology Demonstrations: Demonstration projects that retrofit/incorporate a minimum of 50 tons of heating and cooling capacity in either residential communities or commercial buildings.

Life Cycle Cost Tools: Gather and analyze data related to system costs, performance and installation techniques.

National Certification and Accreditation: A national certification and accreditation program for the GHP industry.

[DOE Recovery Act funding opportunities](#)

Comments:

[return to index](#)

Features



Farmers across the Plains, West and Pacific Northwest are finding that wind turbines fit in nicely with dryland grain farming and livestock grazing, taking little land out of production for substantial cash returns.

Photo courtesy of: Mike McDonald

Comments:

[return to index](#)

Chronology of an Oregon wind farm

In 2001, the Klondike I Wind Project in Sherman County, Ore. went online with 24 megawatts (mw) of generating capacity. Today, the combined Klondike Projects (I, II and III) have an installed capacity of more than 400 mw capable of powering up to 115,000 homes.



Oregon farmers have long been innovators, quick to embrace new technologies, whether steam around the turn of the 20th century, or wind power at the turn of the 21st century.

This success is built on over 100 years of local development, starting in the late 1800s when pioneers first moved into North Central Oregon to establish farms. The Hilderbrand family, where Klondike I, in part, is located, settled the land in 1894 and has been farming it ever since.

By the late 1990s, the Hilderbrands and other local farmers were viewing the area's almost constant winds as a new opportunity. Wind power economics were turning positive, and, simultaneously, a

Photo courtesy of: [Patu Wind](#)

near-by aluminum smelter was running short of electricity.

Events came to a head in 2000, when the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) informed Golden Northwest Aluminum, Inc. that it could no longer meet contractual obligations to provide power to the smelter.

Instead, according to the [Renewable Northwest Project](#), "BPA paid the aluminum smelter to cease operations, and the company used the capital to start Northwestern Wind Power (NWWP,) in an effort to help provide stable power to the smelter."

A team from NWWP then joined Sherman County farmers and communities to explore wind farm development as an alternative to generate additional electricity for BPA and its customers.

The 1,784 residents of the county were receptive. Sherman county ranked at the bottom of Oregon's 36 counties in earning power, with an average per capita income of about \$17,500 at a time when the statewide average was about \$28,000. Any opportunity to diversify and bolster local income sources was welcome.

"Sherman County needed new economic lifeblood," Ormand Hilderbrand said. "Wind power was something we had all been thinking about for a long time, and it finally seemed like we could make it real. Environmentally, it also seemed the absolute right thing to do. My family became committed to wind power, and we remain so."

Sherman County is a good place for a wind farm, with [sustained wind speeds between 15.7 and 16.8 miles per hour](#). It is also well positioned relative to the high voltage electric grid stretching between the Columbia River's McNary Dam and population centers surrounding Portland to the west. BPA and Wasco Electric Co-op also have electricity substations nearby.

Jessie Casswell, an NWWP employee when Klondike I was being built, attributes early project success to good communication and cooperation between the developer and local residents. Landowners and community residents were kept in the loop and consulted for their ideas during planning and construction.

State government also swung into action. Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber started [Oregon Solutions](#), a program he called "a collaborative process in which government, private interests and a local community can work as a team to address an issue and find a solution."

An Environmental Site Assessment performed by WEST, Inc. revealed minimal environmental impacts. Historically, the proposed site was tilled cropland and, lacking trees and water sources, not well suited to avian life, nor was it a home to nesting raptors or migratory birds.

These activities, plus the strong desire of local farmers to see the project go forward, helped Klondike I go from conception to construction in only 12 months – a necessity due to the pending expiration of the federal government's production tax credit on Dec. 31, 2001.

"The on-again, off-again nature of federal programs and tax incentives is always a hindrance to this type of development," Hilderbrand said, "We knew we had to get this initial phase done quickly, or not at all."

The site was developed and, in 2002, NWWP



Wasco, Ore., population 400, was in need of some new economic development in 2001; the Klondike wind projects have given the community new jobs and new hope.

negotiated a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement with the BPA to transmit the power from Klondike I onto the grid and into BPA's power marketing system. Photo courtesy of: [Oregon Blue Book](#)

In January 2003, [PPM Energy](#) (now [Iberdrola Renewables](#)), a power marketing company located in Portland, Ore. and owned by [ScottishPower](#), purchased the wind project for \$16.8 million.

Then, in 2004, due to the quality wind resource and a supportive local community, PPM developed Klondike II, 50 turbines yielding an additional 75 mw of generating capacity. Portland General Electric agreed to purchase the power from the additional turbines.

Klondike Project III came online in autumn, 2008, with 131 new General Electric 1.5 MW turbines, 44 Siemens 2.3 MW turbines and one Mitsubishi 2.4 mw turbine.

The 136 new turbines are capable of producing 300 mw of power, enough to power 80,000 homes.

Economic Benefits

In the first year of operation, Klondike I generated \$321,205 in property tax revenue for Sherman County. That amounted to just over 10 percent of the county's total property tax revenue for the year. This phase of the project is expected to continue generating about \$250,000 per year in property revenue over its 20 to 30 year life span. That money is spent on roads, schools, fire protection, health services and other direct benefits to local residents.

During construction phases of the project, local and surrounding area motels, RV parks, cafes, grocers and hardware stores all experienced a boost in business. This continues to some degree with a continuous stream of visitors to the site. On-going maintenance and technical jobs at the project also employ local people.

Additionally, the royalty payments to landowners tend to get spent in the local community, adding a multiplier effect to the revenue stream.

Comments:

[return to index](#)

Bankers and turbines — farmers and governments

After the Klondike Wind Project initially took root on the Hilderbrand farm, the family decided to take a more active role in the wind-power generation business, starting their own family-owned, community-based wind project.

This is the story of that development, told by Ormand Hilderbrand, a businessman, farmer and agriculturalist with on-the-ground farm development experience in North Africa, the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere around the globe. His views are his own and not necessarily those of DOE.



Wind turbines in North Central Oregon, as in other regions of the country, have helped revitalize a rural economy.

Photo courtesy of: Renewable Northwest Project

Ormand Hilderbrand:

"Our interest in wind power started in 1999. That's when we signed a wind farm development agreement with PPM Energy Producers on our family's farmland three miles

east of Wasco.

"Five Klondike I turbines, and six Klondike II turbines, were erected on our land and are operating there today."

Hilderbrand said, "The decision to lease the land was pretty easy. Wind farm royalty payments on a negotiated wind production contract usually come to somewhere between \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year; that's for taking about one-half acre per turbine out of crop production.

"In contrast, gross revenue from a half-acre of wheat is about \$75 per year. And the net from dryland wheat is so little I don't even want to think about it; it gives me a headache."



Winter wheat ready to be harvested.

Photo courtesy of:
Sherman County, Ore.

Hilderbrand continued, "In 2005, PPM released its unused development rights on our land back to us. That's when we decided to develop our own 10 mw, community wind farm.

"I think our experience in the intervening years makes a good study for anybody contemplating a similar move."

"Initially, we thought it would be a no-brainer to put up six or seven turbines and start generating and selling electricity.

"We had a Small Generator Interconnection Agreement with Bonneville Power Authority (BPA), plus a long-term, firm point-to-point transmission agreement. This is a major asset on a transmission-constrained grid.

"Additionally, the Oregon Public Utility Commission had earlier ruled that utilities must purchase electricity from small renewable generation facilities of 10 mw or less, based on the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) Avoided Cost Pricing. We had a Power Purchase Agreement with PPM to buy any electricity we generated.

"Also, the state of Oregon offered a [Business Energy Tax Credit \(BETC\)](#) equal to 50 percent of eligible project costs up to \$10 million for renewable energy projects. Additionally, project owners could 'pass-through', or transfer, that 50-percent tax credit eligibility to a partner — in exchange for a lump-sum cash payment. The Oregon Department of Energy determined the rate used to calculate the cash payment.

"This was looking pretty good. So in early 2006, we went shopping for wind turbines. That was about the time the wind power market was picking up, so no manufacturer really even wanted to talk to us. A order of six or seven turbines was insignificant in an industry that, at the time, couldn't even keep up with demand from large, established customers at the time.

"Also, only a handful of banks would even lend money for wind projects — and Lehman, Wachovia, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs were not exactly falling over themselves to lend money to a couple of dirt farmers in Northern Oregon. To be a player we had to find an established equity partner.

"In 2006, we partnered with [MMA Renewable Ventures](#) (MMARV) out of its San Francisco office. MMARV is a national company set up specifically to coordinate financing, installation and operation of renewable energy projects. We thought we were set.

"Along comes January 2007, and everything falls apart again. The Oregon



Site of the Hilderbrand's proposed 10 MW community wind farm.

Photo courtesy of: Hilderbrand family

Department of Revenue issued a tax ruling that cut the value of the Oregon Department of Energy BETC to the 'pass-through partner.' So the value of that piece of our package suddenly went to \$0.

"Fortunately, by working the Oregon state legislature, and with help from our elected representatives, we — working with others — were able to get the BETC reinstated. But by that time, nine more months had gone by. And, guess what, we had lost our place in the queue for wind turbines. Back to 'Go' and start over again.

"Fast forward to 2008. Everything is in place: finances, turbines scheduled for delivery, details such as getting FAA approval that the turbines won't interfere with long range radar 100 miles to the south or with our small local airport — all are done.

"Boom, September comes; Lehman folds, Wall Streets stops; money dries up — and — everybody is nervous that the federal production tax credits are not going to be renewed. Partners decide to hold off until the situation clarifies.

"It's now early 2009. MMARV is suddenly sold to another investor, Fotowatio S.A. of Madrid, Spain. The Oregon legislature's back in session and various interests are lobbying once again to end the BETC. Then BPA comes up with a plan to lump Small Generator Interconnection Agreements with Large Generator Interconnection Agreements, effectively increasing our yearly transmission fees to Bonneville by 400 percent — or, stating it another way, one-third of our projected gross revenue.

"Bottom-line," Hilderbrand said. "Private wind power development has cost us a lot of time, money, airplane miles and patience — and, here it is, 2009, and we still haven't erected our first turbine. Community scale wind power may be logical, but it's not easy — nor for the faint of heart."

Comments:

[return to index](#)

Regulatory and administrative wind catchers

As illustrated by the Hilderbrand family's community wind project development experiences, small-scale wind projects are not necessarily easy.

The [Minnesota's Farmers' Guide to Wind Energy](#) begins with, "Wind is created when air moves from high to low pressure areas across the earth's surface."

From that point forward, developing a commercial wind farm quickly gets complicated. Selecting and installing the appropriate technology is only the beginning; a single project may be governed simultaneously by:

- Federal statutes;
- Federal administrative rules;

- Orders of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- State statutes;
- State administrative rules;
- Orders of the state public utility commission;
- Utility-specific electric tariffs;
- Other contracts with utilities, or associations of utilities;
- Transmission interconnect rules;
- Federal tax laws;
- State tax laws;
- State permitting;
- Local permitting;
- Federal Aviation Administration permitting;
- Federal environmental permitting;
- State environmental permitting;
- Local environmental permitting;
- Regulations not yet even thought of.

A number of excellent sources exist for learning more about all this; here are a few:

[Small wind development - American Wind Energy Association \(AWEA\)](#)

[Small wind - state by state](#)

[Wind power - contractual interconnection](#)

[Wind power - Environmental Impact Statement Requirement](#)

[North Dakota community-owned wind power development](#)

Comments:

[return to index](#)

2009 Solar Decathlon Team News

Twenty teams of college students from the U.S., Canada, Spain and Germany are participating in this year's U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon. They have been working for almost two years 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 9-13 and 15-18. [Solar Decathlon Web site](#)

Team California — Santa Clara University and California College of the Arts

"We're trying to show that you don't have to sacrifice the beauty of your home to get this well-performing house."

— Allison Kopf, SCU sophomore and student project manager

After a third-place finish in 2007 Solar Decathlon, Santa Clara University (SCU) has partnered with California College of the Arts (CCA) to begin building the **Refract House**.

The teams' design concept is "living light," harnessing sunlight in an aesthetically-



Team California begins framing their 2009 Solar Decathlon entry.

Photo courtesy of: Santa Clara University

pleasing manner.

CCA architectural student Raphael Stargrove says the design is based on the "California lifestyle of indoor/outdoor living, with spaces that function to frame the outdoors as well as to provide interior shelter."

Innovative technologies to be used in the home include: solar absorption cooling, radiant heating and cooling, solar heating and hot water, bamboo I-joists, and

energy monitoring and display.

Some of the components offer short payback times, while others, over the long-term, can substantially reduce a homeowners' carbon footprint.

The students plan to make a concerted effort to make the technologies transparent to the public, while providing an attractive and functional space. The **Refract House** will be used for instructional purposes after the competition.

[Video](#)

University of Minnesota

"We don't want to build a tech box. We want this to be a home anyone can live in."

— Shengyin Xu, student architecture team leader

Construction began mid-April on the **Icon Solar House** at the University of Minnesota's ReUse Center.

Named for its iconic-gabled shape, this sustainable, high-tech home will be suitable for everyday living. In fact, the home fully embraces a life-cycle nutrient approach to building materials and assemblies.

More than 150 students, faculty and industry partners continue to work on the construction details, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Primarily involved are students from the College of Design, Institute of Technology, and the construction program of the College of Continuing Education.

Also a controls team will integrate systems and ensure they work efficiently on their own and together, well before the team arrives for the competition in Washington, D.C. The home will be built to keep occupants comfortable year round, especially during the freezing winters and



University of Minnesota's Shengyin Xu with model of the Icon Solar House.

Photo courtesy of: University of Minnesota, Pat Wright

shade out the sun's heat. Additionally, an attractive building-integrated photovoltaic systems (BIPV) is built into the rooftop.

hot and humid summers common in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

There are several innovative heating and cooling systems. At quick glimpse: a flat-plate solar collector to produce hot water, radiant flooring, climate dehumidifier systems, electro-chromic windows to

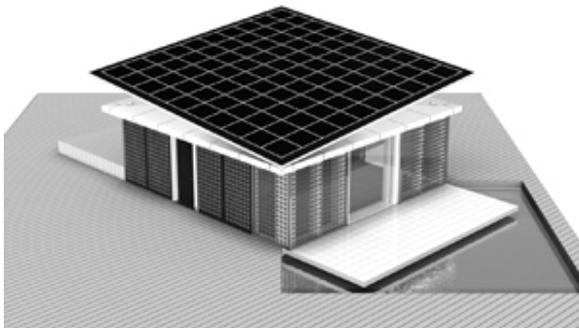
[Video](#)

TeamSPAIN – The Universidad Politecnica de Madrid

"The TeamSPAIN prototype's rooftop rotates with the sun to receive the maximum amount of energy. This shows that our planet is sustainable thanks to the light of the sun and the stars."

– Josep María Adell, TeamSPAIN project manager

TeamSPAIN, is one of a handful of international teams participating in this year's competition. They have named their entry the "Black and White House," hoping to achieve harmony and balance through opposing elements within the construction.



sketch of the Black and White House shows off a unique feature designed to optimize solar capture, a rotating roof comprised of a large solar panel.

Mobility is a key element for this team, in two parts. First, it applies to the house itself, which will feature a [rotating roof](#) to optimize energy collection whatever the weather or time of day.

Second, as one of two teams from Europe, TeamSPAIN has the added challenge of crossing the Atlantic Ocean in order to get their house to Washington, D.C.

The team has put a lot of work in making the house easy to transport,

Photo courtesy of: Universidad Politecnica de Madrid

integrating the solution into the construction. Three flatbed trailers designed by the team will serve as the home's floor, as well as the base on which to transport it to Washington. D.C.

[Video](#)

[Comments:](#)

[return to index](#)



EERE News Releases

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

[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](#)

[return to index](#)

Reader Comments

April — Lightweight Batteries

I believe Al air batteries have the highest energy:weight ratio, not lithium and pound for pound are equivalent to the energy in gasoline for the same weight.

— R.W.M.

April — What cars will we drive?

Why is natural gas being ignored as a U.S. transportation fuel? All of DOE's Publications and funded efforts ignore natural gas as an alternate transportation fuel. Many cars in South America are working fine at this time on natural gas.

— B. M.

Editor's reply: DOE has promoted natural gas as an alternative transportation fuel for years, through the [Clean Cities program](#), the [Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center](#) and many other research and funding efforts.

April — What cars will we drive?

Fuel cell and battery technologies are moving toward a point when an electric-powered auto is actually marketable and practical and can be mass produced.

We still need to determine, though, if hydrogen, natural gas or solar power can support electric cars so they can be driven a useful range of miles between refueling/recharging. Honda seems to be making good inroads in this area.

Question is: will the current administration provide an environment in which successful development and transition can take place, or will it mandate draconian restrictions on energy that will, effectively, set back any chance of seeing such a vehicle any time soon. It takes a robust economy to produce new innovative products.

— A.W.

April — X-prize for 100 mpg auto

I'd like to see more information about this contest, namely any activity in and around Fort Wayne, Indiana, home of a large General Motors plant.

— R.

Editor's reply: Here's a list of all the [teams \[and locations\]](#) selected to compete for the automotive X-prize.

Also, DOE helps sponsor the [X-Prize education program](#) to create educational programming surrounding the vehicle competition.

[return to index](#)

Speeches, Op-Eds and Testimony

April 28

[Matthew Rogers, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#)

Subject: 21st Century Energy Deployment Act (Clean Energy Bank)

April 28

[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: Energy Efficiency for Buildings and Industries

April 22

[Op-Ed by DOE Secretary Steven Chu and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis on building the American clean energy economy:](#)

"The greening of our economy will bring significant changes to the American workplace and will require workers to acquire new and different skills. ...We are supporting work-force investment activities by retraining dislocated workers, women and minorities. ...[as well as] summer employment for youth and community service employment for low-income seniors. ...This investment will not only jumpstart our economy today, but will lay the foundation for America's long-term competitiveness...."

April 22

[Secretary Steven Chu before the House Energy and Commerce Committee](#)

Subject: American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

April 22

[Patricia Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#)

Subject: Energy efficiency Resource Standards

April 22

[Larry James, Technology Transfer Program Manager, Office of Science, before the House Small Business Committee](#)

Subject: SBIR Reauthorization

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

Comments:

[return to index](#)

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.

[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.

[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.

[Federal Environmental Symposia \(FES\) East](#) — June 16-18, Bethesda, Md. The theme is Progress and Transition, focusing on federal sustainability initiatives and priorities of the new administration.

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

[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.

[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)

[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).

[return to index](#)

[**Subscribe to EERE Program News**](#)