

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

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September 2009

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Associate Editor: [John Horst](#)

News explores a new tax rebate program that, in less than 60 days, has stimulated major investments in new, renewable energy projects.

News also digs into:

- How to apply for DOE financial assistance;
- A new DOE effort to help whole-communities become more energy efficient, and;
- An up-tick of interest in offshore wind power development.

Features investigates one of DOE's longest-running, most successful energy efficiency efforts: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

For over three decades WAP has brought positive change into peoples' lives by improving home energy efficiency, comfort and safety.

A tightly woven partnership — DOE, states, community action agencies, other federal agencies, non-profits, utilities and businesses — works to make WAP a success.

DOE, for its part, provides program leadership, technical assistance and financial oversight, using over three decades of on-the-ground experience to help maximize the energy efficiency value of taxpayer dollars.



New York City's Empire State Building is getting an energy efficiency retrofit that is expected to reduce the building's annual energy bill by \$4.4 million and its carbon footprint by up to 38 percent.

[Video](#)

Photo courtesy of: [Jones Lang LaSalle](#)

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News

Tax incentives pump up renewable energy

Private investment is starting to flow into renewable energy once again, thanks to the [new tax program that became available through the Treasury Department](#) last month. The program will make direct payments, in lieu of tax credits, to companies that create and place in service renewable energy facilities.

Investors, who had previously backed away from wind and solar energy projects following the downfall of Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc. last fall, are being lured back into the game.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) reported that Morgan Stanley and Citigroup, Inc. each invested \$100 million in August to finance



A tax break for renewable energy projects, announced in late summer, is quickly stimulating fresh investment interest in renewable energy projects.

Photo courtesy of: Smartgivers

separate wind farms, hoping to take advantage of the substantial new cash payments.

Using Recovery Act funding, the government will give a [cash rebate equal to 30 percent of the cost of building a renewable-energy facility](#). Payment will be awarded 60 days after an application is approved. Investors will also be able to use accelerated depreciation deductions for the new projects, helping offset federal taxes. DOE, for its part, is responsible for reviewing the technical merits of proposed applications.

It is estimated that the new program will distribute at least \$3 billion in financial support to approximately 5,000 biomass, solar, wind and other types of renewable energy production facilities. There is, however, no announced cap on the program, and private firms estimate participation will be popular, which could affect total program cost.

"We see the opportunities and we are pursuing them pretty actively," Kevin Walsh, managing director of General Electric Co's Energy Financial Services division told the Journal.

Following the announcement, Edison Electric, Iberdrola SA, FPL Group, Vestas Wind Systems and First Solar are also expressing revived investment interest in large-scale renewable energy projects. On Sept. 1, Treasury and DOE announced [recipients of the first \\$500 million in direct-payment awards](#) under the program. As of Sept. 22, additional awards had been announced, bringing the total to more than \$1 billion.

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Great time to go solar

Global demand for solar panels slipped during this past year's recession. This happened just as increased solar panel production from many new manufacturers came online. The combination of events put real financial pressure on the industry.

But, industry leaders point out, what is difficult for suppliers can also spell new opportunities for customers.

As solar panel prices have softened in recent months, some real bargains have become available. The Wall Street Journal reports that [silicon, a main ingredient in most panels, is now selling for as little as half what it cost a year ago](#). Also, retailers and installers say the price of some installed systems has dropped as much as 25 percent.

Energy experts don't expect the slowdown in solar manufacturing and installations to last.

[General Electric, for example, intends to ramp up its production of solar panels](#) by the first of next year. The company recently announced plans to build new

pilot production lines at its solar manufacturing facility in Colorado.

GE made its initial move into the solar panel business a few years ago when it purchased solar pioneer AstroPower, then followed up by buying PrimeStar Solar, another Colorado company specializing in thin-film solar technology.

Tax credits at both state and federal levels, utility company incentives and innovative financing packages are also upping the advantages of going solar. Given these advantages, both residential and commercial solar power installations "pencil out" as price competitive, compared to other electricity supply options.

More information on solar power incentives:

[EERE Recovery Act info](#)

[DOE Recovery Act info](#)

[Recovery.gov](#)

[State and local incentives for renewables](#)

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The solar tiles on this roof mimic the Spanish or Mission-style homes of California and are sized to be similar to standard clay tiles

Photo courtesy of: [Treehugger.com](#) & [SRS Energy](#)

How to apply for DOE financial assistance

Seeking financial assistance from any government source can be complicated at best, and at worst, horribly confusing.

The [EERE Financial Opportunities Web site](#) offers a good map on how to weave through the complexities.

Here are some links from the site:

- [Grants](#)
- [Cooperative Agreements](#)
- [Continuation and Renewal Awards](#)
- [Unsolicited Proposals](#)
- [Cooperative Research and Development Agreements](#)
- [Laboratory Subcontracts](#)
- [Sub awards](#)

EERE also makes funding available through "formula grants," federal money that is allocated to individual states, tribes and municipalities based on allocation formulas that follow legislative guidelines. These programs fall within [EERE's Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program](#). State energy offices are often a good place to learn what type of local funding might be available through this set of programs.

Comments:

Helping communities become more energy efficient

Americans could save \$100 million annually in utility bills for households and businesses by improving the energy efficiency of the buildings in which we live and work.

DOE has announced a new \$450 million program to help point the way. It is designed to catalyze new ways of rolling out energy efficiency technologies and priorities to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in a variety of communities.



DOE's proposed "Retrofit Ramp-Up" program will use a whole-community approach to improve energy efficiency.

Photo courtesy of: [Portlandground.com](#)

Steven Chu, DOE secretary, said, "We have the tools to reduce energy use at home and at work — and to provide huge savings to families and businesses on their energy bills. But the use of these technologies has been too limited, because we lack the simple and effective ways for people to access them.

"[The 'Retrofit Ramp-Up' program](#), as it's being called, will support large-scale models that can open new energy efficiency opportunities to whole neighborhoods, towns, and, eventually, entire states," Secretary Chu continued.

To get the project underway, the Department has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for possible local energy

efficiency projects to be competitively selected.

DOE is now seeking and accepting feedback on the competitively-selected portion of the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants program](#), for up to \$390 million for neighborhood-scale building retrofits, and up to \$64 million for local governments that were not eligible to receive the formula grants announced earlier this year.

The funding solicitation will target a select number of innovative programs structured to provide whole-neighborhood building energy retrofits. Projects will be selected that demonstrate a sustainable business model for providing cost-effective energy upgrades for a large percentage of the residential, commercial and public buildings in a specific community.

Possible approaches could include innovative partnerships between the public and private sector, utility retrofit and audit programs, alternative financing, retail partnerships and others.

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Interest kicks up in offshore wind

Maryland has begun pursuit of offshore wind generation with a move that could lead to building offshore wind farms near Ocean City.

The Maryland Energy Administration, [according to the Baltimore Sun](#), asked wind developers to express their interest in building industrial-size windmills a dozen or more miles off the state's 31-mile Atlantic coastline. "We know Maryland has great wind resources off our shore," said Malcolm Woolf, state energy administrator. "We've got to

figure out how best to tap into them."

Beyond Maryland, a unique regional collaborative is now being formed that aims to provide a broader, more coherent and influential voice for the nation's infant offshore effort.



The near future is likely to see a coordinated effort to develop offshore wind power generation to supply electricity to U.S. consumers.

Photo courtesy of: Cleantechica

The U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative, as the group is being called, has told the [New York Times ClimateWire](#) that it is now inviting industry leaders, environmentalists and others to join its board of directors.

Officials in states along the East Coast and the Great Lakes are "on board" to provide technical expertise, said Greg Watson, a senior energy adviser to Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Texas and California are also expressing support for the program.

"There's a difference between having a bunch of projects and having an industry," Watson said. "An industry requires infrastructure, and a lot of the things that will require states to work together and collaborate."

Simultaneously, in another important regional move, New England's governors recently endorsed a plan calling for up to a third of that region's electric power to come from wind by 2030, with a big new network of high-voltage transmission lines to move the energy from sources such as offshore wind farms to urban consumers.

The northeastern governors have also signed onto a blueprint with Canada's eastern provincial premiers to develop the entire region's energy future based on recommendations from ISO New England, the regional power distribution agency.

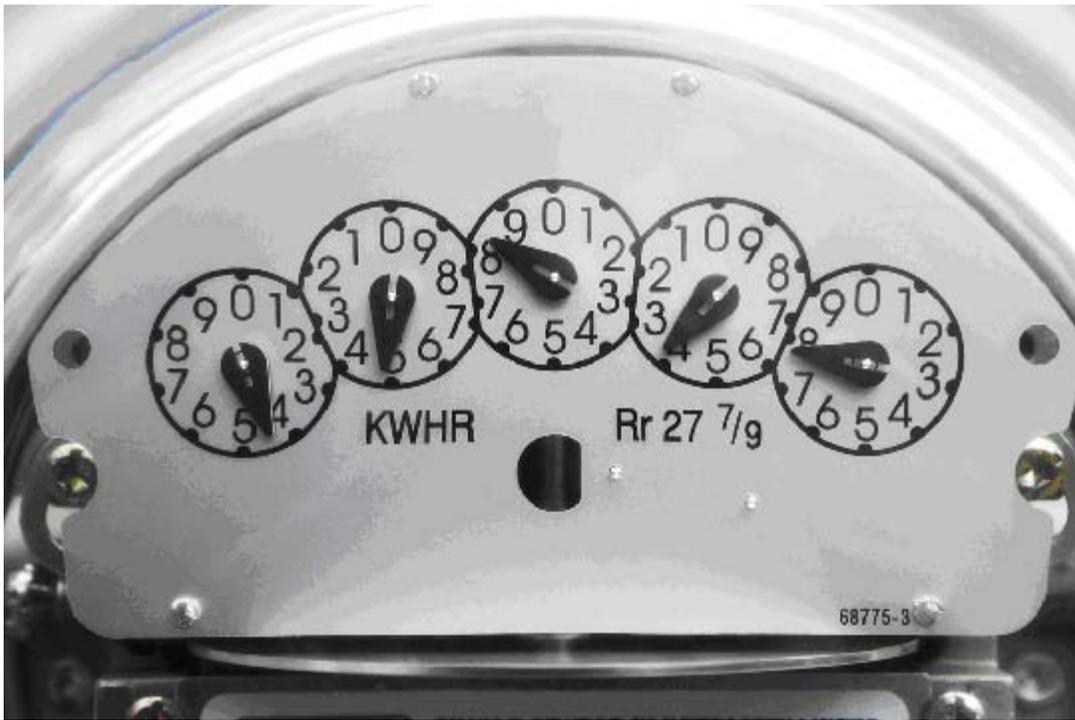
In other developments, General Electric (GE Wind) recently announced that it will ramp up its offshore turbine business. Initially, GE is planning to set up turbine manufacturing facilities to serve European markets, but the company is also fully committed to a future that includes offshore wind power development in North America.

[Vic Abate, GE's vice-president for renewable energy, told the Financial Times](#), "The company now believed the subsidies in place for offshore wind, such as Britain's Renewables Obligation, are robust enough to encourage large-scale investment."

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Features



Home heating and cooling bills can too often consume a large portion of a household's monthly budget, particularly for low income homeowners. The Weatherization Assistance Program, on average, reduces those bills by about \$350 a year for each weatherized home.

Photo courtesy of: Uncancap.org

Recovery Act raises roof on weatherization

Over the past 33 years, the [Weatherization Assistance Program \(WAP\)](#) administered by DOE has gained a solid reputation as the nation's core program for delivering energy efficiency services to low-income households. On average, weatherization reduces a recipient's annual heating bills by 32 percent and decreases their overall utility bills by about \$350 per year at current energy prices.

Nationally, more than 6.3 million households have experienced these energy efficiency improvements and related health and safety benefits through WAP since the program began in the late 1970's.

For fiscal year 2009, Congress initially doubled funding for WAP to \$450 million — from its recent average annual level of about \$200-\$250 million. Then in February, passage of the Recovery Act dramatically bumped up the annual WAP budget even further, providing the program with a one-time shot of \$5 billion of additional funding to be spent over three years.

Not surprisingly, this caught peoples' attention and catapulted weatherization assistance into the national limelight. Ever since, WAP has been subjected to increased scrutiny from many quarters. Program administrators at the federal, state and local level are all scrambling to handle the dramatic increase in funding and attention, along with new program mandates and reporting requirements that came hand-in-hand with the Recovery Act funding.

WAP is a complex program that has evolved over the past three decades to become the linchpin of a broad network of residential energy efficiency programs that reach far beyond the federal program administered by DOE.

States, Indian tribes, and now five territories, along with many other entities including but not limited to local governments, non-profit organizations, utilities, private contractors and other federal agencies, all play significant roles in making WAP successful.

Program regulations, guidance documents and best practices developed by DOE and used to administer WAP are also used by the broader weatherization network as the basis or model for their related efforts.

Here's how it works.

Under WAP, the federal government itself weatherizes no homes; rather, it provides funding and oversight of its grantee agencies and local partners who do the actual work.

In every county throughout the nation, community action agencies, local governments and other non-profit entities oversee their own staff or contractors. These contractors, in turn, screen home owner applications and perform energy assessments of income-qualified homes.

Technicians air-seal and insulate the structures, as indicated by the on-site, energy assessments. They may also repair or replace heating and cooling systems, or appliances, when necessary for safety reasons or to achieve significant, cost-effective energy savings.

All WAP home energy improvements are guided by the initial whole-house energy audit. Every dollar of WAP funds spent on energy efficiency improvements must return more than one dollar in energy savings, while also providing for energy-related safety. High value improvements, those yielding the most energy saved for the money spent, are undertaken first.

DOE provides technical and financial oversight of the grantee agencies. The Weatherization Assistance Program and DOE financial staff review and approve grantees' annual WAP plans and then monitor their work, making sure that contracted work stays on track.

DOE federal staff and contractors also provide training and technical assistance for WAP grantees and local agencies throughout the year. Every action is geared toward assuring that recipient households receive the best possible weatherization service and that federal dollars are maximized to purchase the most energy efficiency bang for the buck.

WAP funding is appropriated by Congress and allocated by regulatory formula to grantee agencies, which as of 2009 include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two Native American tribes and five U.S. territories. The allocation formula for WAP funds considers low-income population as well as heating and cooling factors specific to local climate.

The grantee agency must file its annual plan with DOE to describe how it will administer the WAP funds in accordance with federal rules and other applicable guidance. Each grantee's plan lays out which local agencies will be used and how they will conduct their work to ensure that all areas within the grantee's geographic boundary will be served.

More than 900 local weatherization agencies nationwide, which may be units of local government, Indian tribes, community action agencies or other non-profit organizations, carry out the actual weatherization work in the recipients' homes. They work as efficiently



The Weatherization Assistance Program at Springfield Partners for Community Action (Springfield, Mass.) has been helping low-income Hampden county families for the past 25 years. Last year they served more than 1,000 families and homes with weatherization services

Photo courtesy of: [Springfield Partners](#)

and effectively as possible.

The following videos explain, far better than just words alone can do, how weatherization actually works in different situations:

- [Arizona video](#)
- [Florida video](#)
- [Maryland video](#)
- [D.C. area video](#)

Other sources of WAP information:

[National Community Action Foundation](#)

[National Association for State Community Services Program](#)

[Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center](#)

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Leveraging the Weatherization Assistance Program



WAP technicians weatherize a rural New Mexico home.

Photo courtesy of: [New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority](#)

[Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) provided \$256 million, while WAP state and local networks kicked in another \$319 million.

[Economics Opportunity Studies](#), a research organization supporting community action agencies, found that "for several years before 2008, the WAP network delivered about three times the weatherization/energy efficiency services that are funded by DOE."

Of the non-federal funds, about 80 percent came from utility partnerships, state appropriations or designated fees, private donations of materials, equipment and personnel and matching payments by landlords of weatherized rental units.

¹ *The reported funding estimates are based on a compilation of state fiscal year data, program year reporting and federal government fiscal year information. The report is an objective attempt to ascertain just how large the Weatherization Assistance Program is when all the various partnerships and funding mechanisms are considered.*

DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has an excellent history of leveraging additional money to help weatherize homes for low income families. Historically, for every \$1 invested by DOE, the program leverages \$1.54 in other federal, state, utility and private resources.

A survey of state weatherization managers shows that, in 2008¹, DOE WAP funding was \$227 million, but the WAP network collectively expended more than \$1 billion weatherizing low income homes that year.

In 2007¹, DOE contributed \$204 million in WAP funding, while the state and local WAP network ultimately spent a total of \$779 million to weatherize low income homes.

Who provided the extra money?

In 2007¹, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Low Income Home Energy](#)

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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 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](#)

Penn State

"If people can leave the National Mall thinking about how comfortable and real the Natural Fusion home is, like they were visiting a friends' home, then we have done what we set out to do. The Solar Decathlon is a chance to change public perception and to have an impact on the world."

— Thomas Rauch, team member and media liaison



A high-efficiency argon-filled glass doorway of Penn State's **Natural Fusion** opens to the surrounding environment

Photo courtesy of: Penn State

The **Natural Fusion** home features:

- Photovoltaic panels that incorporate a green roof to increase energy efficiency
- Thermal mass system and phase-change materials to provide thermal buffering
- Solar thermal system that requires no pump or controls
- Life Well, an interior, living green wall incorporating the natural environment
- Energy dashboard, a real-time energy monitoring system that is accessible online

Students across a wide-variety of academic disciplines — engineering, architecture, architectural engineering, energy and mineral engineering and communications — have worked on the project. Penn State has one of the larger Solar Decathlon teams, with 160 members involved over the past two years.

[Facebook](#)

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Twitter](#)

Penn State's **Natural Fusion** philosophy is based on a holistic approach, in which everything in the house is intertwined and serves multiple purposes.

This is exemplified by the team's Life Well, for example, which is a shared wall between the kitchen and bathroom that has plant shelving. The shelves contain herbs and vegetables to be used in the kitchen while drawing in the natural environment and adding an aesthetically-pleasing feature to the house.

[Treehugger](#)

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[University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee \(UMW\)](#)

“The challenges of designing a very small but functional kitchen are more than you’d expect. It’s like cramming 10 pounds into a 5-pound bag.”

— **Eric Harmann, graduate student project manager**

UWM’s **Meltwater** home is inspired by the glacial processes that created the Great Lakes. The carbon neutral house design uses nature not only as a resource, but as a model in which multi-functional components adapt to the changing needs of its inhabitants.



The roof of **Meltwater** is pitched inward to accommodate the photovoltaics on one side, and so rain water collected in the middle drains off to an adjacent garden.

Photo courtesy of: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The team of about 150 architecture and engineering students, working in partnership with area businesses, incorporated a host of green features into **Meltwater**. In addition to its roof-mounted photovoltaics, the home includes an innovative system for blocking and allowing sunlight into the house on the west wall.

UMW students paid particular attention to the use of recycled materials from sustainably harvested wood from local sources.

Through the simplicity of its design, the house allows occupants to be comfortable for as many days as possible without the use of heating or

cooling; yet it is still able to power all the modern amenities.

Meltwater includes:

- A high-tech wavy wooden rain screen on the southern wall
- Countertops and windows made from, among other things, waste paper
- Inverted butterfly roof line that channels water into a reflecting pool for irrigation
- Eight-sensor HVAC system directly connected to a PV panel running on DC power
- Energy monitoring system accessible online as well as in the home

After the competition, the house will be transported back to Milwaukee where it will be donated to the Urban Ecology Center for use as a satellite classroom in the Menomonee Valley, the heart of the city.

[Video](#)

[Meltwater concept](#)

[Team](#)

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[Team Germany \(Technische Universität Darmstadt\)](#)

"We were very selective with the name for our home. Surplus means that our house produces more energy than it consumes. Our vision introduces the concept of energy efficiency and sustainability as surplus in everyday life."

— **Manfred Hegger professor of architecture at TU Darmstadt**

Welcome to the **sur+home** designed by Technische Universität Darmstadt, winner of the 2007 Solar Decathlon.

The school behind the previous winning entry hopes to again attract long lines of visitors to see its new, modernistic two-story cube home.



Team Germany deconstructs its **sur+home**, readying it for shipping to the U.S. for the 2009 Solar Decathlon competition.

Photo courtesy of: Technische Universität Darmstadt

With a design that has the outside surface of the house almost entirely covered in photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, Team Germany expects the **sur+home** to produce 200 percent of the energy needed for living.

The team's goal was to push as many new technologies as possible in order to achieve energy efficiency and sustainability in surplus.

To maximize and stabilize photovoltaic production, Team Germany is relying on two surface technologies: single-crystal silicon panels on the roof for maximum solar attraction and thin-film copper iridium gallium diselenide panels

(offering better performance during cloudy weather) for the sides of the house. Insulation technology for the walls was also added to help maintain temperatures and energy efficiency.

The team has also maximized the use of a net-metering connection to the local utility power grid on the National Mall. Net metering enables the exchange of power to and from a community power grid in a typical metering arrangement. Valued at 150 points, net metering was added this year as one of the ten contests used to determine the most attractive and energy-efficient solar powered home.

Sur+home highlights:

- PV system yields up to twice the electricity needed to power the home
- Cube-shaped design presents maximum surface area for PV panels
- Multi-functional, single room concept with fold-away furniture and appliances
- Custom vacuum-insulation panels on the façade
- Temperature stabilizing material in walls (paraffin) and ceiling (salt hydrate)
- Integrated boiler/heat pump system supplies hot water, heating and cooling

Team Germany's winning project in 2007 generated significant European interest in the Solar Decathlon. It is hoped that this year's entry will promote energy efficient home design, while also inspiring other German teams to participate in [Solar Decathlon Europe](#), which will be held in Madrid, Spain in June, 2010.

[Team blog](#)

[Facebook](#)

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News Releases

Sept. 22, 2009

[Treasury, Energy surpass \\$1 billion milestone in Recovery Act awards for clean energy projects](#)

Sept. 15, 2009

[DOE awards up to \\$14.6 million to support development of advanced water power echnologies](#)

Sept. 14, 2009

[DOE to fund up to \\$454 million for retrofit ramp-ups in energy efficiency](#)

Sept. 14, 2009

[DOE delivers more than \\$354 million for energy efficiency and conservation projects in 22 states](#)

Sept. 14, 2009

[Obama Administration delivers more than \\$60 million for weatherization programs in six states and territories](#)

Sept. 14, 2009

[Obama Administration awards more than \\$18.6 million for Oklahoma's state energy program](#)

Sept. 14, 2009

[DOE recognizes green power network leaders](#)

Sept. 10, 2009

[DOE recognizes midwest industrial efficiency leaders](#)

Sept. 4, 2009

[Vice President Biden announces finalized \\$535 million loan guarantee for Solyndra](#)

Sept. 2, 2009

["Cash for Clunkers" replaces 700,000 vehicles with more efficient models](#)

Sept. 1, 2009

[Treasury, Energy announce \\$500 million in awards for clean energy projects](#)

Sept. 1, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces completion of critical energy conservation appliance standards](#)

Aug. 31, 2009

[DOE selects biofuels projects to receive up to \\$21 million in funding](#)

Aug. 27, 2009

[DOE announces more than \\$8.4 million for regional sequestration technology training projects](#)

Aug. 25, 2009

[Obama Administration awards more than \\$51 million for state energy programs in Alaska, Guam and New Jersey](#)

Aug. 14, 2009

[Obama Administration awards more than \\$119 million for state energy programs in seven states and territories](#)

Aug. 13, 2009

[Treasury, Energy announce more than \\$2 billion in Recovery Act tax credits for energy manufacturers](#)

Aug. 13, 2009

[Obama administration delivers more than \\$66 million for weatherization programs in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut and Hawaii](#)

Aug. 13, 2009

[Secretary Chu announces funding for clean energy projects on tribal lands and Alaska villages](#)

Aug. 12, 2009

[Good Morning America promotes the Living Zero Home tour](#)

Aug. 10, 2009

[DOE announces funding for energy efficiency in federal buildings](#)

Aug. 5, 2009

[DOE announces \\$2.4 billion for U.S. batteries and electric vehicles](#)

July 31, 2009

[Energy, Treasury now accepting applications for renewable energy projects](#)

July 29, 2009

[DOE announces up to \\$11 million for solar energy grid integration](#)

July 27, 2009

[DOE awards more than \\$54 million for state energy programs](#)

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](#)

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Reader Comments

August — Tribes rev up renewable energy

"Would you grant permission for me to publish this story in Earth Odyssey?"

— A. H. A.

Editor's comment: Absolutely, and thanks for doing so.

August — Tribes rev up renewable energy

Following publication of last month's Tribal Energy Program stories, a request for an in-depth interview with Lizana Pierce, Project Manager, came from **Magazine Nuova Energia**, Italy's leading publication on energy and sustainable development. Following publication of the interview, we will either provide a link to it, or, with the magazine's permission, print an English version in a future issue of EERE Program News.

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Speeches, Op-Eds and Testimony

Aug. 6, 2009

[David Sandalow, Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy and International Affairs, before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee](#)

Subject: Climate Change and Ensuring that America Leads the Clean Energy Transformation

July 23, 2009

[Patricia Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, before the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment](#)

Subject: Smart Grid: Cyber-Security and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding

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 21, 2009

[Patricia Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cyber-Security, and Science and Technology](#)

Subject: Cyber Security and Smart Grid

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

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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 continuously updated information on these events.

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

[Labs21 2009 Annual Conference](#) — 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.

[2009 ASES National Solar Tour](#) — Oct. 3, various cities across the U.S.
The American Solar Energy Society National Solar Tour is the world's largest grassroots solar event.

[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.

[Industry Day: Fueling Federal Fleets - Alternative Fuel Forum](#) — Oct. 8, Crystal City, Va.
Industry Day brings together federal fleet managers and fuel suppliers to accelerate the development of alternative fuel infrastructure.

[2009 DOE Solar Decathlon](#) — Oct. 9-18, Washington, D.C.
The Solar Decathlon joins 20 college and university teams in a competition on the National Mall to design, build, and operate the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

[RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition](#) — Oct. 14-16, Hollywood, Calif.
A conference & trade exposition on sustainability, energy and environmental design. With the world’s focus on sustainability, the retail real estate industry has responded with strong efforts to develop “greener” properties.

[Organic Photovoltaics Summit USA 2009](#) — Oct. 15-16, Boston, Mass.

From up-to-the minute developments and forecasts on organic photovoltaics (OPV) efficiency, stability and lifetime, to first applications and markets and commercialization strategies, this event will showcase the mass market potential of OPV.

[Solar Power International](#) — Oct. 27-29, Anaheim, Calif.

The largest solar power conference in the U.S. about the 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 and learn from the nation's construction industry experts, while networking with thousands of building professionals.

[2009 Combined CIF & NCAF Energy Conference](#) — Nov. 1-6, St. Petersburg, Fla.

This combined conference put on by Community Investment Futures and the National Community Action Foundation will focus on how community action can leverage Recovery Act resources to build sustainable communities

[Geothermal Energy Utilization: with Oil & Gas Development](#) — Nov. 3-4, Dallas, Texas

An international energy conference specializing in the enhancement of existing oil and gas wells for electrical production from the Earth's heat.

[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.

[Tribal Energy Program Review](#) — Nov. 16-18, Denver, Colo.

A forum for tribes to meet and learn from other tribes pursuing energy sufficiency through conservation or renewable energy, and to share in their successes. A unique forum offering an excellent overview of the wide range of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects under way in Indian Country. The meeting is open to all.

[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.

[NESEA's BuildingEnergy 2010](#) — March 9-11, 2010, Boston, Mass.

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's annual conference will bring together professionals who help shape the practice of sustainability. Nearly 200 presenters will define the leading edge of smart building, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

[2010 IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution Conference](#) — April 19-22, 2010, New Orleans, La.

The conference and exposition will bring together the world's leading power system equipment manufacturers and technical professionals to display their products, explore new technology and enhance existing technologies.

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