

EERE-PMC News

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December, 2007

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The famed Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is illuminated this year by energy efficient LED lights powered by solar panels on the roof of 45 Rockefeller Plaza. [See Inhabitat Web site for more details.](#)

With the close of 2007, PMC-News has expanded. In addition to news and features, you will now find press releases, speeches and events about clean energy technologies and programs in one convenient location.

In News, [Google Earth is now able to tap into DOE's database of energy efficient buildings](#) around the world.

In personnel news, we welcome Rita Wells as the [new manager](#) of the Golden Field Office. Also, Jim Spaeth, currently with the Golden Field Office, will become the Chief Engineer within the EERE Office of Biomass.

[Feature section](#): Green energy is in one of the big stories of 2007 and a [CNBC news video](#) explores the potentials of this new industry. Also, [Holiday skiers](#) this season will travel to resorts increasingly powered by wind energy and using a wide range of energy efficiency measures.

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EERE Press Releases

Nov. 30, 2007

[Department of Energy Lauds Highly Efficient Industrial Technology](#)

Nov. 29, 2007

[DOE to Invest More than \\$5 Million for Concentrating Solar Power](#)

Nov. 19, 2007

[New energy efficiency standards for residential furnaces & boilers](#)

Nov. 8, 2007

[DOE investing \\$21 million in next generation solar energy projects](#)

Nov. 6, 2007

[Range Fuels breaks ground at Georgia cellulosic ethanol plant](#)

Nov. 2, 2007

[White House honors federal agencies for saving taxpayers \\$133 million in energy costs](#)

Nov. 1, 2007

[Secretary of Energy recognizes federal employees for saving \\$18 million in energy costs](#)

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Recent Speeches

Nov. 13, 2007

[DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman's remarks to the World Energy Congress Ministerial Forum, Rome, Italy](#)

"...We must recognize the realities of global climate change and develop cleaner sources of energy.... The world needs new energy options in the form of alternative fuels and advanced energy technologies.... I would challenge governments around the world to make a public commitment to increase your investment in the R&D necessary to achieve the technical breakthroughs we need, as well as the right balance between energy security and environmental stewardship...."

Nov. 13, 2007

[DOE Deputy Secretary Clay Sell's remarks to the EE Global Forum, Washington, DC.](#)

"...World demand for energy worldwide will increase almost 60 percent over the next 25 years. ...In order for us to bring electricity to the 1.6 billion people in this world that don't have it today, that don't have access to the modern conveniences of this world, in order to do that, EIA estimates that world electricity supply may double in the next 25 years...."

Nov. 7, 2007

[EERE Chief Operating Officer Paul Dickerson's remarks to the NREL Industry Growth Forum, Denver, Colo.](#)

"...Capital investments in [clean energy] technologies aren't keeping up.... In the U.S. today the private sector is

pumping in about \$5 to \$10 billion a year in capital investments.... Sounds like a lot, but that pace of investment is going to fall well short of what's required.... It's going to take an estimated \$1.4 trillion in capital investments by 2030...."

Nov. 6, 2007

[EERE Chief Operating Officer Paul Dickerson's remarks to the Cleantechnologies & Sustainable Industries Fall Summit in Washington, DC.](#)

"...Our contacts in solar told us that demand for silicon feedstock was driving up prices for crystalline silicon PV. So we partnered with firms to produce thinner wafers with the same performance. ...With cellulosic ethanol, they told us banks were unwilling to finance their first plants. Today we're supporting six companies for cost-shared commercial scale biorefineries that will produce 130 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol in the next five years..."

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Events, conferences, meetings

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 PMC-News. — [Jack Jenkins](#), [John Horst](#)

[DOE's 2007 National Weatherization Training Conference](#) — Dec. 9-13, 2007, Orlando, Fla.

About 1,700 attendees will attend this DOE-sponsored conference, held every two years, to address national training needs of staff, trainers and other individuals contributing to the advancement of the Weatherization Assistance Program.

[Biomass Finance & Investment Summit](#) — Jan. 23-25, 2008, Miami Beach, Fla.

The Biomass Finance and Investment Summit will bring together leading biomass developers, investors, lenders, technology developers, and others in the biomass finance and investment community to share their perspectives on what it takes to get deals financed.

[Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies](#) — Jan. 23-25, 2008, Rome, Ga.

The conference will help participants discover if a bio-fuel processing industry is feasible in their region, identify technologies that will reduce a facility's energy costs and develop training programs for the next generation of energy workers.

[Midwest Ag Energy Network Summit](#) — Feb. 5-6, 2008, Madison, Wis.

Ag and energy leaders discuss how rural communities can retain the wealth generated by the convergence of renewable energy and agriculture.

[2008 International Builders' Show](#) — Feb. 13-16, 2008, Orlando, Fla.

Largest annual light construction show in the world, with more than 1,900 exhibitors showing the latest and most advanced building products and services, including innovations, hands-on demonstrations, and working models.

[POWER-GEN Renewable Energy & Fuels 2008](#) — Feb 19-21, 2008, Las Vegas, Nev.

All-renewables conference and exhibition covering the most important trends and issues impacting the industry. Covers wind, solar, biomass and alternative fuels, hydro and geothermal topics.

[DOE's Steam System Specialist Qualification](#) — Feb. 26-28, 2008, Memphis, Tenn.

Qualification training for steam service providers interested in becoming proficient in using the BestPractices Steam tools.

[Solar 2008](#) — May 3-8, 2008, San Diego, Calif.

SOLAR 2008 explores, "Catch the Clean Energy Wave" Addresses sustainable energy as a key component in climate recovery, a healthy economy, a secure energy future.

[DOE's Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems](#) — May 6, 2008, Omaha, Neb.

Introductory workshop teaches facility engineers, operators and maintenance staff how to achieve 15 - 25 percent cost savings through more effective production and use of compressed air.

[DOE's Advanced Management of Compressed Air Systems](#) — May 7-8, 2008, Omaha, Neb.

Intensive 2-day workshop that provides in-depth technical information on troubleshooting and making improvements to industrial compressed air systems.

[American Institute of Architects National Convention](#) — May 15-17, 2008, Boston, Mass.

The focus will be, "*We the People*," and explore the power of architecture in society.

[DOE's EERE Hydrogen Program 2008 Merit Review](#) — June 9-13, 2008, Arlington, Va.

Each year hydrogen and fuel cell projects funded by DOE's Hydrogen Program are reviewed for their merit during an Annual Merit Review and Peer Evaluation Meeting.

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News

Google Earth gives bird's eye view of energy efficient buildings



Numerous green building techniques are in use at the [Assateague Island Visitor Center, Va.](#)

DOE and Google have collaborated to put the Department's visual database of high performance buildings online.

Google users can now use the popular Google Earth and Google SketchUp applications to access the DOE Collection. The goal is to aid in the real world design of energy efficient buildings.

The DOE Collection of High Performance Buildings is a database developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The database is a central repository of in-depth information and data on high-performance building projects around the world. Currently, 87 buildings are listed in the collection with more added each month.

[Check out energy efficient buildings in Google](#)

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New funding for concentrated solar power

DOE Assistant Secretary Alexander Karsner has announced a new solar energy initiative designed to speed adoption of low-cost concentrating solar power (CSP) technologies into the marketplace. The new initiative provides up to \$5.2 million in funding to 12 projects to be implemented by nine U.S. companies.

Concentrating solar power is electricity generated from using mirrors to focus sunlight onto a receiver that captures the sun's energy and converts it into heat that can run a standard turbine generator or engine. The thermal energy can be saved for later use to provide energy to homes and businesses day or night.

[More information](#)

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States receive funding for industrial assessment projects

DOE's [Industrial Technologies Program](#) (ITP) has announced that 19 states will receive a total of 96 industrial plant assessments at local facilities.

DOE's [Save Energy Now initiative](#) will use these awards to partner with states, local energy efficiency groups, utilities, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations to improve U.S. industrial energy efficiency. These initial state assessment projects launch an anticipated long-term, extensive effort to expand ITP's state activities.

The awards total \$950,000 and represent industrial plant assessments, adding to the national impact of reduced energy use and carbon emissions. These awarded projects represent an additional 5.8 trillion Btu per year in potential natural gas savings, as well as reduced CO2 emissions of 390,000 metric tons per year. In addition to analysis and plant assessments, each state project lead will provide follow-up technical and implementation

assistance.

A third round of 250 Industrial Save Energy Now Energy Assessments is now open for applications by eligible industrial facilities. [Apply here.](#)

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\$7.7 million goes to biofuels



The biofuel revolution opens new opportunities for U.S. farmers to diversify crops and income. Perennial crops can help reduce erosion and waste of marginal land.

Four cellulosic biofuel projects will receive up to \$7.7 million in DOE funding over the next three years. When combined with the industry cost share, more than \$15.7 million will be invested in the four projects from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2010.

The four projects will be headed up by Emery Energy Company of Salt Lake City, Utah; Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa; Research Triangle Institute of Research Triangle Park, N.C.; and the Southern Research Institute of Birmingham, Ala.

The projects will investigate the thermochemical conversion process of turning switchgrass, corn stover, and other non-edible organic materials into biofuel. See the [DOE press release](#).

With this funding, DOE has announced more than \$1 billion in multi-year funding for biofuels research and development. This includes \$385 million for commercial-scale biorefineries, \$200 million for pilot-scale biorefineries working on novel refining processes, more than \$400 million for bioenergy centers, and \$23 million for the development of more efficient microbes for ethanol refining.

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Rita Wells named Golden Field Office Manager



Dr. Rita L. Wells

Assistant Secretary of Energy Alexander Karsner has appointed Rita Lappin Wells, Ph.D., as the new manager of the DOE Golden Field Office, the department's primary organization for managing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across the nation. For the last two years, Wells has served in Washington, D.C. in DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Business and Administration.

Her extensive background in federal management includes working in an executive position at the U.S. Department of Transportation before joining DOE. She also was part of the executive leadership team for an independent federal agency that managed \$1.5 billion worth of programs to help people with disabilities prepare for and find jobs. Before that, Wells worked for the Department of Defense including positions at both the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

[More](#)

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Features



2.4-kilowatt photovoltaic system installed and working perfectly at 11,000 feet elevation, Aspen Mountain Resort.

Green power hits the slopes

For many Americans, the winter holiday season begins the ski season and this year more skiers will be hauled to the top of the mountain by wind power. During the past 10 years, U.S. ski resorts have increasingly moved toward green power.

According to a [report by the National Geographic Society](#), 22 ski resorts in seven states now use wind power credits to supply 100 percent of their electricity use. The drive to energy efficiency was led in the late 1990s by the National Ski Area Association's (NSAA) [Sustainable Slopes](#) movement.

From 1998 through 2001, EERE worked with NSAA to build awareness of energy saving options open to the industry.

[The Aspen Skiing Company in Colorado, with its aggressive environmental program](#), was an early leader in the Sustainable Slopes effort. In the winter of 2001, it worked with EERE's Office of Industrial Technologies to perform one of the industry's first energy assessments of ski operations, learning how to make their operation more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable.

Several recommendations from the energy assessment were quickly implemented, leading to immediate cost and energy savings that included:

- A lighting retrofit at the Bumps Restaurant at Buttermilk Mountain saves 5,800 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, keeping 11,000 pounds of CO2 out of the atmosphere.
- Replacement of an air compressor at Aspen Mountain saves 232,000 kilowatt hours annually, keeping 465,600 pounds of CO2 out of the atmosphere.
- Repair of leaky pipe on Aspen Mountain saves 44,300 kilowatt hours of electricity annually and 6.6 million gallons of water.

Auden Schendler, Aspen Director of Environmental Affairs, said, "The energy efficiency analysis from the audit was a useful tool in convincing management to replace the compressors [for snow making] on a shorter timeline.

"Further, I believe interest in energy efficiency and the associated money savings generated by the audit helped leverage the installation of a \$250,000 energy management system at one of our hotels, saving \$7,000 monthly in energy costs."

Aspen and other U.S. ski resorts continue to aggressively pursue use of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

[Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort](#) near Hancock, Mass. was another early adaptor of energy efficiency on the slopes. The resort uses a number of clean energy technologies, and this past August became the first U.S. ski resort to make its own electricity, by [adding its own 1.5 megawatt wind turbine](#) to the grid.

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