

EERE Program News

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November, 2008

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Happy Holidays

Photo courtesy of: JJJ

"What?," you ask. "It's December and I am just receiving the November issue of EERE Program News?"

Yes, it's true; we held off publication so we wouldn't compete with the Thanksgiving holiday.

[News](#) reports on some interesting consumer attitudes about energy efficiency, along with articles on how U.S. driving habits have changed in response to last summer's higher fuel costs. It also lays out the facts about the \$25 billion program being made available to U.S. auto makers to build fuel efficient vehicles.

[Features](#) highlights the accelerated interest in green power and energy efficiency during 2008. The Intel Corporation, for example, purchased 1.3 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) of clean energy, the most used by any U.S. company. [Video](#)

Intel also estimates that the improved power efficiency of its latest Core 2 Duo processors has contributed the energy savings equivalent of taking two million cars and trucks off the road.

Among government agencies, the U.S. Air Force continued its green power lead in 2008, purchasing 899 million kwh of clean energy and also installing more renewable energy projects on its bases and facilities.

These and other green power achievements of 23 companies were recently honored at a ceremony sponsored by DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Resource Solutions. [Features](#) spotlights a selection of the winners.

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Consumers warm to energy efficiency



Effective home weatherization begins with an energy audit

photo courtesy of: JJJ

When a recent Energy Pulse® survey asked participants if they would choose one home over another based on energy efficiency, 81 percent said yes, compared to only 69 percent in 2007.

[Energy Pulse®](#) is an annual national consumer survey that evaluates attitudes, opinions and purchasing habits related to energy use and conservation. The study evaluates energy-efficient products and services in multiple categories, such as green building and residential construction, transportation and home appliances.

"For the first time in four years we increasingly see economic concerns driving consumer interest in conserving energy," said Suzanne Shelton, CEO of the Shelton Group and Energy Pulse®.

One preference has clearly emerged; the public's propensity to purchase smaller, more fuel efficient and hybrid cars, with 49.5 percent and 48.5 percent saying they are likely or very likely to purchase such vehicles.

"However, one thing hasn't changed since 2005: most Americans don't view their own consumption behaviors or energy-use-demand as having much to do with energy costs," Shelton said. In fact Energy Pulse 2008 finds that less than one-fourth of the respondents mentioned U.S. consumer demand as most to blame for rising energy prices.

Oil companies were thought to be the primary culprits for rising gasoline prices (27 percent), with the U.S. government the second most common answer (24 percent).

Interestingly enough, when asked "Given an extra \$10,000 in your [home] construction budget for discretionary items, which of the following would you choose?" the top three answers were: replace windows (35.2 percent), replace HVAC or furnace unit (26.7 percent) and refinish kitchen or bathroom (26.5 percent). Only 12.2 percent chose add insulation, which is often the most energy efficient choice in many homes.

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Waxman to chair House Energy and Commerce Committee

Representative Henry Waxman of California has taken over as [Chair of the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee](#). He replaces Representative John Dingell of Michigan.

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Americans slash driving miles in 2008



In 2008 Americans drove almost 80 billion fewer miles; a strong response to high gas prices and changing economic conditions. What happens next?

photo courtesy of: Webspaza.com

From January through September, Americans as a nation drove [79 billion fewer miles](#) than the year before.

When petroleum product prices shot up last spring and summer, [drivers responded almost immediately](#), cutting down on non-essential driving, combining shorter trips and switching to more fuel efficient cars.

In August, according to the Energy Information Administration, U.S. drivers burned about five percent less gasoline than they did a year earlier.

One consequence is that gasoline tax collections, needed for infrastructure maintenance, have also dropped. The U.S. Department of Transportation has reported that gasoline taxes paid into the highway trust fund fell by \$3 billion in the 2008 fiscal year.

The question becomes what will happen now that transportation fuel prices have dropped; will our more conservative driving habits hold?

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\$25 billion available for development of fuel efficient vehicles

What's happening with the auto industry is leading headlines. The big three automakers are asking the federal government for help in solving their economic woes. What isn't being talked about is the assistance already approved by Congress for the development of new, more energy efficient vehicles.

Earlier this month DOE issued an "interim final rule that implements the [Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program](#) (ATVM) authorized by section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007."

The total amount authorized by Congress for this program is \$25 billion.

Section 136 provides "[grants and loans to eligible automobile manufacturers and component suppliers for projects that re-equip, expand, and establish manufacturing facilities in the U.S. to produce light-duty vehicles and components for such vehicles](#), which provide meaningful improvements in fuel economy performance beyond certain specified levels."

With the establishment of this final rule, auto manufacturers now know who is eligible and will have a full understanding of what they need to do to apply for the loans, which are now being accepted. The details of the grant process are still being worked out.

More information can be found on the [ATVM page](#) on the DOE web site:

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Tribal energy programs move forward



DOE helps Native American Tribes learn how best to develop the rich wind and solar energy resources existing on many tribal lands.

photo courtesy of: Lizana Pierce

November is Native American Heritage Month and here's a spotlight on what's being done in DOE's [Tribal Energy Program](#).

The program provides [financial](#) and [technical assistance](#) to Native American tribes for the evaluation and development of renewable energy resources, and provides [education and training](#) to help build the knowledge and skills essential for sustainable energy projects.

Since 2002, DOE has invested \$16.5 million in 93 tribal energy projects. The funds have been used to assist the Tribes in quantifying their resources and empowering them to make decisions about how those renewable energy resources will be developed. Some recent stand-outs are the Pueblo of Jemez in New Mexico and the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of South Dakota.

The [Jemez Pueblo is looking to solar power](#) for economic revenue.

For the [Lower Brule Sioux Tribe the answer may be wind](#).

The Tribal Energy Program is centered on education and training. Each year, program participants gather to share their successes and lessons at the Tribal Energy Program Review. This building of knowledge and skills is essential to developing, implementing and sustaining energy development and conservation on tribal lands.

According to Lizana Pierce, Program Project Manager, the [2008 Program Review Conference](#) in Denver (November 17-20) was the most successful one yet. The session is open to all Tribes and this year more than forty Tribes shared lessons learned and experiences in developing clean energy projects and incorporating energy efficiency on tribal land. Two hundred people attended.

[Related links about Tribal Energy Program](#)

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Features



Wind farm development helps revitalize rural communities, as well as bring clean renewable energy to consumers.

Photo courtesy of: NREL

Green power: honoring those who lead

Dramatic renewable energy technologies or innovative energy efficiency breakthroughs usually get media attention. Less attention gets focused on the companies and individuals actually taking alternative energy technologies out of the laboratories and putting "hardware on the ground".

But without the actions of practical, clean energy leaders, alternative energy production and new energy efficiency technologies would remain forever mired in the unrealized world of "good ideas."

To honor achievements in bringing renewable energy and energy efficiency products into the marketplace, the annual [Green Power Leadership Awards](#) are sponsored each year by the Environmental Protection Agency, DOE and the Center for Resource Solutions

Features covers a selection of the 2008 winners in the following summaries.

[Video](#)

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Intel Corporation goes big with green power



Intel Corporation's Core 2 Duo processors have contributed the energy savings equivalent of taking two

million cars and trucks off the road.

photo courtesy of: Intel Corporation

The Intel Corporation emerged as the nation's leading purchaser of green power in 2008, using about 1.3 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) during the year.

Equally significant is [Intel's commitment to energy efficiency and sustainable manufacturing techniques](#) throughout its worldwide operation.

From eliminating the use of toxic materials used in manufacturing to conserving water to reducing power requirements of the computer chips they fabricate, Intel is tackling its energy and ecological footprint. Lorie Wigle, Intel's eco-tech general manager, says the company is committed to what they call eco-technology. The company sets goals in four areas:

- [Sustainable manufacturing \(Video\)](#);
- [Energy efficient performance of Intel products \(Video\)](#);
- [Producing high performance products that can also be retired with minimum "e-waste" \(Video\)](#);
- [Engaging the industry and suppliers on energy efficiency and environmental issues](#).

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U.S. Air Force leads government in green power use



Nearly 14.3 megawatts of renewable energy are generated by the massive solar photovoltaic field at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

photo courtesy of: U.S. Air Force

The U.S. Air Force purchased almost 900 million kwh of green power this year, distributing it across 54 bases. This is roughly equivalent to the annual power needs of 90,000 homes.

The power came from a mix of biomass, wind, landfill gas and solar electricity generation. The green power was delivered by a diverse product mix of renewable energy certificates (RECs), utility-delivered electricity and on-site generation.

The [Air Force commitment to green power](#) is guided by by an [Infrastructure Energy Strategic Plan](#) with specific requirements:

- Reduce facility energy intensity by three percent per annum;
- Reduce base water use by two percent per annum;
- Increase use of renewable energy at annual targets;
- Reduce ground vehicle fuel use by two percent per annum;
- Increase alternative fuel use by ten percent per annum.

The Air Force plan maps the way toward a 30 percent reduction in energy intensity by fiscal year 2015. This impressive commitment is bolstered by wind farms at Warren Air Force Base (AFB) and Ascension Island, as well as three solar photovoltaic arrays at Nellis AFB, Luke AFB and March AFB. The Nellis solar array is considered the largest in the western hemisphere.

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Philadelphia Phillies -- Red Goes Green



>

The Philadelphia Phillies are not only the 2008 World Series Champs; they are the number one buyer of green power in major league baseball.

photo courtesy of: Getty Images

The Philadelphia Phillies not only clinched the 2008 World Series; they also became the [most significant purchaser of green power in major league baseball](#).

The Phillies now buy 20 million kwh of renewable energy annually, through RECs issued by [WindStreet Energy](#). The purchased power is generated from wind and biomass resources and provides 100 percent of the annual electricity used by Citizens Bank Park, the Phillies' home field.

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Houston saves money with wind power



The City of Houston is the largest municipal purchaser of renewable energy in the nation, buying fixed-price green power to help offset the rising cost of conventionally generated electricity.

photo courtesy of: City of Houston

Houston, Texas has turned to wind power to save money and help clean up the environment. The city's comprehensive renewable energy plan calls for purchasing fixed-price green power to help offset the rising cost of conventional electricity.

To date, the city has bought more than 350 million kwh of wind-derived RECs, enough to meet nearly 27 percent of its annual power needs. Houston also plans to construct several PV projects, as well as buying an additional 40 megawatts of wind energy.

More can be learned about all of this on Houston's [Power to the People](#) Web site, which is also an easy-to-use resource for homeowners wanting to reduce energy use and learn more about renewable energy options. A comprehensive look at green power and sustainability can also be found on the [Green Houston](#) Web site.

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Kohl's Department Stores installs solar, buys RECs



Kohl's Department Stores are installing on-site solar arrays in Oregon, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Connecticut and Maryland.

photo courtesy of: Kohl's Department Stores

Kohl's Department Stores is installing 133 on-site PV arrays on its rooftops in Oregon, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Connecticut and Maryland. Forty-eight of the systems are currently generating power and 52 are planned to be operational by the end of December.

Kohl's now either produces or buys green power equal to 20 percent of its annual electricity. The company is based in Menomonee Falls, Wis.

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Lundberg Family Farms boosts green power use



Lundberg Farms in California's Sacramento Valley produces high quality rice products and leads agriculture in supporting green energy.

photo courtesy of: Lundberg Farms

Lundberg Farms currently leads U.S. agribusiness in its commitment to renewable energy.

The company grows and produces organic rice and rice products in California's Sacramento Valley. Lundberg's annual, 4-million kilowatt-hour purchase of California wind-derived renewable energy certificates supplies 100 percent of the operation's total electricity use.

The company has also installed two solar photovoltaic arrays on its warehouses, producing nearly 688 thousand kilowatt-hours annually. Both systems feed into the California power grid, enabling them to contribute extra power to the grid during the summer months when the state's power demands are the highest.

Lundberg Farms takes the additional step of featuring its green power commitment on product packaging and through its public web page. Company representatives back this up with speaking events, newsletters and participation in industry trade shows.

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Oregon State students vote to pay for green power



Oregon State University students voted to pay for green power purchases and become a leader among campuses making similar moves.

photo courtesy of: Oregon State University

Oregon State University's (OSU) students led the school to purchase nearly 67 million kilowatt-hours of green power, an amount equal to nearly 75 percent of the total campus electricity consumption. The purchase is funded through a student approved "Green Fee," voted on during a general campus election.

The Green Fee produced the highest voter turnout in OSU history, with more than 70 percent of voting students supporting the initiative. It has resulted in a purchase of RECs from a mix of biogas, biomass and wind resources.

Also, as part of OSU's purchase agreement, its green power supplier will set aside a portion of each payment into a reinvestment fund to finance an on-site solar photovoltaic project in 2009.

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Merritt 7 Venture, LLC opts for energy efficiency



Merritt 7 takes clean energy seriously, using a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy purchases in their corporate park buildings.

photo courtesy of: Merritt 7

Connecticut's Merritt 7 Corporate Park in Fairfield County is recognized for sustainability practices, including energy efficiency projects and buying green power.

The company has taken a broad view of energy efficiency, from replacing water pumps and common area lighting fixtures, to upgrading elevator mechanical equipment and replacing facility cooling towers.

Merritt 7 has also installed data metering devices to enable the landlord to record electricity consumption and provide control of unusual conditions or spikes in electricity use.

After improving its own energy efficiency, the company purchased more than 21 million kilowatt-hours of RECs, or 100 percent of its remaining electricity use.

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PaloAltoGreen attracts high percentage of customers



The City of Palo Alto Utilities (Calif.) earned top honors in the Small Residential/Commercial Power Program at this year's Green Power Leadership Awards.

photo courtesy of: City of Palo Alto

PaloAltoGreen (PAG) draws renewable energy from new, local and regional wind and solar resources. All of the electricity comes from new projects that have come on-line since 2005.

Just five years since the program's launch, PAG's annual sales of renewable energy have reached 59-million kilowatt hours. The customer participation rate is 20.4 percent, the highest in the nation.

The City of Palo Alto constantly works to add value to its customer programs.

One of the newest benefits offered is the "PaloAltoGreen Team," a discount rewards card program for residents and businesses participating in PaloAltoGreen.

The program promotes participating businesses that use renewable energy and rewards residents with discounts to those local businesses.

Full support for PaloAltoGreen extends from the top down. In July, the city increased its own purchase of renewable energy, providing City Hall and the city's water treatment plant with 30 percent of their electricity use.

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**

EERE News Releases

November 18, 2008

[Changing the Climate: Looking Towards a More Cost Effective, Energy Efficient Future](#)

November 14, 2008

[DOE Reaches Agreement with LG Electronics, USA, On Refrigerator Energy Matter](#)

November 5, 2008

[U.S. Department of Energy Issues Rules for Auto Loan Program](#)

October 29, 2008

[DOE Extends Application Deadline for Renewable Energy Loan Guarantee Solicitation](#)

October 23, 2008

[White House Honors Federal Agency Teams For Saving Energy and Reducing Energy Costs](#)

October 22, 2008

[DOE Announces 2008 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards](#)

October 17, 2008

[ENERGY STAR® Operation Change Out Initial Results Save Nearly \\$11 Million in Energy Costs at 84 U.S. Military Bases](#)

October 7, 2008

[DOE Announces Additional Steps in Developing Sustainable Biofuels Industry](#)

October 6, 2008

[DOE Funds 21 Research, Development and Demonstration Projects for up to \\$78 Million to Promote Enhanced Geothermal Systems](#)

October 1, 2008

[DOE's Energy Savers Web Site Helps Consumers "Stay Warm, Save Money"](#)

September 30, 2008

[DOE's Clean Cities Celebrates Success of Alternative Fuels](#)

September 29, 2008

[DOE to Provide Up to \\$17.6 Million for Solar Photovoltaic Technology Development](#)

September 26, 2008

[DOE Awards \\$15 Million in Technical Assistance to Support Major Retailers, Financial Institutions and Real Estate Firms to Adopt Energy-Efficient Technologies](#)

September 19, 2008

[DOE Funds 15 New Projects to Develop Solar Power Storage and Heat Transfer Projects For Up to \\$67.6 Million](#)

September 18, 2008

[DOE Selects Projects for Up to \\$7.3 Million for R&D Clean Technology Water Power Projects](#)

September 12, 2008

[DOE and Ad Council Launch Energy Efficiency Campaign for Youth](#)

September 10, 2008

[DOE to Invest up to \\$4.4 Million in Six Innovative Biofuels Projects at U.S. Universities](#)

September 9, 2008

[U.S. Energy Department Turns on Headquarters' Solar Energy System](#)

September 8, 2008

[DOE Announces \\$6.6 Million in Competitive Grant Selections For Innovative State Efficiency, Renewables Initiatives](#)

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Reader Comments

October issue —Save energy with green roofs

I liked the article about collecting rain water from the roof, but check out this article about doing that in Colorado: [Home owner woes: water laws and conservation](#)

— M.H.

Western water laws are the stuff of legend, their antecedents sometimes dating back to Spanish land grants... which date back to Spanish water laws... which were influenced by the Moors... and occasionally the Romans. Passions run high on these topics in the dry country and everyone has an opinion, including the courts. More than one well meaning citizen has been caught in the grinder -- Editor

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Speeches, Op-Eds and Testimony

October 7, 2008

Release of the [National Biofuels Action Plan](#) remarks as Prepared for Delivery by Secretary Bodman:

"...We cannot sustain the level of biofuels production needed to meet our future energy requirements if we continue to rely solely on ethanol derived from food stocks like corn. We must progress to the next level.... We must accelerate the development and deployment of next generation biofuels, fuels made from cellulose, algae and from other non-food products as well as fuels compatible with our existing energy infrastructure including renewable diesel, green gasoline and bio-butanol."

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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](#), [John Horst](#), [Mariel Sala](#)

[Solar Innovation and Investment USA](#) — Dec. 2-3, New York, N.Y.

Conference will provide insight from industry leaders into today's best investment opportunities in thin-film and other photovoltaic technologies.

[EcoBuild Fall 2008](#) — Dec. 8-11, Washington, D.C.

An annual conference covering sustainable design, green buildings, renewable energy, environmental planning processes, and information collaboration strategies for commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential construction.

[2009 Wind Energy Institute](#) — Jan. 21-22, Austin, Texas

Forum will provide the latest technological, business, and legal information regarding wind development. Topics include emerging issues, market conditions, CREZ developments, dispatch priority and citing issues.

[22nd Annual Power and Utilities M&A Symposium](#) — Jan. 26-27, New York, N.Y.

Symposium will explore the challenges currently being faced in finance, value, capital expenditures and national energy policy.

[34th Stanford Geothermal Workshop](#) — Feb. 9-11, Stanford, Calif.

The 34th annual Stanford workshop brings together engineers, scientists and managers involved in geothermal reservoir studies and developments in a forum for the exchange of ideas on the exploration, development and use of geothermal resources.

[14th Annual National Ethanol Conference](#) — Feb. 23-25, San Antonio, Texas

The Renewable Fuels Association will hold its annual ethanol conference with industry leaders discussing state of the industry.

[RETECH 2009](#) — Feb. 25-27, Las Vegas, Nev.

RETECH 2009 is a trade show and business conference; an attendance of over 5,000 people is expected, from all areas of renewable energy production, use and marketing.

[Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo North America](#) — Mar. 10-12, Las Vegas, Nev.

The 6th annual conference will offer papers, panel discussions and presentations related to technology, markets, business strategies and policy covering the wind, solar, biomass, hydro, geothermal, ocean/tidal/wave, bio-power, bio-fuels, hydrogen and energy sectors.

[Americana 2009](#) — Mar. 17-19, Montreal, Canada

The 8th biennial International Environmental Technology Trade Show and Conference for exchange of knowledge and know-how and the dissemination of economic and environmental solutions.

[Biomass 2009: Fueling Our Future](#) — Mar. 17-18, Baltimore, Md.

This conference will explore the future role of biofuels in our nation's energy portfolio and the technology, market, and policy advances needed to move toward energy independence and meet aggressive biofuels targets.

[National Hydrogen Association Conference](#) — March 30 - April 3, Columbia, S.C.

Meeting explores work by the Savannah River National Laboratory and the Center for Hydrogen Research to

address hydrogen production and storage, and by South Carolina's research universities to tackle automotive integration, fuel cell research and future transportation needs.

[2009 Nanotech Conference and Expo](#) — May 3-7, Houston, Texas

Conference will bring together over 5,000 technology and business leaders, along with experts from academia, government, startups and Fortune 1,000 companies. Meeting will showcase advanced research and best practices, along with the latest tools and equipment.

[Bio 2009 Annual International Convention](#) — May 18-21, Atlanta, Ga.

This event is billed as the world's largest annual nanotechnology conference and expo. Now in its 12th year, organizers expect over 5,000 attendees and 250 exhibitors.

[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. The deadline for electronic abstract submission is January 14, 2009.

[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.

[2009 Annual NACO Conference & Exposition](#) — July 24-28, Nashville, Tenn.

Registration for the 2009 Annual Conference & Exposition will open in late January 2009.

[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.

[2009 Solar Decathlon](#) — Oct. 9-18, Washington, D.C.

Next edition of this popular DOE sponsored showcase for solar-powered, energy efficient homes designed and constructed by university teams from North America and Europe.

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U.S. Department of Energy

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