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### Ascent Solar Technologies Supplies Silent Falcon (Ind. Report)

Ascent Solar Technologies

Date: 2015-04-17

Denver-headquartered Ascent Solar Technologies Inc. reports that it is supplying thin-film photovoltaic cells for the solar wings Silent Falcon UAS Technologies unnamed aerial vehicle. Albuquerque-based Silent Falcon is preparing for its first commercial production run of the vehicle.

The Silent Falcon vehicle is a solar-electric, all composite, modular and small UAS weighing about 30 pounds. It has an interchangeable wing configuration designed for commercial, public safety and defense applications. (Source: Ascent Solar Technologies, AP, 13 April, 2015) Contact: Ascent Solar Technologies, Victor Lee, CEO, (720) 872-5077, [company.info@ascentsolar.com](mailto:company.info@ascentsolar.com), [www.ascentsolar.com](http://www.ascentsolar.com); Silent Falcon UAS Technologies, (505) 503-6153, <http://www.silentfalconuas.com>

Tags [Thin-Film Solar news](#), [Solar Cell news](#), [Ascent Solar Technologies news](#),

### Yunicos, Leclanche Partner on Renewable Energy Storage (Ind. Report)

Leclanche, Yunicos,

Date: 2015-04-17

Swiss battery manufacturer Leclanche will play a key role in a renewable energy project being developed in Graciosa, the Azores, by German-American energy storage and integration specialist Yunicos Energy. Leclanche will provide a complete lithium-ion battery energy storage solution (BESS) which will be combined with Yunicos Energy Management software. Additionally, an affiliate of Recharge ApS, one of Leclanche's largest shareholders, will provide €3.5 million in convertible debt financing to the project's operating company Graciolica, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Yunicos.

The world's first megawatt-scale renewable energy plus storage system, will enable the grid to be fully powered by wind and solar energy. The system is a fully automated, intelligently managed 2.8 megawatt battery park integrated into the intelligent energy management system developed by Yunicos. (Source: Yunicos Energy, 13 April, 2015) Contact: Yunicos Energy, James P. McDougall, CEO, Philip Hiersemenzel, 011 +49 174 908 8188, [press@yunicos.com](mailto:press@yunicos.com), [www.yunicos.com](http://www.yunicos.com); Leclanche, Anil Srivastava, CEO, 011 +41 79 120 0028, Rohan Sant, [rohan.sant@voxia.ch](mailto:rohan.sant@voxia.ch)

Tags [Lithium-Ion Battery news](#), [Energy Storage news](#), [Energy Management news](#), [Renewable Energy Storage news](#),

### First French Biodiesel Refinery Plans Announced (Int'l. Ind. Report)

Total

Date: 2015-04-17

French energy giant TOTAL reports that it is investing €200 million to transform its La Mede refinery into France's first, and one of Europe's largest, bio-refineries. The plant will manufacture 500,000 tpy of biodiesel primarily from used oils, as well as renewable feedstock using a hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) process developed by Axens.

Total notes that although it will maintain some petroleum product refining operations at the site, it will stop processing of crude oil by the end of 2016, due to heavy financial losses. Total also plans to expand its production of jet fuel for civil aviation at the La Mede site. (Source: Total, Hydrocarbon Processing, Others 15 April, 2015) Contact: Total, <http://www.total.com>

Tags [TOTAL news](#), [Biodiesel news](#),

### Chinese Carbon Market Projected at \$16.1Bn in 2016 (Int'l)

National Development and Reform Commission

Date: 2015-04-17

Further to our Feb. 11 coverage, Guangzhou's Time Weekly reports that China is preparing to kick off its national carbon trading market which, according to China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), will reach \$16.1 billion per year in 2016.

Under China's Certified Emission Reduction (CCER) program, companies can generate credits from carbon emission reductions

and sell the credits on the market. The first domestic CCER trade took place online on March 9, when Shanghai Treasure Carbon New Energy Environmental Protection Technology purchased CCERs equivalent to 200,000 tons of carbon emission from China Longyuan Power, which derives the credits from its wind farm in Xinan, Gansu province. (Source: China Times, 16 April, 2015) Contact: China National Development and Reform Commission, [en.ndrc.gov.cn](http://en.ndrc.gov.cn)

Tags [Carbon Offsets news](#), [Carbon news](#), [National Development and Reform Commission Credits news](#), [Carbon Markets news](#), [China Carbon Market news](#), [Carbon Emissions news](#), [China National Development and Reform Commission news](#),

## Energy Management System Market to Reach \$44Bn -- Report Available (Ind. Report)

Big Market Research, Energy Management

Date: 2015-04-17

Energy management system (EMS) is one of the emerging technologies that enable an organization to collect real-time information on the energy use through monitoring, assessing, and visualizing energy consumption. This concept not only monitors energy consumption but also helps make data driven decisions and enhances enterprise-level operation and financial decisions.

The Energy Management System market is segmented on the basis of Type, Verticals, End users, Components and Geography. The component segment includes Sensors, Display Units, Smart Meter, Smart Plug, Thermostats and Others. On the basis of Vertical, the market is segmented as Power & Energy, Telecom & IT, Manufacturing, Enterprise, Healthcare and Others. The market is also bifurcated with respect to the type of Energy Management Systems as Home Energy Management System (HEMS), Building Energy Management System (BEMS), and Industrial Energy Management System (IEMS). The key players discussed in Energy Management system market are Schneider Electric, Siemens AG, Honeywell International, Inc., Elster Energy, Johnson controls, Inc., Gridpoint, Inc., IBM, C3 Energy and Others. (Source: Big Market Research, April, 2015) Contact: Big Market Research, (617) 674-4143, <http://www.bigmarketresearch.com>

Tags [Energy Management news](#),

## CEMBUREAU Wants Stable Carbon Price, EU-ETS Framework (Int'l)

CEMBUREAU

Date: 2015-04-17

In a response to a public consultation on the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) Directive, the European Cement Association (CEMBUREAU) is calling for an improved EU-ETS after 2020. The association is advocating that the EU ETS "creates a predictable legal framework and ensures a stable long-term globally-equalised carbon price to foster investments in low-carbon technologies and eliminates carbon leakage risk." Where an international agreement does not exist, CEMBUREAU says there should be a free allocation of carbon credits which places all competing producers on a level footing in an international level playing field.

CEMBUREAU believes that the share of allowances dedicated to free allocation should be sufficient to avoid carbon leakage. The list of companies vulnerable to carbon leakage must be determined on the basis of the cumulative direct and indirect CO2 cost burden and be applicable for free allocation as well as compensation for indirect costs. In addition, capital-intensive businesses with long investment cycles, such as the cement industry, require increased certainty and predictability about EU investments. Therefore, the list should be fixed for the entire phase.

In terms of benchmark reviews, the benchmark curve (CITL data) for all EU cement plants should be the source of reference. (Source: CEMBUREAU, International Cement Review, 14 April, 2015) Contact: CEMBUREAU, <http://www.cembureau.be>

Tags [Cement news](#), [Carbon Emissions news](#), [EU ETS news](#), [Carbon Price news](#),

## CyboEnergy Patents Inverters for Solar Apps. (New Prod & Tech)

CyboEnergy, Inc.

Date: 2015-04-17

Rancho Cordova, California-based solar power mini-inverter developer CyboEnergy, Inc. has been awarded U.S. Patent 8,994,218 entitled *Smart and Scalable Off-Grid Mini-Inverters*. This award follows the CyboEnergy 2014 U.S. patent 8,786,133, entitled *Smart and Scalable Power Inverters* covering the unique inverter design with multiple input channels, each of which has its own control and MPPT, solving partial shading problems, maximizing power production, reducing costs and making rooftop solar safer to install and operate.

An off-grid CyboInverter has 4 input channels, where Channel 1 and 2 can connect to 2 solar panels and Channel 3 and 4 can connect to a 36V battery set. Its AC output can power lights, fans, TV, PC, battery chargers, and refrigerators. The CyboCharger takes power from the same off-grid AC circuit as a load and charges the battery during the day. When there is sufficient sunlight, CyboInverter will pull power from the solar panels and leave the batteries idle, extending battery life. (Source: CyboEnergy, Inc., PR, PV Mag., 13 April, 2015) Contact: CyboEnergy Inc, Dr. George Cheng, CEO, (916) 631-6313, <http://www.cyboenergy.com>

Tags [CyboEnergy news](#), [Inc. news](#), [Rooftop Solar news](#), [Solar news](#),

## Hanergy Touts New Thin Film Solar Applications (Int'l)

Hanergy Thin Film Power Group,MiaSole

Date: 2015-04-17

Chinese solar specialist Hanergy Thin Film Power Group reports that its solar panels will be used to power Shandong Taian Changan Catering Equipment Co. vehicles and sightseeing buses manufactured by Suzhou Yigao Electronic Vehicle Manufacturing Co. Panels on the catering vehicles will generate 6 kWh of electricity per day. Yigao's touring vehicles will use six 75-watt panels from MiaSole to generate 2 kWh a day of electricity in normal light, California-based MiaSole is, a thin-film photovoltaic solar panel maker, was acquired by Hanergy Holding in January 2013.

In February, Hanergy said it expects the market for thin-film cells designed for electric vehicles to total 46 gigawatts by 2020 and another 37 gigawatts for electronic products such as smartphones. (Source: Hanergy, Bloomberg Others, 13 April, 2015) Contact: Hanergy, 011 +86 10 8391 4567, [www.hanergy.com](http://www.hanergy.com); MiaSole, (408) 919-5700, [info@miasole.com](mailto:info@miasole.com), [www.miasole.com](http://www.miasole.com)

Tags [MiaSole news](#), [Hanergy Thin Film Power Group news](#), [Solar news](#), [Thin Film Solar news](#),

## Heavy Industry Decarbonization Roadmaps Issued by DECC (Int'l)

UK Carbon Emissions,DECC,Carbon Brief

Date: 2015-04-17

On 25 March, the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) released *Industrial Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps to 2050*, a collection of in-depth studies on the potential pathways for cutting CO2 emissions from heavy industry. The study concludes that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology is the only viable route to tackling CO2 emissions from steel and other heavy industrial processes.

The study found that the iron and steel sector's heavy CO2 emissions are primarily due to the energy intensity of the steel production process and its reliance on carbon-based raw materials and fuels, and the large volumes of steel produced. Total UK steel sector emissions amounted to 16.6 million tonnes of CO2 in 2011, and inflating to 22.8 million tonnes in 2013.

Despite industry's long-term commitment to emission reductions, the UK iron and steel sector consume large amounts of energy, over 70 pct of which generates heat of over 1,000 degrees C. The steady increase of emissions also reflects the limits of energy efficiency technologies.

The study also notes that the emission reduction pathway is based on the availability of CCS technologies. In the absence of CCS, only emission reductions of 41 pct can be achieved, as opposed to 60 pct or more with CCS. What is more, the combination of CCS with sustainable biomass would achieve a 63 pct emissions reduction. The DECC study concludes that CCS technology will need to play a key role in the deep decarbonization of the iron and steel sector. (Source: UK DECC, Bellona Europa, Others, 14 April, 2015) Contact: DECC, [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

Tags [DECC news](#), [Carbon Emissions news](#), [CCS news](#),

## Carbon Negative Energy Touted by UC Berkeley Scientists (Ind. Report)

University of California t Berkeley

Date: 2015-04-17

At the University of California-Berkeley, researchers investigating the possibility of energy production from biomass with carbon capture and sequestration techniques (BECCS) report that BECCS could potentially create a carbon negative power system by year 2050.

Computer model simulations have shown that BECCS could lead to CO2 emissions reductions of as much as 145 pct in Western North America by the year 2050. This would be possible if biomass combined with CCS is also accompanied by aggressive renewable energy deployment and reduction in emissions from fossil fuels.

The researchers say that by implementing BECCS, California will not only be able to reach their emission targets of 80 pct reduction, but they could actually double this. Parts of the work has been published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. (Source: UC Berkeley, Green Optimistic , 13 April, 2015) Contact: UC Berkeley, (510) 642-6000, [www.berkeley.edu](http://www.berkeley.edu)

Tags [CCS news](#), [Biomass news](#), [University of California Berkeley news](#), [Carbon Negative news](#), [Carbon Neutral news](#),

## UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 4th Quarter 2014 Provisional Figures - Report Attached (Int'l, Ind. Report)

UK Carbon Emissions,DECC

Date: 2015-04-17

This report and the included statistics provide users with a first estimate of how emissions are changing on a quarter by quarter basis ahead of final emissions figures for 2014 which will be published in February 2016. The publication also provides an estimate of temperature adjusted emissions, which give an idea of overall trends in emissions without fluctuations due to changes in external temperature.

The statistics are estimates based on provisional inland energy consumption statistics for CO2 emissions -- around 80 pct of all greenhouse gas emissions -- with other greenhouse gas emissions remaining constant for each quarter, reflecting the absence of

quarterly data. As such they are not used directly to monitor progress against UK emissions targets. . Access the DECC's *UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 4th Quarter 2014 Provisional Figures* report **HERE**. (Source: DCEE, April, 2015) DECC, [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

Tags [UK Carbon Emissions news](#), [Climate Change news](#), [Carbon Emissions news](#), [DECC news](#),

### Notable Quotes

Institute for Energy Research

Date: 2015-04-17

"The (Obama) administration has been laser-focused on killing coal since day one. The talk about the carbon capture program was merely to forestall complaints about their anti-coal regulatory agenda. The ending of the FutureGen project is just one more example of the Obama administration's war on affordable energy" (Source: Daniel Simmons, VP, Institute for Energy Research) Contact: Institute for Energy Research , (202) 621-2950, <http://instituteforenergyresearch.org>

Tags [Institute for Energy Research news](#), [FutureGen news](#), [CCS news](#), [Coal news](#), [Clean Coal news](#),

### ALLETE Clean Energy Expands Wind Portfolio (M&A)

ALLETE Clean Energy

Date: 2015-04-17

ALLETE Inc. subsidiary ALLETE Clean Energy has acquired a 97.5 MW wind generation facility near Lake Benton, Minnesota for \$47.5 million from EDF Renewable Energy. The Chanarambie and Viking wind farms are in the proximity of other ALLETE Clean Energy wind turbines. The deal included 65 General Electric turbines with PPAs with Northern States Power.

In January, 2014, ALLETE acquired 3 wind farms in 3 different states from AES Corp. and signed an option to acquire a fourth wind farm from AES in Pennsylvania in mid-2015. The subsidiary also finalized a major development agreement last November with Montana-Dakota Utilities to acquire the rights to develop a 107MW wind farm near Hettinger, N.D., and then sell the project to Montana-Dakota for approximately \$200 million. Further, ALLETE Clean Energy last year finalized the acquisition of a wind generation facility in Storm Lake, Iowa, adding another 108 megawatts to its renewable energy portfolio. (Source: ALLETE Clean Energy, Business North, Others, April, 2015) Contact: ALLETE Clean Energy President Eric Norberg, (218) 355-3232, [www.allete.com](http://www.allete.com)

Tags [ALLETE Clean Energy news](#), [Wind news](#),

### Invenergy Seeks Wind Farm Turbine Permit Renewals (Ind. Report)

Invenergy LLC

Date: 2015-04-17

Chicago-headquartered Invenergy LLC has applied for the renewal of 70 special use permits that are due to expire for the installation of 70 turbines at its Henry County, Illinois wind farm. The company originally held 266 permits and built 133 turbines with total capacity of 211 MW. It also sold a 50-turbine second phase of the wind farm to MidAmerican Energy, according to the county's planning and development committee.

Invenergy's application states the firm "micro-sited" the turbines to avoid native habitats. Western Ecosystems Technology, which did a wildlife study for the area six years ago, also is conducting post-construction monitoring for 2012-14, the first three years of operation, for the initial turbine projects. (Source: Invenergy LLC, Q-C News, 16 April, 2015) Contact: Invenergy LLC, Alissa Krinsky, Director of Communications (312) 582-1554, [akrinsky@invenergyllc.com](mailto:akrinsky@invenergyllc.com), [www.invenergyllc.com](http://www.invenergyllc.com)

Tags [Invenergy news](#), [Wind news](#),

### Grand Bend Wind Farm Selects Siemens Turbines (Ind. Report)

Siemens, Northland Power, Grand Bend Wind

Date: 2015-04-17

Siemens reports receipt of an order for the supply, installation, commissioning, service and maintenance of 40 SWT-3.2-113 direct drive wind turbines from Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership. Grand Bend Wind is a partnership between Toronto-based Northland Power Inc. and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation). The Grand Bend wind power plant will be erected around 220 kilometers southwest of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The 100-megawatt onshore wind project will supply sufficient electric power for approximately 30,000 homes. Onsite construction is underway with commercial production slated to begin the first half of 2016. (Source: Siemens, 15 April, 2015) Contact: Siemens, Thomas Richterich, CEO of Market Unit Onshore in the Siemens Wind Power and Renewables Division, [www.siemens.com/energy](http://www.siemens.com/energy); Northland Power, John Brace, CEO, Sarah Charuk, Communications, (647) 288-1108, [Sarah.charuk@northlandpower.ca](mailto:Sarah.charuk@northlandpower.ca), [www.northlandpower.ca](http://www.northlandpower.ca)

Tags [Direct Drive Turbine news](#), [Wind news](#), [Siemens news](#), [Northland Power news](#), [Wind news](#), [Grand Bend Wind news](#),

## Essel, German Firms Partner on Indian Green Energy Projects (Int'l)

Essel Group, FeCon GmbH,

Date: 2015-04-17

Indian business conglomerate Essel Group reports that it has entered into technology transfer agreements with three leading German firms.

Essel has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for transfer of critical technology in wind and solar energy was signed with FeCon GmbH, a subsidiary company of Wind and Sun Technology GmbH, and a similar deal with Passavant Energy and Environment (PE&E) GmbH for mega scale waste-water treatment projects in India. A letter of intent (LoI) has also being signed with Schneider to develop smart city projects in India.

FeCon GmbH will assist Essel in developing and manufacturing wind turbines in India along with power station and grid equipment for solar and wind energy to suit Indian conditions. (Source: Essel Group, dna, 16 April, 2015) Contact: Essel Group, Ashok Agarwal, CEO, Essel Infra Projects, [www.esselgroup.com](http://www.esselgroup.com); FeCon GmbH, [www.fe-con.com](http://www.fe-con.com); Passavant Energy and Environment, [www.passavant-ee.com](http://www.passavant-ee.com)

Tags [Essel Group news](#), [Green Energy news](#), [Renewable Energy news](#),

## MHPSE, CRI Offer Power-to-Methanol Solutions (Ind. Report)

Carbon Recycling International, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Europe

Date: 2015-04-17

Methanol technology specialist Carbon Recycling International (CRI) and Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Europe (MHPSE), a market and technology leader in the design and construction of thermal power plants, has announced a strategic alliance to deliver power-to-methanol solutions to increase operation efficiency of coal power and chemical plants. Methanol is in high demand as a basic chemical and fuel for transport. Power-to-methanol is a viable technology for large-scale storage of wind and solar power.

The companies will market and deliver CRI's power-to-methanol technology, (Emissions to Liquid -ETL) and MHPSE's expertise in the integration of thermal power systems and environmental engineering equipment to enable power plants to operate at economic capacity levels, even when large variations in demand and supply are imposed by intermittent electricity from renewable sources on the grid. The companies will also provide energy upgrade solutions to chemical manufacturers for hydrogen recovery and carbon dioxide capture from flue gas to produce low carbon intensity methanol. (Source: Carbon Recycling International, Hydrocarbon Online, Other, 15 April, 2015) Contact: Carbon Recycling International, KC Tran, CEO, [www.cri.is](http://www.cri.is); MHPSE, Helge Schulz, 011 +49-203-8038-2929, [h\\_schulz@eu.mhps.com](mailto:h_schulz@eu.mhps.com), <http://www.eu.mhps.com/en>

Tags [Methanol news](#), [Carbon Recycling International news](#), [Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Europe news](#),

## San Antonio Housing Authority Lauded by Doe Better Buildings Challenge (Ind. Report)

US DOE Better Buildings Challenge

Date: 2015-04-17

The US DOE and the Better Building Challenge program has recognized the (SAHA) for its leadership in advancing energy efficiency and commitment to cutting energy consumption by 20 pct across its entire building portfolio by 2020.

Nationwide, more than 250 organizations are partnering with the DOE to achieve 20 pct portfolio-wide energy savings and share successful strategies that maximize efficiency over the next decade. Better Buildings Challenge partners nationwide are deploying energy efficiency projects at more than 9,000 facilities, with more than 2,100 buildings improving efficiency by least 20 pct, and another 4,500 by at least 10 pct compared with their baseline years. (Source: US DOE, San Antonio Housing Authority, 15 April, 2015) Contact: US DOE Better Buildings Challenge, <http://energy.gov/eere/better-buildings>; San Antonio Housing Authority, Board of Commissioners, (210) 477-6047. <http://www.saha.org>

Tags [US DOE Better Buildings Challenge news](#), [Energy Efficiency news](#),

## US LED Lighting Market Could Reach \$5.2Bn in 2015 (Ind. Report)

LED Light, TechSci Research

Date: 2015-04-17

According to the new *United States LED Lighting Market Forecast & Opportunities, 2020* report from TechSci Research, the US LED lighting market should grow to \$5.2 billion in 2015. The market is being driven by falling LED prices due to decreasing production costs coupled with US government initiatives such as the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and increasing consumer inclination towards the adoption of green technologies. Continuing LED innovation, increased energy efficiency and environmental friendliness have also be instrumental in the LED industry's growth.

The US witnessed the launch of LED lighting products in early stages of technology development, and over the last five years the LED lighting market has enjoyed phenomenal growth. General lighting, backlighting and automotive segments are the major applications. Presently, the general lighting segment dominates the LED lighting market and is expected to account for most demand by 2020. (Source: TechSci Research, [www.techsciresearch.com](http://www.techsciresearch.com), 13 April, 2015) Contact: TechSci Research, (646) 360-1656, <http://www.techsciresearch.com>

Tags [LED Light news](#), [Energy Efficient Light news](#),

### **Corvus Scores Ostensjo Rederi Energy Storage Contract (Ind. Report)**

Corvus Energy, Ostensjo Rederi

Date: 2015-04-17

Richmond, British Columbia-based lithium ion battery energy storage systems (ESS) specialist Corvus Energy reports that it will supply a 1050VDC, 546kWh Corvus ESS consisting of 84 Corvus Energy AT6500 advanced lithium-polymer battery modules for installation in a new 150-meter hybrid platform supply vessel to be built in Norway by Ostensjo Rederi.

The Corvus ESS will be integrated with the Siemens BlueDrive PlusC™ electric propulsion solution that will provide efficient hybrid propulsion to the new vessel and provide backup power in the case of blackout.

Ostensjo Rederi's environmental concept "Mindset" vessels optimize the use of diesel generators and the ESS to significantly reduce fuel consumption and emissions, allowing a 20 to 25 pct energy savings over comparable vessels. (Source: Corvus Energy, PR, 15 April, 2015) Contact: Corvus Energy, Andrew Morden, President and CEO, [www.corvus-energy.com](http://www.corvus-energy.com); Ostensjo Rederi, [www.ostensjo.no](http://www.ostensjo.no)

Tags [Corvus Energy news](#), [Lithium-Ion Battery news](#), [Energy Storage news](#),

### **Ecotricity Promoting Residential Energy Storage (New Prod & Tech)**

Ecotricity

Date: 2015-04-17

In the UK, green energy supplier Ecotricity plans to launch a networked residential energy storage device that it claims could cut the country's energy demand by up to 15 pct. A demonstration model is expected in June followed by a 100-home trial by the end of the year.

The device would be linked to Ecotricity's headquarters in Stroud from where demand would be managed. According to the company, the device would suit homes and small businesses with microgeneration technologies such as solar panels or small wind turbines, helping them to become energy independent. (Source: Ecotricity, Business Green, April, 2015) Contact: Dale Vince, Ecotricity, 011 +44 (0) 145 375 6111, [www.ecotricity.co.uk](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk)

Tags [Ecotricity news](#), [Energy Storage news](#),

### **NexSteppe Demonstrates Dedicated Biomass Crops at Commercial Scale (Ind. Report)**

NexSteppe

Date: 2015-04-17

South San Francisco-based next-generation biofuel and bioenergy feedstock specialist NexSteppe reports the sale of more than 25,000 of its Palo Alto biomass sorghums in Brazil this past growing season. In 2013 the company sold only 2,500 acres.

According to Nexsteppe CEO Anna Rath, NexSteppe has demonstrated a scalable, reliable, cost-effective, high-quality feedstock to supply for bioenergy industries. NexSteppe's Palo Alto biomass sorghums can provide the backbone of bankable projects and catalyze the continued growth of biomass power industries. (Source: Nexsteppe, PR, 15 April, 2015) Contact: NexSteppe, Anna Rath, CEO, (650) 887-5724, [www.nexsteppe.com](http://www.nexsteppe.com)

Tags [Sorghum news](#), [NexSteppe news](#), [Bioenergy Crop news](#), [Biomass news](#), [Biofuel news](#), [Cellulosic Biofuel news](#),

### **EIA Foresees Increased Ethanol Production Through 2040 (Ind. Report)**

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Date: 2015-04-17

In its just released *Annual Energy Outlook 2015* the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) presents updated projections for U.S. energy markets through 2040 based on six different cases that reflect updated scenarios for crude oil prices. The six cases include the reference case, low and high economic growth, low and high oil price, and high oil and gas resource. The ethanol reference case predicts that a modest penetration of E85 and a small increase in renewable liquids blended into diesel fuel will result in a slight increase in consumption of renewable fuels liquid fuels for transportation. This increase is expected to occur despite a smaller pool for ethanol blending as a result of a projected overall decrease in gasoline consumption.

Review the full U.S. Energy Information Administration *Annual Energy Outlook 2015* [HERE](#). (Source: US EIA, April, 2015) Contact: USEIA, [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov)

Tags [Ethanol news](#), [E85 news](#), [Renewable Fuels news](#), [Biofuel news](#),

### **Hawkeye State Biodiesel Sales on the Rise (Ind. Report)**

Iowa Renewable Fuels Assoc.

Date: 2015-04-17

In its annual *2014 Retailers Motor Fuel Gallons Annual Report*, the Iowa Department of Revenue reported significant growth in biodiesel use in Iowa during 2014, despite the expiration of the federal biodiesel tax credit and the then uncertainty of the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

The report found that biodiesel sales (B100) increased by better than 15 pct over 2013 to an all-time-high of 33.3 million gallons. Biodiesel now accounts for 4.6 pct of the state's total diesel supply, up slightly from 2013. Additionally, biodiesel is blended into almost 50 pct of all diesel sold, with an average blend level of just under 10 pct. The increased average blend level is largely due to a shift amongst retailers from B10 in 2013 to B20 in 2014.

Iowa provides a tax credit to retailers selling B5 and higher blends. On July 1, 2015, Iowans buying B11 and higher blends will pay 3 cents per gallon less in state fuel taxes. With 12 biodiesel production facilities, Iowa is the nation's largest biodiesel producer at nearly 315 million gpy. Iowa also hosts 43 ethanol refineries producing 3.8 billion gpy of which 22 million gpy are cellulosic. (Source: Iowa Renewable Fuels Assoc, Iowa Dept. of Revenue, Agri News, Others, 15 April, 2015) Contact: Iowa Renewable Fuels Assoc., Monte Shaw, Exec. Dir., [www.iowarfa.org](http://www.iowarfa.org)

Tags [Biodiesel news](#), [RFS news](#), [Iowa Renewable Fuels Assoc. news](#), [Ethanol news](#), [Cellulosics news](#), [Biofuel news](#),

### **Study Touts Ethanol's Value to CornhuskerState (Ind. Report)**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Date: 2015-04-17

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's recently released *Economic Impacts of the Ethanol Industry in Nebraska* has found that ethanol production capacity in the Corn Husker state multiplied tenfold from 1995 to 2014. The results of the study were released during a press conference. As of June 2014, Nebraska's production capacity was 2,077 million gpy with 1,301 full-time employees at 24 facilities. During the past five years, the value of the state's ethanol and dried distillers grain with solubles (DDGS) ranged from \$4 billion to more than \$6.6 billion.

Ninety-six pct (1.805 billion gallons) of Nebraska's biofuel production is shipped to out of state customers. 58 percent of DDGS produced in 2014 were also shipped out of state. (Source: Univ. of Nebraska, 1011HD, Various Others, 15 April, 2015) Contact: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The authors, Dr. Kathleen Brooks, Prof. of Agricultural Economics, (402) 472-1749, [kbrooks@unl.edu](mailto:kbrooks@unl.edu), [www.unl.edu](http://www.unl.edu)

Tags [Ethanol news](#), [Biofuel news](#),

### **Pearson Fuels, G&M Collaboration Plans New E85 Stations (Ind. Report)**

Pearson Fuels, G7M Oil

Date: 2015-04-17

In California, Pearson Fuels of San Diego and G&M Oil Company of Huntington Beach report the opening of their newest E85 Flex Fuel station in Calimesa, California and unveiled plans for 13 additional E85 sites in San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside and San Diego counties. The two companies will collaborate on the additional stations, partial funding for which is through the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program, which was matched by G&M and Pearson. Pearson Fuels is California's largest independently owned ethanol distributor. (Source: Pearson Fuels, Daily Transcript, 14 April, 2015) Contact: Pearson Fuels, <http://www.pearsonfuels.com>

Tags [E85 news](#), [Biofuel Blend news](#), [Ethanol news](#),

### **Energy Software Specialist Raises \$23Mn (Funding)**

FirstFuel Software

Date: 2015-04-15

Lexington, Massachusetts-based FirstFuel Software has closed on \$23 million in Series C financing in a round led by Next World Capital and joined by new investor Electranova Capital. All prior investors, including Battery Ventures, Rockport Capital, Nth Power and E.ON SE also participated in the round. This round brings FirstFuel's total funding to \$45 million since its founding in 2010.

FirstFuel's software platform performs detailed performance analysis of energy usage in buildings, helping energy providers to engage with their business customers and deliver services like energy efficiency, demand management and on-site generation. (Source: FirstFuel, Energy Manager, 9 April, 2015) Contact: FirstFuel Software, (781) 862-6500, [www.firstfuel.com](http://www.firstfuel.com)

Tags [Energy Consumption news](#), [Energy Efficiency news](#),

### **ACCIONA Supplying 129 MW to Mexican Wind Project (Ind. Report)**

Acciona Windpower

Date: 2015-04-15

ACCIONA Windpower, the ACCIONA Group subsidiary that designs, manufactures, and markets wind turbines, will supply 43 3-MW turbines to a renewable energy sector company for a wind farm in Mexico. The model selected for this contract is the AW125/3000 designed to optimize the capture of energy on sites with medium-speed winds. The turbines will be mounted on steel towers. With this contract, ACCIONA Windpower has now sold 988.5 MW in Mexico, of which 38 pct correspond to its 3-MW turbine.

The company is currently supplying Mexican customers with 3-MW turbines totaling 252 MW for two wind farms in Nuevo Leon, and has another order for 1.5-MW machines for a 49.5 MW facility in Oaxaca. Previously, AWP produced 556.5 MW for ACCIONA projects and 1.5 MW for a CFE installation. (Source: ACCIONA Windpower, PR, 14 April, 2015) Contact: ACCIONA Windpower, Jose Luis Blanco, CEO, [www.accionacom](http://www.accionacom)

Tags [ACCIONA news](#), [Acciona Windpower news](#),

### **Dubai Sinking \$8.2Bn in Solar Project Expansion (Ind. Report, Int'l)**

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority

Date: 2015-04-15

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) reports that it is investing \$8.17 billion (€ 7.7 billion) on the expansion of the 1-GW Shaikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum solar farm by 2019. The facility will then be expanded to 3 GW by 2030.

The first phase of the project, with a capacity of 13 MW, was completed by US-based First Solar Inc in October 2014. The 200-MW Phase II, awarded to ACWA Power International and its Spanish partner TSK, is slated to be fully operational by April 2017.

DEWA has also announced a new research center that will focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, solar-powered water desalination and smart grid projects. The agency has also committed to establish a local smart grid to boost energy efficiency. (Source: DEWA, Gulf News, Others, 13 April, 2015) Contact: DEWA, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO, 011 +971-4-601-9999, [www.dewa.gov.ae](http://www.dewa.gov.ae)

Tags [Dubai Electricity and Water Authority news](#), [Solar news](#), [Energy Efficiency news](#), [Renewable Energy news](#),

### **NBB Comments on EPA's RFS Announcement (Ind.. Report)**

National Biodiesel Board

Date: 2015-04-15

The National Biodiesel Board issued the following statement from Vice President of Federal Affairs Anne Steckel in response to the EPA's announced plans for finalizing Renewable Fuel Standard volumes in the coming years:

"We are pleased to see the EPA make these further commitments toward ending these delays. Biodiesel is the most successful EPA-designated Advanced Biofuel under the RFS to date, and the Obama Administration should be doing everything it can to promote biodiesel so we can show that Advanced Biofuels are here today, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50 percent, creating jobs and reducing our dependence on global petroleum markets that wreak havoc on our economy.

"The RFS is the most successful policy we have for reducing emissions in the transportation sector, and it is working. We applaud the EPA for taking this step and look forward to working with the Administration in the coming weeks to get this program back on track.

"Clearly, ongoing questions will remain as to the volume levels proposed by EPA but EPA has reiterated that it will 're-propose volume requirements for 2014, by June 1, that reflect the volumes of renewable fuel that were actually used in 2014.' The volumes for Biomass-based Diesel in 2014 were approximately 1.75 billion gallons so EPA reaffirming its commitment to actual use appears to be a step in the right direction.

"Biodiesel -- made from a variety of resources including soybean oil, recycled cooking oil and animal fats -- is the first EPA-designated Advanced Biofuel to reach commercial-scale production nationwide. With plants in nearly every state in the country, the industry had a record U.S. market last year of nearly 1.8 billion gallons supporting some 60,000 jobs." (Source: NBB, AgNet, April 13, 2015) Contact: NBB, Anne Steckel, VP, (202) 737-8801, [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org)

Tags [Renewable Fuel Standard news](#), [National Biodiesel Board news](#), [Biodiesel news](#), [Biofuel news](#),

### **BU Cuts Energy Consumption with National Grid (Ind. Report)**

National Grid, Boston University

Date: 2015-04-15

National Grid, an international electric and gas company, reports that it developing a three-year Strategic Energy Management Plan for Boston University. The plan aims to help the university lower natural gas consumption by 218,000 therms of natural gas burned per year for an annual reduction of 5 percent and \$750,000 in overall savings.

Over the term of the plan, National Grid incentives will help BU implement energy conservation measures in 74 brownstone residences on campus, according to a National Grid release. (Source: National Grid, Boston Univ., Daily Free Press, 14 April, 2015) Contact: National Grid, Ed White, VP, [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com)

Tags [National Grid news](#), [Energy Consumption news](#), [Energy Efficiency news](#),

## Trina Supplying Solar Panels for Panamanian Power Station (Int'l)

Trina Solar

Date: 2015-04-15

Trina Solar Limited reports that it will supply 33,000 of its PC14 solar modules for the 9.9MW Divisa Solar power station in central Panama. The facility, which will be one of the country's largest solar installations, will generate sufficient electric power for 3,000 homes and will avoid more than 4,850 tpy of carbon emissions.

In other Trina news, the company announced it had entered into an agreement for the sale of a 196,627 module, 49.99 MW solar power plant in the UK to Bluefield Solar Income Fund Limited. The facility generates sufficient power for up to 14,000 homes. (Source: Trina, 13 April, 2015) Contact: Trina Solar Limited, Terry Wang, CFO, (86) 519-8548-2008, Yvonne Young, Investor Relations, +86 519-8517-6878, [ir@trinasolar.com](mailto:ir@trinasolar.com), [www.trinasolar.com](http://www.trinasolar.com)

Tags [Trina Solar news](#), [Solar news](#),

## Kyocera Expands German Solar-Plus-Storage Offerings (Int'l.)

Kyocera

Date: 2015-04-15

Kyocera Corporation recently announced its plan to sell two different lithium-ion battery-based energy storage units to residential customers in Germany. The 4.8-kilowatt-hour and 7.2-kWh units will be sold through Kyocera's German distributor Energetik Solartechnologie-Vertriebs, beginning next month.

The units utilize inverters from Energetik and Datensysteme's energy monitoring software and hardware. According to Kyocera, the units will achieve a charging efficiency of 97 pct due to the multi-inverter which incorporates functions of both a solar power inverter and battery inverter.

The addition of Datensysteme's solar log allows users to monitor exactly how much electricity they generate and consume, as well as the amount of energy charged and discharged to optimize efficiency. (Source: Kyocera Corporation, Others, Greentech, 13 April, 2015) Contact: Kyocera Solar, Tetsuo Kuba, Pres., [www.kyocerasolar.com](http://www.kyocerasolar.com); Energetik Solartechnologie-Vertriebs, [english.energetik.de](http://english.energetik.de)

Tags [Energy Storage news](#), [Kyocera news](#), [Solar news](#), [Renewable Energy news](#),

## Vanderbilt Offers Solar Incentive Effectiveness Insights (Ind. Report)

Vanderbilt University

Date: 2015-04-15

A new study from Vanderbilt University, in collaboration with Sandia National Lab, reports that since 2007, California has had one of the most aggressive roof-top solar incentive programs in the country. The state's \$2.2 billion California Solar Initiative (CSI) has provided a per-watt rebate for installing residential and commercial photovoltaic systems. During this period, the state's solar industry has enjoyed double-digit growth and to date has installed more than 245,000 systems capable of producing 2,365 MW of electricity. As a result, CSI has been widely touted as a major success.

However, the Vanderbilt study found that using the same amount of money in a carefully optimized program to provide systems to low-income households at little or no cost would have done more to stimulate the adoption of rooftop solar systems than the incentive-based approach that the initiative used.

To test the effectiveness of financial subsidies on the market, the researchers looked at a range of incentives from zero to eight times the actual the level, and found very little difference in adoption rates between no subsidy and the actual subsidy. Increasing the subsidy rate did increase the number of adoptees but even at the highest level the effect was extremely modest.

One of the factors that reduced the impact of the incentive program, they found, was the increasing prevalence of leasing. When the program started, homeowners were buying virtually all of the systems so they were receiving the rebates. In recent years, however, the installers began offering attractive leasing packages and receiving and keeping the rebates and incentives.

Since the financial incentives had such a limited effect, the researchers decided to see if they could design a more effective subsidy scheme based on peer influence: the larger the number of solar installations in a person's neighborhood the more likely they are to decide to install a system. The research was partially funded by the US DOE. (Source: Vanderbilt University, 7 April, 2015) Contact: Vanderbilt University, David Salisbury, (615) 322-6397, [david.salisbury@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:david.salisbury@vanderbilt.edu); by doctoral student Haifeng Zhang and Assistant Professor Eugene Vorobeychik, Computer Science, (615) 936-8153, [www.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu)

Tags [California Solar Initiative news](#), [Solar news](#), [Solar Incentives news](#), [Solar Rebates news](#),

## SolarCity, NEST Integrate Solar, Smart Thermostats (Ind. Report)

SolarCity, NEST

Date: 2015-04-15

SolarCity reports that it is partnering with "smart thermometer" specialist Nest to provide Learning Thermostats to the next 10,000 customers who sign up for SolarCity rooftop solar systems and have compatible air conditioning systems.

While NEST expects to better understand the implications of adding a large number of self-generating homes to its system, SolarCity will learn how system-connected homes can best respond to solar's periods of variable output to increase their energy savings.

Google recently acquired NEST in a \$3.2 billion deal. (Source: Solar City, Others, UtilityDive, 13 April, 2015) Contact: SolarCity, (650) 638-1028, <http://www.solarcity.com>; NEST Energy Products, [www.nest.com](http://www.nest.com)

Tags [SolarCity news](#), [Solar news](#), [Energy Efficiency news](#),

## EU Parliament Plans 7 pct. Cap on First Generation Biofuels (Int'l)

EU

Date: 2015-04-15

Yesterday in Brussels, the European Parliament's Environment Committee approved a plan to try and steer investors away from traditional (First Generation) food crop-based biofuels that have had negative side-effects on food prices, the environment and climate change.

The plan caps the older types of Biofuels at 7 percent of the share of total fuel used in transport in the EU. The EP's plenary is expected to hold a final vote later this month. (Source: EU Observer, EuroActiv, Others, 14 April, 2015)

Tags [Biofuel news](#), [First Generation Biofuel news](#), [Biofuel Blends news](#),

## UK Tories Pledge to Axe Onshore Wind Support (Int'l, Ind. Report)

Wind

Date: 2015-04-15

On the UK campaign trail, incumbent Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron has launched the Tory party's manifesto with the statement that the Conservatives want to "promote competition in the energy market while cutting carbon emissions as cheaply as possible". To that end, the PM promised that if re-elected, new onshore wind projects will no longer receive fresh government subsidies. The PM also said the Tories will introduce a change in legislation meaning the final say on any wind farm application in England and Wales will go to local councils rather than be taken at national level.

The PM added that "The job is only half done. We need a Conservative government to see through this long-term plan and secure clean and affordable energy supplies for generations to come. Our long-term plan has unlocked £59 billion of investment in electricity." (Source: renews, Others, 14 April, 2015)

Tags [UK Wind news](#),

## NEO Energy Advancing Vermont Landfill Gas Project (Ind. Report)

NEO Energy

Date: 2015-04-15

Following-up on our Jan. 5, 2015 coverage, Plymouth, New Hampshire-headquartered NEO Energy and the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWM) in Brattleboro, Vermont have sealed a deal that transferred a lease formerly held by the bankrupt Carbon Harvest to NEO Energy. NEO Energy, through its subsidiary Brattleboro Organic Energy, plans to capture the methane gas being released by the capped landfill to produce energy. The company also has plans to construct a large-scale anaerobic digester to produce additional energy from the WSWMD compostable waste.

The Vermont Public Service Board on Friday agreed to transfer the Certificate of Public Good (permit) from Carbon Harvest to Brattleboro Organic Energy. The total project cost is projected at between \$5 million and \$8 million. (Source: NEO Energy, Brattleboro Reformer, 13 April, 2015) Contact: NEO Energy, Tony Callendrello, CEO, (603) 766-8748, [www.neoenergyusa.com](http://www.neoenergyusa.com); Windham Solid Waste Management District, [www.windhamsolidwaste.org](http://www.windhamsolidwaste.org)

Tags [NEO Energy news](#), [Landfill Gas news](#), [Methane news](#), [Gas-to-Energy news](#),

## Proton OnSite Delivers Electrolyzer for Power-to-Gas Energy Storage Project (Ind. Report)

Proton OnSite

Date: 2015-04-15

Wallingford, Conn.-based Proton OnSite, the world leader in Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyzer technology, reports that it will participate in the first power-to-gas (P2G) project in the U.S., as previously announced by Southern Calif. Gas Co.

The project will involve testing two Proton electrolyzers, nominally rated for 7 kW and 60 kW of input power respectively, as a means of generating hydrogen from a local photovoltaic source. The produced hydrogen will then be injected into a simulated natural gas pipeline system at the National Fuel Cell Research Center. Storing renewable electricity as hydrogen or in the gas network allows

for minimizing the demand fluctuations. (Source: Proton OnSite, benzinger, 13 April, 2015) Contact: Proton OnSite, Robert Friedland, CEO, Kathleen Mullins, Media, (203) 678-2132, [kmullins@ProtonOnSite.com](mailto:kmullins@ProtonOnSite.com), [www.protononsite.com](http://www.protononsite.com)

Tags [Energy](#) [Energy Storage news](#), [Fuel Cell news](#), [Storage news](#), [Proton OnSite news](#),

### **Kiwi Greenhouse Gas Emissions Soaring (Int'l, Ind. Report)**

New Zealand Ministry for the Environment

Date: 2015-04-15

Recent data from the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment's latest greenhouse gas inventory shows that net emissions of greenhouse gases climbed 42 pct between 1990 and 2013. Gross emissions, which exclude carbon flows relating to forestry and land use change, rose 21 pct between 1990 -- year zero for carbon accounting purposes -- and 2013, to be the fifth highest per capita among 40 developed countries.

Gross and net emissions reflects flows of carbon into and out of forests and changes in land use.

The increase in gross emissions since 1990 has been driven by a 30 pct rise in emissions from the energy, road transport and electric power generation sectors.

Agricultural emissions rose 14 pct over the same 23 years but still accounts for nearly half the national total. (Source: New Zealand Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand Herald, 11 April, 2015) Contact: New Zealand Ministry for the Environment, Tim Groser, Climate Change Minister, [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz)

Tags [CO2 news](#), [GHGs news](#), [Greenhouse Gas Emissions news](#), [Climate Change news](#), [CO2 news](#),

### **Smart Meters Market Hits \$18.2Bn by 2019 -- Report Available (Ind. Report)**

Markets and Markets

Date: 2015-04-15

The report *Smart Meters Market by Type (Smart Electric Meters, Smart Water Meters, Smart Gas Meters), by End User (Industrial & Commercial and Residential), & Region (Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe & RoW) - Trends and Forecast to 2019*, defines and segments the global Smart Meters Market with an analysis and forecast of the market size. The Smart Meters Market is estimated to grow from an expected \$11.1 billion in 2014 to \$18.2 billion by 2019, at a CAGR of 10.2 pct from 2014 to 2019.

Browse the report's 66 market data Tables and 53 Figures spread through 151 Pages and in-depth TOC on *Smart Meters Market* [HERE](#). (Source: Market and Markets, [www.marketsandmarkets.com](http://www.marketsandmarkets.com))

Tags [Smart Meter news](#),

### **BNEF Bullish on U.S. Emission Reduction Progress (Ind. Report)**

Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Date: 2015-04-15

According to analysts at Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF), 2015 will be a watershed year for the U.S.'s decarbonization efforts. BNEF is predicting that the U.S. will emit the lowest amount of CO2 since 1994 as efforts to transform the nation's power sector gain momentum with the shuttering of coal-fired power plants, the increasing use of natural gas, and ongoing renewable energy development. In 2015, over 23 GW of coal-fired power is expected to be replaced by record volumes of fracking-backed natural gas. (Source: BNEF, PV Mag. Others, April, 2015)

Tags [Carbon Emissions news](#),

### **Ottawa Claims Most Provinces Will Miss GHG Targets (Ind. Report)**

Canada Carbon emissions

Date: 2015-04-15

It is interesting to note that with this week's carbon market cap-and-trade agreement between Quebec and Ontario, fully 60 pct of the Canadian population is onboard in the fight against climate change.

Even so, the Conservative federal government of Canada, which steadfastly refuses to consider any form of concrete action -- including putting a price on carbon -- has accused the provinces of falling short of their greenhouse gas cutting targets. It is also interesting to note that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's political power base is in Alberta, the home of tar sands oil which is almost universally recognized as among the world's dirtiest oil.

According to the federal government, most provinces will not meet their 2020 targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions. British Columbia and Alberta are the furthest behind. Ontario and Saskatchewan follow, with Quebec rounding out the top five. Taken together, the provincial short-fall comes to 109 megatonnes -- 7 megatonnes short of the amount by which Canada will miss its 2020 carbon emissions reduction target. (Source: Gov't. of Canada, Cadn Press, Various Others, April, 2015)

Tags [Carbon Market news](#), [Cap-and-Trade news](#), [Carbon Emissions news](#), [Tar Sand Oil news](#),

## Notable Quotes

Citizens Climate Lobby

Date: 2015-04-15

"We have a very serious problem going on here with climate change, and warming and upsetting our natural systems. Climate change is bigger than ISIS and disturbed airline pilots."

"Presidential candidates don't want to talk about climate change. We need to change that. If people get out and ask questions and don't put up with phony answers, then you have a nice opportunity to put climate change at the head of the campaign where it belongs."

"Some of the members of congress and presidential candidates are saying it's either the environment or the economy, that you can't fix both of them. It turns out that never was true, only nobody ever paid for a study this big." -- Marshall Saunders, Founder and President, Citizens' Climate Lobby

**Editor's Note:** Saunders does more than spout one-liners. One solution Saunders suggests is to put a fee on carbon and additional fees on imports from countries without a carbon fee. He also suggests that companies receive rebates if they export their products to countries without the carbon fee. A recent study conducted by Regional Economics Model Inc. found that by enforcing this fee, CO2 emissions would be 50 percent below the 1990 levels by 2035. Also, 2.1 million jobs would be created after 10 years and there would be a \$70-80 billion increase of the GDP starting in 2020. (Source: Citizens Climate Lobby, Iowa State Daily, April, 2015) Contact: Citizens Climate Lobby, [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org)

Tags [Carbon Emissions news](#), [Climate Change news](#),

## United's EcoSkies Offers Carbon-Neutral Flights (Ind. Report)

United Airlines

Date: 2015-04-15

As part of its Eco-Skies programme, United Airlines, in collaboration with Sustainable Travel International, will offset 100 pct of the carbon emissions of every flight made by its specially painted Boeing 737-900ER 'Eco-Skies' aircraft, by supporting the GreenTrees project along the Mississippi River Valley. To date, GreenTrees has planted more than 36 million trees in the area. The Eco-Skies aircraft also comes equipped with special wing-tips that reduce drag and save fuel.

In 2014, United cut its CO2 emissions by over one million metric tons, by cutting its fuel consumption by more than 110 million gallons -- the equivalent of removing more than 225,000 cars from the road. (Source: United Airlines, Travel Daily Asia, 15 April, 2015)

Tags [Carbon Neutral news](#), [Carbon Offset news](#),

## Wind Farm Wildlife Protection Project Support Announced (Ind. Report)

US DOE EERE

Date: 2015-04-15

The US DOE has announced more than \$1.75 million for five projects that will develop and demonstrate technologies to reduce the potential impacts of wind farms on sensitive bat species.. This funding will support research projects on innovative early-stage technology development -- advancing proof-of-concept designs, developing and testing technology prototypes and validation of those prototypes.

This work will serve as a critical step toward deploying commercially-viable, proven tools for protecting bats. This research aims to remove barriers to wind power deployment and increase the acceptance of wind power technologies by addressing siting and environmental issues. These technologies, if successful, will protect wildlife and also provide the wind industry with new tools to minimize regulatory and financial risks. (Source: US DOE, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy April, 2015) Contact: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, <http://www.energy.gov/eere/office-energy-efficiency-renewable-energy>

More Energy Overviews [Wind news](#), [US DOE EERE news](#),

## Texas Senate Votes to End Renewable Energy Programs (Reg & Leg)

Wind Texas

Date: 2015-04-15

The Lone Star State Senate has approved legislation that would end the state's 1999-vintage Renewable Portfolio Standard and close Texas' Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) initiative, a power line program that sparked considerable investments in wind energy. By halting the two programs, Texas would no longer require generators to participate in its renewable energy credit trading scheme -- a program that helped regulators track new generation and ensure the state would meet its goal. That program would only continue voluntarily.

The proposal, which has ruffled the feathers of environmentalists and renewable energy industry groups, is supported by

manufacturers and free market think tanks who contend that the two programs gave renewable energy state support that it no longer needs. Renewable energy supporters claim the changes would shake the industry's confidence in Texas' business climate. They also say that with federal climate regulations looming, the legislation would take away an option Texas might tap to meet its proposed carbon goal. (Source: Texas Tribune, Fort Worth Star Telegram, Others, 14 April, 2015)

Tags [Wind news](#),

## **Maine Considers Changes to Wind Permitting Process (Reg & Leg)**

Maine, Wind

Date: 2015-04-15

In Augusta, Maine legislators are considering two competing bills that could affect wind development projects in Maine's unorganized territory (UT) which encompasses more than half the acreage of the entire state of Maine.

Wind power opponent Chris O'Neil, of the group Friends of Maine's Mountains, is concerned that LD 791 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wind Energy Development Permitting - would make it easier for landowners in the UT to strike deals with wind developers, effectively enabling them to run roughshod over one of Maine's best assets: its quality of place. The Natural Resources Council of Maine, an organization that has, in many cases, argued in favor of wind power. The council's clean energy director, Dylan Voorhees, said the proposal has worrying implications. Supporters of the legislation claim the measures would clarify the rights of landowners and potential wind power developers looking to site turbines in the UT.

The second wind energy bill heard by the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee would require that any proposed wind power developments within the so-called expedited permitting area be subject to a public hearing. Opponents claim public hearings are unnecessary and expensive measures that sets an unrealistic timeline and threatens to derail potential wind power projects and discourage investment. (Source: Maine Public Radio, 14 April, 2015)

Tags [Wind news](#), [Wind Siting news](#),

## **TruStar Energy Wins CNG Fueling Station Contracts (Ind. Report)**

TruStar Energy, UPS

Date: 2015-04-15

Atlanta-based TruStar Energy, one of the nation's largest designers and builders of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling infrastructure, reports that it has won a contract from UPS for the design and construction of 15 high capacity fueling stations in 11 states. TruStar Energy was contracted to provide service and maintenance for 13 of the 15 stations on an annual contract basis.

These stations represent a continuation of UPS's commitment to its alternative fuel strategy. Station construction has already begun in Oklahoma City, Okla., and New Orleans, La. (Source: TruStar Energy, April, 2015) Contact: TruStar Energy, Adam Comoro, Pres., Scott Edelbach, VP Sales, Jeffrey Swertfeger, (813) 957-1846, [www.trustarenergy.com](http://www.trustarenergy.com)

Tags [TruStar Energy news](#), [CNG news](#), [Compressed Natural Gas news](#), [UPS news](#),

## **Advanced Plasma Power Led Consortium Among Biofuel Competition Contenders (Ind. Report)**

Advanced Plasma Power

Date: 2015-04-15

A consortium led by the UK-headquartered waste-to-energy specialist Advanced Plasma Power (APP) is one of six consortia that has been shortlisted for funding for a transport fuels demonstrator using non-food biomass. Consortium members include: National Grid, Progressive Energy and CNG Services. The £25 million Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition has been launched by the UK Department for Transport to develop a scaled up demonstrator for the production of transport fuels from non-food waste biomass.

The APP-led consortium is bidding for funding for the construction of a plant that will use residual waste biomass to produce more than one million kilograms per annum of low-carbon compressed biomethane transportation fuel. The process will exploit residual waste, currently the UK's largest source of sustainable biomass, to develop a fuel that can be used interchangeably with natural gas. APP developed the Gasplasma process, a clean, modular and scalable advanced waste to energy and fuels technology which will deliver high efficiencies whilst minimizing visual and environmental impact. The process combines gasification and plasma treatment, both of which have decades of proven commercial operation. (Source: Advanced Plasma Power, Renewable Energy Mag, Others, April, 2015) Contact: Advanced Plasma Power, Rolf Stein, CEO, 011 +44 1793 238550, [www.advancedplasmawater.com](http://www.advancedplasmawater.com)

Tags [Advanced Plasma Power news](#), [Biofuel news](#), [Biomethane news](#),

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