

Energy-Renewable Programs/Policy/Reports

by TidewaterCurrent

News focusing on renewable energy programs/policies. More info on solar and other renewable technologies can be viewed in the Energy - collections on this site. Transportation news can be viewed in the Clean - Eco Transport collection.

⊕ Part of Energy



Solar-Powered Water Treatment Plant Developed

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent "In Phoenix, Arizona, SunPower Corporation developed a 7.5 megawatt (MW) solar power plant, constructed to help power a water treatment plant....SunPower's solar power plant is expected to save the water treatment facility \$4 million over a 20 year period."

January 17, 2013



Solar Costs to Fall as REITs Emerge as Source of Funding

bloomberg



TidewaterCurrent "A San Francisco startup may win approval as soon as this month to become the first firm allowed to raise money for solar-power projects as a REIT, the financing vehicle used in \$640 billion of U.S. property ventures." The IRS is expected to imminently rule on whether solar farms may be included in real estate investment trusts.

January 21, 2013



Outer Banks institute goes deep for clean energy

hamptonroads



TidewaterCurrent UNC satellite campus building designed to be sustainable will house research to limit human impact on the environment. "Researchers are studying ways to store compressed air under the sea and to harness power from the jet stream off the coast" while a unique paddle device is being used to create electricity from waves to power to the building.

January 18, 2013



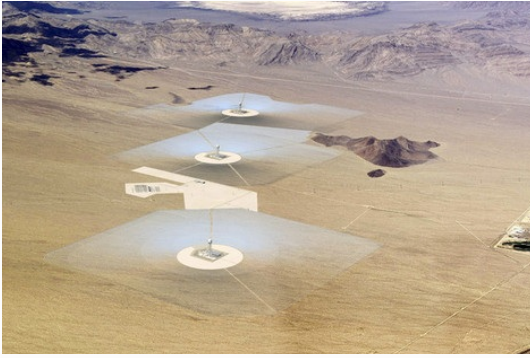
\$10MM EERE Funding Opportunity for Algae Biofuel Advancements

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent "Aiming to build on the current body of knowledge, EERE identified three priority areas of integrated research: Improvements in Algal Biomass Productivity; Improvements in Preprocessing Technologies; and Technical Advances that Enable Integration of Algal Biomass Unit Operations."

January 18, 2013



Goldman Leading Renewable Offerings Says Slump Is Ending

bloomberg



TidewaterCurrent 1.17.13 - "Backing renewable energy isn't just an investment strategy, it's a necessity. The industry is so important that when Goldman's top executives visit the West Coast, up to Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Blankfein, "they don't just visit our largest market-cap clients, they also spend time with our early stage clean-tech companies," Bernstein said. Clean energy is "central to the Goldman Sachs franchise."

January 20, 2013



For Greater Job Growth, Invest in Clean Energy, Not U.S. Coal Exports

greatenergychallengeblog



TidewaterCurrent Analysis shows "a far more beneficial use of this money would be to fund energy-efficiency and renewable-energy projects. Per dollar invested, efficiency and renewables generate many more jobs than fossil fuels." A controversial \$665 million coal terminal plan in Bellingham, WA would support 257 jobs at full build out at a cost of \$2.6 million per job, while spending that same \$665 million on energy efficiency and renewables would create twice as many jobs.

January 19, 2013



“Less Carbon, More Jobs” — Clean Energy Economic Development In 3 States

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent "Colorado, Iowa, Ohio – all three states have leveraged their human and other resources and capitalized on clean energy to boost socioeconomic development"
January 15, 2013



Big US Wave Energy Test Center Going To Newport, Oregon «

admin.earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 1.15.13 - "The seaside town of 10,000, an hour's drive over the Coast Range from Corvallis (home to wave energy leader Oregon State University), was selected to be the site of the Pacific Marine Energy Center, the country's first utility-scale, grid-connected test site."
January 15, 2013



Dominion & Legislators: VA wants wind & solar power

chesapeakeclimate

TidewaterCurrent "Dominion Power, Virginia's largest electricity-provider, is ripping us off. Company executives got the Virginia government to award it a "renewable energy" bonus of \$76 million—even though the company hasn't built any wind or solar power here. ...Please use the form to tell Dominion and the General Assembly that you want wind and solar power in Virginia,"
January 15, 2013



François Hollande: invest in renewable energy to avert 'catastrophe'

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent "Speaking at a green energy conference in Abu Dhabi, the French president said that people had an obligation to protect the planet for future generations. If we don't act, if we don't do anything, if we don't invest anything, we can be sure that we will have a catastrophe very soon. We have to have confidence to invest in the new energy. We can act together to create this world of renewable energy," he told delegates at the World Future Energy Summit." January 15, 2013

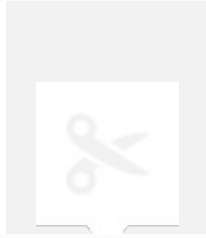


National Nuclear Security Administration Awards Contract for Largest Federal Wind Farm to Siemens

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent The farm will generate approximately 45 million kilowatts of electricity annually – greater than 60 percent of Pantex's annual electricity needs....Using an Energy Savings Performance Contract, Siemens will provide a turn-key wind farm system for 20 years that includes a five-year service, maintenance and warranty agreement with operating and maintenance options from years six through ten. Siemens will also provide an annual energy production guarantee. The government payment to them will come directly from the value of guaranteed energy savings generated from the Pantex wind farm." January 16, 2013



Cuccinelli and Dominion Move to Repeal Virginia's Clean Electricity Standard

chesapeakeclimate



TidewaterCurrent "The Dominion-Cuccinelli proposal is a radical move that clean energy advocates statewide described as out of step with mainstream voters, a claim supported by recent polling. ...Senator A. Donald McEachin and Delegate Alfonso Lopez are introducing common-sense legislation that would strengthen the RPS law by requiring Dominion to invest in wind and solar power in Virginia in order to qualify for these financial incentives, thus fulfilling the intent of the law to spur a clean energy industry in the commonwealth. A September statewide poll of likely voters showed that 63 percent of Virginians back this approach."

January 15, 2013



North Arlington man goes off the grid - NorthJersey.com

northjersey



TidewaterCurrent Through a solar lease from Sunpower, NJ man will save money.

January 13, 2013



DoE issues RFP for collegiate wind energy competition

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 1.12.13 - "The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to participate in DOE's inaugural National Collegiate Wind Competition."

January 14, 2013



NREL 'Bites' Into Energy Scenarios

energymanagertoday



TidewaterCurrent "Educators and students interested in energy and sustainability can use BITES to help teach the combined impacts of research, policy, or other forms of national action in energy. The BITES team has developed and piloted a college level workshop and is seeking interested educators to help further refine the curriculum."

January 14, 2013



Why Frack When You Can Grow Biofuel? USDA Has \$25 Million In Answers

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 1.14.13 - USDA offering \$25 million for non-food biomass, including waste products. "federal investments in biofuel research projects like these could help take some of the bloom off the fracking rose by providing rural communities with more sustainable, less risky and less disruptive paths to long term economic revitalization."

January 14, 2013



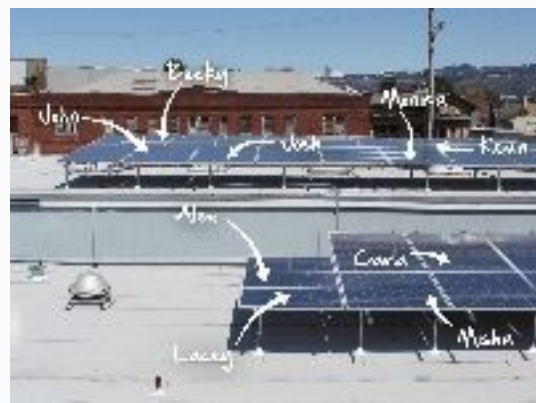
OriginOil Ships Its First Production System

vimeo



TidewaterCurrent Fascinating Video on Origin Oil's Algae Model Appliance 4 which is integrated into a building's facade, either vertically along the wall or on the rooftop, and uses the building's wastewater to grow algae and create energy.

January 14, 2013



New Ways to Invest in Solar Like Buffett - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 1.8.13 - Crowdfunding, MLPs and REITs are all discussed.

January 8, 2013



New On-line Global Energy Atlas from the International Renewable Energy Agency Attracts Surge of Interest

irena



TidewaterCurrent "The Global Atlas is the largest-ever initiative to help countries assess their renewable energy potential, bringing together data and maps from governments, leading technical institutes and private companies worldwide. IRENA, the global policy hub for renewable energy policy, strongly supports the UN Secretary-1.1.13 - General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative, which calls for double the share of renewables in the global energy mix by 2030." 37 Countries have now joined the initiative, which exceeded launch day expectations and is indicative of the political will to transition renewable energy.
January 14, 2013



New York State looks to the sun after a year of severe weather

pv-magazine



TidewaterCurrent 1.9.13 - "comprehensive plan to make the region "the leader in the clean tech economy"—including expansion of the NY-Sun Initiative, a dynamic public-private partnership designed to drive solar industry growth and to make solar installations more affordable for all New Yorkers."
January 12, 2013



Hawaii's PUC ponders on-bill financing of solar energy systems

pv-magazine



TidewaterCurrent 1.9.13 - "Hawaii's Public Utilities Commission is considering a system under which customers could finance the hefty up-front purchase and installation expenses of distributed, grid-tied solar generation by paying an extra assessment on their electric bills."
January 9, 2013



Aging lighthouse gains new life as beacon for offshore wind industry

science.nbcnews



TidewaterCurrent 1.8.13 - Virginia - "The Department of Energy has \$3.2 million in funding to turn the Chesapeake Light Tower, formerly run by the Coast Guard, into the Reference Facility for Offshore Renewable Energy. It will primarily validate models and instruments the industry uses to assess offshore wind resources."

January 12, 2013



Turning Brownfields Into Brightfields With Solar Energy

theenergycollective



TidewaterCurrent 1.11.13- "Thousands of contaminated tracts of land labeled brownfields by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may eventually provide the valuable real estate needed for renewable energy projects, and New Jersey is at the forefront of using such sites to bolster its status as a leader in solar energy. The utility PSE&G is installing 4,000 solar panels on a six-acre site in Hackensack, N.J., that was once the home of a gas plant and then gas storage facilities. "

January 12, 2013



North American Windpower: New York's \$1 Billion 'Green Bank' Lends Hand To Renewable Energy

nawindpower



TidewaterCurrent Among other cleantech initiatives, a new \$1 billion "Green Bank" will offer loans and grants to promote clean energy projects and alleviate some of the financial-market barriers currently inhibiting the flow of private capital to renewable energy and cleantech projects. New York would be the second state to set up a so-called Green Bank; Connecticut debuted its version in July 2011 with the establishment of the state's Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority.

January 12, 2013



Energy Policy in the 113th Congress: A Look Ahead | The Energy Collective

theenergycollective



TidewaterCurrent Live Webinar
January 9th, 12pm EST/9 am PST
January 8, 2013



Wind energy tax credits survive as Congress passes fiscal cliff deal

gigaom



TidewaterCurrent 1.1.13 - "Congress approved a fiscal cliff deal on Tuesday and in it included an extension of the wind energy tax credits for wind projects built in 2013. The wind energy industry is breathing a sigh of relief and says 37,000 jobs will be saved."

January 2, 2013



Solar Mosaic turns "the Kickstarter of solar" into a way to make money

gigaom



TidewaterCurrent 1.6.13 - Great program: "There are three new solar projects that residents of California and New York can put money in as of Monday morning, including solar panels on the roofs of affordable housing projects in Corte Madera, Calif., Salinas, Calif., and San Bruno, Calif." The program works like a mutual fund with investors earning about 4.5% on money invested.
January 7, 2013



Is Your Utility Ready? New Report Says Local Solar Could Power 10% of Country in 10 Years

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent Institute for Local Self-Reliance Report indicates "With the cost of solar falling rapidly and local solar challenging utility prices nationwide..utilities will need to accommodate a grassroots movement toward local, affordable energy generation." There will be more change in the next 10 years than utilities have faced in the last 100. And they had best get ready."
January 5, 2013



How Algae Got a Boost from the Fiscal Cliff Deal

kunc



TidewaterCurrent "Wind isn't the only alternative energy industry to get a boost from the Fiscal Cliff deal. Also included is a tax credit for algae growers encouraging biofuel production that could one day power cars and boats. According to Biofuels Digest, the new tax credit would work out to about \$59 million over 10 years for producers of algae biofuels."

January 2, 2013



A Look At the 2013 (VA) General Assembly Session

greateralexandria.patch



TidewaterCurrent Delegate Scott Surovell will introduce "legislation to require all renewable energy to be generated in Virginia from new sources and to expand the definition of "solar energy" to include "solar thermal systems....Virginia's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard allows utilities to charge Virginia homes and businesses millions in extra fees for purchasing a certain amount of renewable energy. Virginia utilities are currently collecting over \$50 million per year for putting no new renewable energy on the grid or developing Virginia jobs. "

January 6, 2013



Virginia Co. Purveys Wines with a Double Dose of Sunshine - Tidewater Current | Winter 2013

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 12.23.12- Solar derived fruit of the vine stored in sun run warehouse

December 23, 2012



Business is blooming for Norfolk company

hamptonroads



TidewaterCurrent Great story about an Ocean View retailer that powers their all natural mattress company with on-site renewable energy.
December 27, 2012

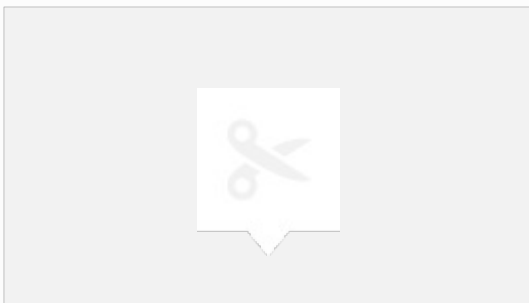


Virginia's Renewable Energy Policy Under Review

wamu



TidewaterCurrent 2007 Electric Utility Re-Regulation Act was designed to spur renewable development in the state, but utilities instead purchased credits from outside that state. An overhaul of the energy bill is expected, with a proposal due next month but "utility and environmental groups aren't entirely on the same page ...Environmental groups want incentives to focus on wind and solar, while Dominion is favoring wind and nuclear"
December 23, 2012



Oregon Gets 10-Year Clean Energy Plan

sustainablebusiness



TidewaterCurrent 12.21.12 - "The comprehensive energy strategy is focused on cutting greenhouse gases, energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean transportation....As in California, Oregon will meet all new electricity demands through energy efficiency, and will remove financial and regulatory barriers that get in the way of increasing renewable energy."
December 24, 2012



Forget Fracking: 2012 Was A Powerful Year For Renewables : NPR

npr



TidewaterCurrent "America's shale boom hasn't undermined renewables. In fact, while analysts were paying attention to fracking this year, a record number of solar panels were being slapped on roofs — enough to produce 3.2 gigawatts of electricity...Wind was up this year, too. The federal Energy Information Administration says the industry could add 1.2 gigawatts of capacity this year." Without the extension of the PT, the growth of wind is expected to dwindle.

December 23, 2012



Concentrated solar power with thermal energy storage can help utilities

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 12.21.12 - "The storage capacity of concentrating solar power (CSP) can add significant value to a utility company's optimal mix of energy sources, a new report by the U.S. NREL suggests."

December 21, 2012



GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$250 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS TO ADD RELIABLE CLEAN POWER TO NEW YORK'S ENERGY HIGHWAY

poststarnews



TidewaterCurrent 12.26.12 - "As New York State looks to upgrade and improve its energy infrastructure, renewable energy will play an even greater role in providing power that is more reliable, efficient and environmentally sustainable," said Governor Cuomo. "Through the RPS, the state is investing in its future. These projects will not only help diversify New York's renewable energy portfolio, but also provide economic development opportunities across the state." The RPS funding will be awarded competitively, with recipients expected to be announced by summer 2013."

December 26, 2012



German energy consumers transform into local energy providers

guardian.co.uk



TidewaterCurrent "More than one million households and small-scale investors in Germany have turned into producers of energy."

December 19, 2012



25 Nuclear Power Plants Could Be Replaced By Geothermal In Japan

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent "the nation's focus on nuclear power that caused this lack of attention for geothermal development. It isn't as if Japan is missing the technical knowledge required for geothermal installations either. They actually make the turbines Iceland uses for its geothermal plants"

December 22, 2012



Utilities Offer NY Businesses On-Bill Financing For Energy-Efficient Upgrades «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent Last year Gov. Cuomo initiated a program for homeowners to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements through an "on bill" repayment program that is now being extended to small businesses.

December 22, 2012



Red Tape Puts Solar Installers in the Red, Homeowners in the Dark

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent Report by Clean Power Finance finds that "The red tape of solar permitting can constitute a bigger part of the price of installing a rooftop solar system than the hardware itself. But it gets worse. Bureaucratic complexities can prevent people who want and can afford solar from getting a solar system." The CSP are looking to create a database to create a more streamlined process.
December 20, 2012



Solar Powered Prisons in California Represent Big Savings for Taxpayers

sustainablog



TidewaterCurrent 12.19.12 - SunEdison provides built and maintains solar facility developed under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). "The beauty of this arrangement is that the state didn't have to pony up a large initial investment: SunEdison installed the panels on marginal lands near the prisons, owns them, and maintains them. The CDCR simply agrees to buy power at a set rate for the term of the contract."
December 20, 2012



Live Conversation Today With Energy Secretary Steven Chu & Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) On Future Of US Wind Industry

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent Today - Wed., Dec. 19 at 4 pm ET at energy.gov/live. Info included on submitting questions.
December 19, 2012

RENEWABLE

National Coal Mining Museum Fits Solar Panels

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent Wales coal museum boasts 200 rooftop solar panels "Coal is such an important part of Wales' heritage and yet green energy will play a major part in its future. Asolar powered coal-mining museum is a fantastic way to celebrate this national journey," said Peter Walker, Museum Manager of Big Pit. But it's far from just symbolic — the museum will benefit from huge reductions in energy bills and a solid return from the feed-in tariff."

December 18, 2012



Solar Eclipses Navy Power Costs - Tidewater Current | Winter 2013

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 12.16.12 - Power purchase agreement allows installation of Navy's largest solar array without upfront costs and offers significant power purchase savings.

December 17, 2012



Construction complete at world's largest offshore wind farm

renewableenergymagazine



TidewaterCurrent 12.14.12 - "The 175th and final turbine has been installed at the London Array offshore wind farm marking the end of major construction activities, Dong Energy announced."

December 15, 2012



Minnesota's First Community Solar Project Doubles Down On Local

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 12.17.12 - Panels built locally will be used in 40 kW community project. "Participation in the community solar project lowers the payback period for solar, as compared to individual ownership, by 7-12 years."

December 18, 2012

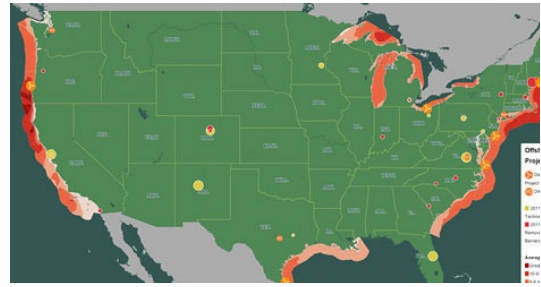


Renewable Energy REITs or MLPs Would Unlock Billions for Project Development

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 12.17.12 - "REITs and MLPs, function like a bond and are currently used in more mature markets for project development. If they were available to renewable energy projects, said Kauffman, they would unlock loads of money for project development. Two separate bills have already been introduced in Congress seeking to allow renewable energy projects to be financed through REITs and MLPs but neither bill has come up for vote ye"
December 17, 2012



Offshore Wind Projects Announced for Virginia and 6 More Coastal Locations - Tidewater Current | Fall 2012

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 12.12.12 - "US Energy Secretary, announced a six year initiative to support projects that will jump start the US offshore wind industry."
December 13, 2012



Berlin to buy back grid and go 100 percent renewable

renewablesinternational



TidewaterCurrent "The German capital has resolved to buy back its power supply. On Wednesday, the grand coalition that governs the city-state passed a resolution to buy back its grid and switch to renewables."
December 13, 2012



Military Leaders See Energy Diversity Protecting US National Security

energy.aol



TidewaterCurrent 12.12.12 - Energy Security Leadership Council, a group of military and corporate leaders, releases a "National Strategy for Energy Security." "The panel said in its report that the US needs to increase federal investment in energy research and development "to help catalyze those innovations most likely to improve energy security."

December 13, 2012



Two Thirds Of The World's Top Corporations Have Set Emissions Reduction Targets Or Renewable Energy Goals

thinkprogress



TidewaterCurrent "According to a new analysis from Ceres, WWF, and Calvert Investments, 68 percent of companies in the Global 100 list have set targets to lower global warming pollution or purchase clean energy. In addition, 58 percent of companies in the Fortune 100 list have set similar targets."

December 15, 2012



NC closer to producing offshore wind energy :: WRAL.com

wral



TidewaterCurrent 12.12.12 - "The U.S. Department of the Interior has designated sites off Cape Fear and the northern Outer Banks for development of offshore wind energy, Gov. Beverly Perdue said Wednesday....North Carolina has the best offshore wind resources on the East Coast according to studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. "
December 13, 2012



Congressional Support for MLPs will benefit renewable industry

switchboard.nrdc



TidewaterCurrent Bipartisan support for extending financial structures employed by fossil industry to the renewable industry. The MLP Parity Act will "help companies gain access to capital at a lower cost and are more liquid than traditional financing approaches to energy projects, making them highly effective at attracting private investment. MLPs are expected to drive significant amounts of new private sector investment to renewable energy deployment, reduce the cost of renewable electricity, and dramatically broaden the base of eligible investors. For these reasons, NRDC supports the senators' efforts and looks forward to Congressional action."

December 14, 2012



US to Invest \$29 Million in Solar Technologies

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 12.12.12 - \$21 million for plug and play solar technologies and \$8 million for better solar forecasting to assist grid operators.

December 12, 2012



SolarCity Awarded Hire Power Award For US Job Creation

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 12.7.12 -
"SolarCity's award win shines a light on the whole solar industry which has driven job creation eight times faster than the overall economy," said SolarCity's VP of Human Resources, Linda Keala. "SolarCity provides consumers with clean, renewable energy that can be more affordable than rising utility bills and this has created domestic solar development jobs that can't be easily outsourced."
December 7, 2012



Net Zero Schools in Kentucky: Models for the Future Come from Surprising Places - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 12.10.12 - Kentucky, a major coal producer, has a plan to triple renewable energy production.

December 10, 2012



Hydrogen could help cut emissions and boost wind and solar power > Trends > Research - Click Green

clickgreen.org.uk



TidewaterCurrent 12/5/12 - A report from the Institution of Gas Engineers and Management "describes how energy companies are investing in power-to-gas plant which use excess electricity generated to produce hydrogen, which can be transported and used later to produce heat or electricity with zero carbon emissions, reducing dependency on fossil fuels." December 6, 2012



On-Bill Repayment Bill Introduced In California

blogs.edf



TidewaterCurrent 12/7/12 - First on bill repayment program for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement introduced in CA legislature. December 9, 2012



Solution to Renewable Energy's Intermittency Problem: More Renewable Energy: Scientific American

scientificamerican



TidewaterCurrent 12.12.12 - University of Delaware simulations indicate that overproducing to create excess capacity could be more economical than building storage technology. A mix of onshore, offshore and solar could provide reliable power save a handful of days over a 4 year period. Car batteries could be used when power is needed.
December 12, 2012



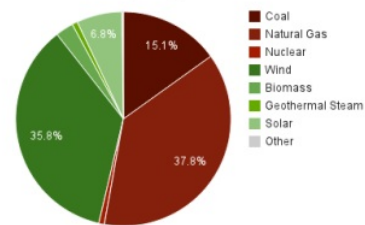
FirstEnergy Solutions & PECO Offering 100% Renewable Electricity

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 12.3.12 - Philadelphia area residents have opportunity to purchase 100% renewable power from their utility.
December 3, 2012

New installed capacity, Jan - Oct



Nearly 50 percent of new electricity generation added in 2012 was renewable

grist



TidewaterCurrent 12.5.12 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission reports "From January through October, 46.2 percent of new electricity-generating capacity added in the U.S. was renewable."
December 6, 2012



US Veterans Fight For Wind Jobs As Tax Credit Hits The Cliff

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 11.30.12 - Operation Free, military veterans with concerns about energy security asked Congress to extend the Production Tax Credit (PTC). More info about the Operation Free mission here: <http://www.operationfree.net/our-mission/>
December 1, 2012



Six Small Towns Make a Green Impact - Earth911.com

earth911



TidewaterCurrent Worthwhile read about sustainable community efforts. In Missouri 4 wind turbines sited within the Rock Port city limits generate energy to provide all of the energy of the town's 1,292 residents, "which makes Rock Port the first American community that can claim to get all its energy from wind power...Currently, the town sells extra power to local utility companies. This, in addition to the arrival of tourists interested in wind power, has helped the town's economy."
December 5, 2012



Wind energy: Colorado, Pennsylvania newspapers support PTC extension

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 12.3.12 - "A recent study by Navigant Consulting found that extending the Production Tax Credit will allow the industry to grow to 100,000 jobs in just four years, while an expiration would kill 37,000 jobs within a year....PTC extension efforts have received the endorsement of a broad coalition of more than 370 members, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Western Governors' Association. APTC extension also has the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Governors Association, and the bipartisan Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, which includes 23 Republican and Democratic Governors from across the U.S. APTC extension has been endorsed by a number of newspapers across the country, including the Des Moines...
December 4, 2012



A Three-Part Roadmap to Energy Independence

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 11.30.12 Good editorial from Bill Richardson - Highlights need for comprehensive energy policy by bringing "together all energy stakeholder" and keeping politicians out of it, then "the President must work with Congress to introduce and pass a comprehensive energy bill....The focus for everyone – Democrats and Republicans, traditional and new energy players, regulators and non-regulators alike – should be on achieving energy independence and sustainable economic growth in the long term" Tax incentive and renewable energy portfolio standards and energy efficiency standards must be developed. He notes that "the fossil fuel industry didn't grow on its own, and neither should renewables;"
December 2, 2012



Decentralized Renewable Energy Systems Will Make Us Less Vulnerable to Hurricanes

energy.aol



TidewaterCurrent 11.27.12 - Good editorial on the need for decentralized renewable energy. "The safest energy future Americans have are small-scale, local energy facilities and upgrading the transmission systems in each state."

November 27, 2012



Interior Announces First-Ever Renewable Energy Lease Sales on the Outer Continental Shelf

doi.gov



TidewaterCurrent 11.30.12 - "BOEM announced the Proposed Sale Notices today to offer 277,550 acres in two "Wind Energy Areas" – one area offshore Virginia and the other area of mutual interest offshore Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The areas proposed for leasing are expected to be able to support more than 4,000 megawatts (MW) of wind generation – enough electricity to power an estimated 1.4 million homes." The sales will be held next year.

November 30, 2012



Powered By Garden Waste: Groundbreaking Renewable Energy Technology

designbuildsource.com.au



TidewaterCurrent 11.30.12 - Clean Technology Investment Program in Western Australia - 35,000 tonnes a year of organic waste (garden, food, dairy, poultry etc.) will be converted to biofuel.

November 30, 2012



Denver Recognized as a Solar Friendly Community

solarnovus



TidewaterCurrent The Solar Friendly Communities program, a DOE Sunshot initiative funding 22 community initiative providing assistance local governments, has had great success in Denver. "Denver provides a great model on how a large city can make it easy for solar installers to do business," ... "The streamlined permitting, inspection and educational practices translate into lower costs for consumers and a more welcoming climate for solar energy."

November 29, 2012



Climate skeptic group works to reverse renewable energy mandates

washingtonpost



TidewaterCurrent 11.24.12 - The Electricity Freedom Act is being pushed by the Heartland Institute and a group of legislators that participate in the American Legislative Council to repeal state renewable energy portfolio standards. "The Heartland Institute received \$736,500 from Exxon Mobil between 1998 and 2006, according to the group's spokesman Jim Lakely, and \$25,000 in 2011 from foundations affiliated with Charles G. Koch and David H. Koch, whose firm Koch Industries has substantial oil and energy holdings."

November 26, 2012

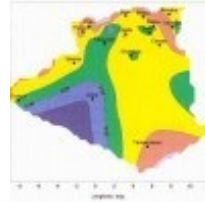


Virginia AG claims state energy law costs customers of two largest power companies \$1 billion-plus too much

tricities



TidewaterCurrent 11.29.12 - "The renewable energy portfolio incentives — which will cost customers of the two utilities (Dominion & Apco) about \$740 million — "are outrageously expensive in relation to what we get, which is nothing," the attorney general said. And the companies will be earning an estimated \$284 million as incentives to build power plants they would have constructed even without the bonuses, Cuccinelli said...the renewable portfolio standard adder has not improved the environment "because, by and large, the utilities have not built any new renewable energy facilities to comply with the (program's) goals. The power companies have instead met the program's goals largely by buying renewable energy certificates from existing renewable facilities, including hydroelectric plants that have been...
November 30, 2012



Algeria Targets 22GW of Renewable Energy by 2030

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 11.22.12 - "the country hopes to have 22 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy online by the year 2030, with a good part being exported on the international market."
November 23, 2012



Google (GOOG) Goes on Renewable Energy Shopping Spree

community.nasdaq



TidewaterCurrent 11.20.12 - Solar and wind project funding from Google approaching \$1 billion.
November 21, 2012



Appeals court upholds Mo. renewable energy rules

businessweek



TidewaterCurrent 11.20.12 - Challenged by utility industry group, the Court upholds statutes the force investor owned utilities to produce energy from renewable resources.
November 21, 2012



Can the U.S. Match Germany's Energy Revolution?

businessweek



TidewaterCurrent 11.23.12 - Great analysis. The Germans followed the path to renewable energy laid out by Jimmy Carter for the US. When Reagen got into office, research was halted and American patents were sold at fire sale prices. While renewable energy production is growing, a cohesive national plan, like Germany's is needed. Even Saudi Arabia has a more ambitious plan than we do.
November 25, 2012



Poll: Independent Voters Favor Renewable Energy Over Keystone XL Pipeline By 4-1 Margin

thinkprogress



TidewaterCurrent "The polling outfit ZogbyAnalytics has just conducted a survey showing very strong support for renewable energy and minimal support for the Keystone pipeline among centrist voters.... The important finding from this poll is exactly what we've seen in many others over the years: Americans of all political persuasions really like renewable energy and will almost always choose it as a priority over fossil fuels."
November 20, 2012



Are renewables stormproof? Hurricane Sandy tests solar, wind.

csmonitor



TidewaterCurrent 11.19.12 - They weathered Sandy pretty well. The vast majority of installations had little impact. As noted in the article, the largest rooftop array in the country did suffer a loss of 5% of panels, but the system is up and running and the repairs are being made. Of 22 farms run by Public Service Electric and Gas Co. only 4 suffered damage (mostly minor, except one that was flooded). Windfarms fared even better. Unfortunately with most systems grid tied without batter back up, many people suffered outages. The author notes instead of large distributed grids, microgrids might offer storm related blackout relief without the need to spend on battery backup.
November 20, 2012



Veterans find jobs, and new mission, in cleantech

mercurynews



TidewaterCurrent 11.16.12 - Great read about the opportunities provided for veterans in the renewable energy and clean tech industry.
November 17, 2012



Around 14.000 new solar jobs created in the USA during 2012

solarplaza



TidewaterCurrent 11.16.12 - Link to the Solar Job Census Report released today. Report prepared by the Solar Foundation and BW Research with assistance from Cornell University.
November 16, 2012



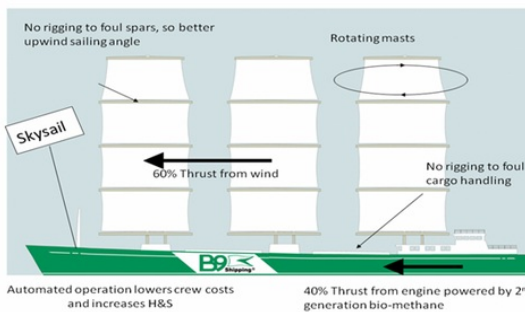
Red State Renewable Alliance forms to broaden support for wind energy, PTC

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 11.15.12 - 75% of wind capacity is in congressional districts held by the GOP "The mission of the Red State Renewable Alliance is simple: to tell the full story of the success of clean renewable wind energy in traditionally conservative areas of the country and emphasize the importance of incorporating this resources as part of an 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy in the United States."

November 16, 2012



Marine Propulsion – Is Wind back on the Horizon? - Tidewater Current | Fall 2012

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 90% of global trade is transported on vessels burning high polluting fuels. Wind is a benign and readily available resource on the high seas that innovative ship designers are looking to harness in new projects. See more snips in Clean - Eco Transport collection. November 15, 2012

Begala



CNN Political Pundits' Advice to the Wind Industry

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent Former advisors to Democratic and Republican administrations comments at Wind Energy Symposium. Fleisher: "The problem is how to define a level playing field. Every energy industry received some form of subsidy or tax provision. There is a government hand on every energy playing field." Begala: "I would go to lawmakers, throw a quarter down, and say, 'That's all I want. Twenty-five cents for every dollar you give the Koch brothers and Exxon.'"

November 19, 2012



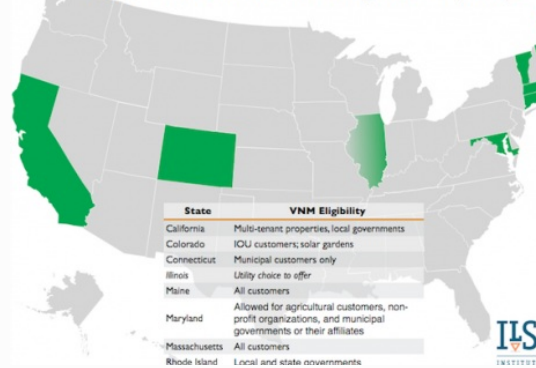
San Francisco Announces Biggest Commercial Clean Energy PACE Retrofit - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent "The \$1.6-million Pier 1 project will shave \$98,000 annually from Prologis' utility bills, reducing purchased electricity by 32%. Improvements include retrofits to 1,500 lighting fixtures, a 200-kilowatt rooftop PV array, and an overhaul of the HVAC system. Work on the project, overseen by Johnson Controls, should be completed by February 2013., This is the first project of its kind and by far the biggest commercial PACE upgrade in the country. Ninety-percent of the Pier 1 project was financed with a \$1.4-million, 20-year, low-interest bond purchased by Clean Fund, " November 20, 2012

States With Virtual Net Metering Policies (2012)



A Policy That Unlocks Community Renewable Energy

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 11.14.12 - Virtual net metering policies - sharing electricity bill credits among the community. November 14, 2012

The Green Blog

Home. Business. Life.

Governor Patrick expands clean energy college internship program

boston



TidewaterCurrent The Massachusetts Clean Energy Internship Program is expanding to include internships in the fall and spring (in addition to the summer). Some 262 student participated the last 2 summers with 38 gaining full time employment. "Clean energy employment in Massachusetts grew by 11.2 percent from July 2011 to July 2012. The sector now employs over 71,000 people throughout Massachusetts." November 13, 2012



Ocean Wave Energy Technology and Oregon's Process

triplepundit



TidewaterCurrent 11.15.12 - Good overview of wave energy research and testing program developed in Oregon. Several technologies are highlighted. See more in Energy - Marine/Hydro collection.

November 15, 2012



Company Says Wind Energy Could Mean Big Fuel Savings

shipandbunker



TidewaterCurrent 11.13.12 - Solar Sailor technology used on passenger ferries can be installed on commercial bulk container ships to harness wind and solar energy and save hundreds of thousands of dollars in fuel costs. From the CEO: "There is immense energy in the oceans which can be harvested and used by ships and we have the technology to efficiently harvest that energy," See more snips in Clean - Eco Transport collection.
November 14, 2012



Project to turn desert green trials in Qatar - CNN.com

cnn



TidewaterCurrent 11.14.12 - "The \$5.3 million, one-hectare pilot plant opens later this month and is a major milestone of the Sahara Forest Project (SFP) -- a concept that has been developed by a Norwegian company since 2008. The facility -- built in partnership with fertilizer companies Yara International and Qafco -- will feature a range of green technologies including concentrated solar power (CSP), photovoltaic panels and a saltwater-cooled greenhouse that mimics the hydrological cycle." See more in Sustainable Design - Green Building collection.

November 14, 2012



A New Way to Foot Efficiency Upgrades (and renewable energy projects)

green.blogs.nytimes



TidewaterCurrent 11.12.12 - California adopts "On (Electric) bill" repayment program. "The Public Utilities Commission has directed the state's investor-owned utilities -- Sempra Energy, Southern California Edison, and Pacific Gas and Electric -- to have the program operating by March 31 of next year." The Environmental Defense Fund helped develop the plan, which is the first to rely on private financing, and is now working with officials in Texas, Ohio and North Carolina.

November 13, 2012



Obama reelection: a future for wind power?

csmonitor



TidewaterCurrent 11.12.12 - A push to extend the PTC is expected and extending it for one more year will likely get some projects off the ground, but a better long term plan needs to be developed.
November 12, 2012



Germany Set to Export Most Energy Ever Despite Nuclear Phase-Out

inhabitat



TidewaterCurrent 11.12.12 - "German power is so affordable for neighboring countries that the Netherlands has actually shut down their own gas-powered plants to rely on importing energy."
November 12, 2012

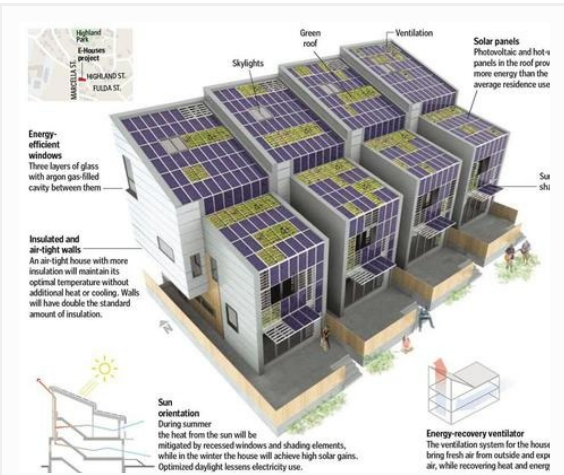


Peter Thiel, Bill Gates, Khosla Get Behind Energy Storage Start-Up LightSail in \$37M Deal

blogs.wsj



TidewaterCurrent 11.5.12 - More news on Danielle Fong's Lightsail energy storage technology. See more in Energy-Storage/Transmission collection.
November 11, 2012

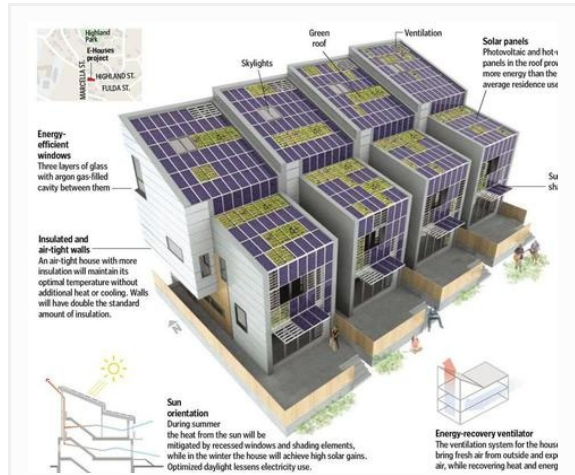


New homes with a surplus of energy - The Boston Globe

bostonglobe



TidewaterCurrent Mayor Menino kicks off Urbanica Project - an energy positive building program. 1800 sq. ft. town homes will be priced at less than \$450,000. See more in Sustainable Design-Green Building collection.
November 12, 2012



New homes with a surplus of energy - The Boston Globe

bostonglobe



TidewaterCurrent Mayor Menino kicks off Urbanica Project - an energy positive building program. 1800 sq. ft. town homes will be priced at less than \$450,000. See more in Sustainable Design-Green Building collection.
November 12, 2012



California voters approve measure to fund green building retrofits

grist



TidewaterCurrent 11.7.12 - Prop. 39 approved in California election will create uniform taxes code on all companies doing business in California and generate a \$1 in funds for the State, half of which will go to green building and renewable energy projects. See more snips in Sustainable Design-Green Building. November 10, 2012



Bill in Congress could increase energy competitiveness

midwestenergynews



TidewaterCurrent 11.7.12 - Al Fanken introduced legislation that would level the energy playing field. "The Master Limited Partnerships Parity Act would close one such loophole to help level the playing field and encourage more renewable energy producers to go into business." November 7, 2012



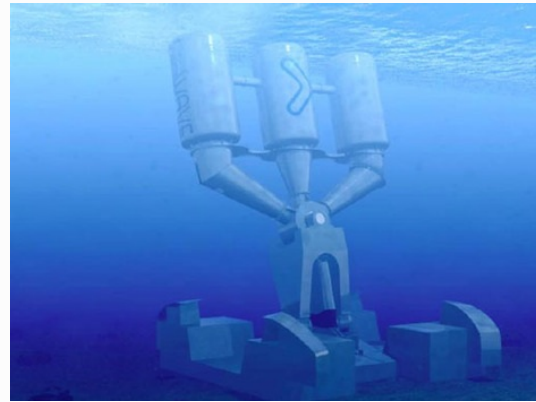
Campbell Soup to boost renewable energy use at Ohio factory

philly



TidewaterCurrent "Campbell's plans to divert between 35 percent and 50 percent of its waste from landfills to a \$10 million anaerobic digester and electric generator being developed by CH4 Biogas L.L.C. Methane gas produced in the digester — a large airtight tank — would fuel turbines that the food company hopes will generate enough electricity to replace up to 25 percent of the conventional power it now purchases.... Just last year, a 9.8. KW solar PV installation was added to the facility to provide 15% of it's energy requirements. "

November 8, 2012



Plans To Make Wave Energy Commercially Viable

designbuildsource.com.au



TidewaterCurrent 11.9.12 - Australia - "The Port Fairy pilot demonstration project, which follows an extensive six-year research and development program, is currently entering the construction stage. It will test the bioWAVE technology at an ocean site located 850 metres from shore in 30-metre deep water, with power delivered to the national electricity grid via a subsea cable." And now the company has just forged a deal with Chinese Shanghai Electric Generation Group to bring the technology into commercial application. See more in Energy-Marine/Hydro collection.

November 10, 2012

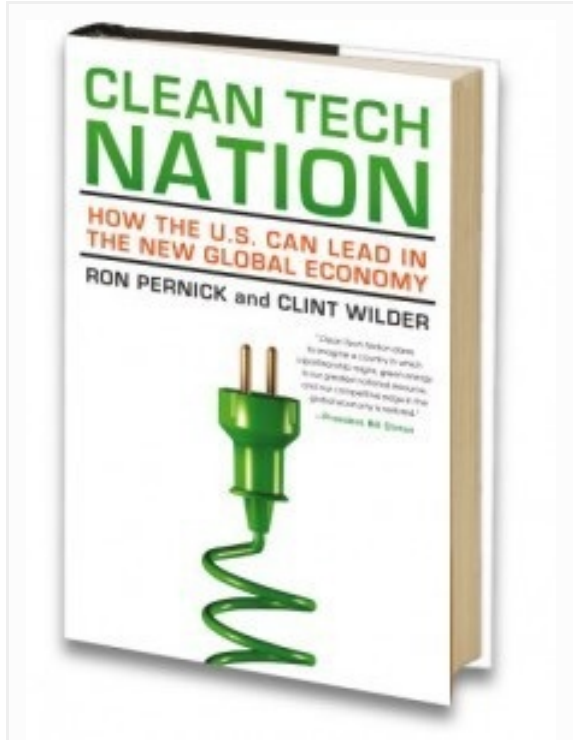


Tasmanian Testbed for Large Integrated Renewable Energy Projects Ramps Up

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 11.9.12 - King Island will test large scale integrated storage system that will include wind, solar, diesel (soon to be biodiesel). This is the first remote system on this scale capable of supplying the energy needs of an entire community primarily with renewable energy.
November 9, 2012



"Clean Tech Nation" recommends seven-point action plan for U.S. cleantech leadership

energypriorities



TidewaterCurrent 11.7.12 - Great read or listen with authors of renewable energy action plan for the United States. They note that public sector investment in renewables has increased dramatically over the last decade while costs have likewise plummeted. And that it is essential to level the energy playing field and remove subsidies for fossil fuels.
November 7, 2012



Why a Revolutionary Approach for Electrical Transmission Lines Matters

switchboard.nrdc



TidewaterCurrent "Order 1000 is critical in helping our nation increase transmission reliability and security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also revolutionary because of its new perspective on what must be included – and valued – in building transmission lines in the United States. Getting more renewable energy onto the grid while increasing sensitivity to the cultural and environmental impacts as we modernize and expand our transmission system will benefit all of us long into the future." See related snips in Energy - Storage/Transmission collection.
November 9, 2012



Solar power production in Germany up 50 percent on the year between January and September

washingtonpost



TidewaterCurrent 11.5.12 - "all renewable energies combined accounted for about 26 percent of electricity production over the first nine months."
November 5, 2012



Colorado's Community Solar Program Allots 9 Megawatts in 30 Minutes

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 11.6.12 - "Colorado's "community solar gardens" program (my summary here) sold out in 30 minutes when it opened two months ago, a testament to the pent-up demand for solar among those who don't own a sunny roof. The program allows individuals to subscribe or buy shares in a local solar project, and in return receive a share of the electricity output."
November 6, 2012



Can renewables prevent future blackouts from storms?

csmonitor



TidewaterCurrent Yes. If you have an onsite battery system with a switch that allows you to disconnect from the grid. "The microgrid is a storm-resistant system and a core component of the concept of a smart grid, which advocates say is the future of energy distribution."

November 4, 2012



The Great Transition, Part II: Building a Wind-Centered Economy

sustainablog



TidewaterCurrent From Lester Brown at the Earth Policy Institute: "energy restructuring would require roughly 300,000 wind turbines per year over the next decade. Can we produce those? For sure. Keep in mind that the world today is producing some 70 million cars, trucks, and buses each year. Many of the wind turbines needed to back out fossil fuels in electricity generation worldwide could be produced in currently idled automobile assembly plants in the United States alone"

November 3, 2012



Solar: America's Fastest Growing Job-Creation Engine? - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 11.5.12 - Solar Foundation's annual Jobs Census indicates that the solar industry has added 13,800 jobs so far this year, a growth rate of 13%. The author notes that solar "is amongst the fastest – if not the fastest – growing sectors in the U.S. economy."

November 5, 2012



More Solar Power is a Good Deal for Mid-Atlantic Ratepayers

blog.cleantechies



TidewaterCurrent 11.6.12 - A report released on the value of solar electric generation in NJ and PA found that the overall price of electricity was reduced and additionally that there were savings associated with not needing to build more capacity and infrastructure (not to mention the environmental benefits of reduced fossil fuel combustion).

November 6, 2012



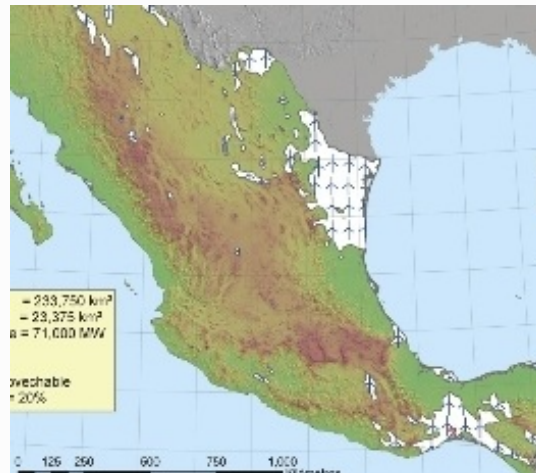
America's solar soldiers

globalpost



TidewaterCurrent 11.1.12 - In addition to troop safety and national security motives, the military is pushing a green energy movement for for economic purposes. It is the world's single largest energy consumer, spending \$15 billion each year on energy, of which 80 percent is dedicated to oil. As noted in the article: "One of every eight Army fatalities in Iraq occurred during transit or protection of fuel convoys, according to a 2011 Pentagon study"

November 1, 2012



Mexico Aims for 12 GW of Wind Power by 2020

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 11.2.12 - "Mexico's high electricity rates make wind development at parity with fossil fuels. "We have no feed in tariffs here, but we do have high electrical rates, which encourages the industry,"

November 3, 2012



Renewable Energy Investment Continues To Leave North America

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.3.1 12- Pew reports: "The United States reclaimed the top spot in the worldwide clean energy race in 2011. Because of policy uncertainty, however, its leadership is likely to be short-lived after a variety of American clean energy programs expired at the end of 2011."

October 31, 2012



Scotland unveils new target of 50% renewable power by 2015 - Politics

rechargenews



TidewaterCurrent 10.30.12 - "The new interim goal reflects Scotland's faster-than-expected progress towards its flagship target of 100% renewable power supply by 2020, and is ambitious, but also achievable, claims First Minister Alex Salmond."

October 30, 2012



Hurricane Sandy Uncovers Strength and Simplicity of Renewable Energy Systems

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 11.1.12 - Unlike fossil fuels and nuclear, in a natural disaster, like Sandy, there are no environmental threats (like fuel spills and radiation leaks) posed by wind and solar. And it appears that wind and solar installations weathered the storm well.

November 1, 2012



George W. Bush Presidential Center Purchases 100% Wind Energy from Green Mountain

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent "Green Mountain Energy Company is proud to announce that the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which will house the George W. Bush Institute and the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, has purchased 100 percent wind energy to power its campus."

October 30, 2012



California's New Solar-Wind Hybrid Power Plant Greens The Grid - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 11.1.12 - "The wind in California tends to blow the strongest at night and in the winter while the sun obviously is at its strongest during the day and in the summer months. Combining the two resources in a single project allows for the more efficient use of transmission lines like the multibillion-dollar one being built to carry 4,500 megawatts of renewable energy from the Tehachapi to coastal metropolises."

November 2, 2012



Solar Power, Coconut Biofuel to Meet 150% of Pacific Nation's Electricity Demand

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.29.12 - "Fiji, Cook Islands, Niue, and Tuvalu plan to achieve 100% electricity generation from renewable energy between 2013 and 2020."

October 29, 2012



Coal Costs Rise as Cost of Wind Power Sinks

triplepundit



TidewaterCurrent 10.27.12 - The cost of coal is rising as reserves thin and are more difficult to mine efficiently. In addition to transportation costs rising and problems with coal ash disposal and spills, companies want to buy clean power. And often that power is wind where cost have steadily been declining.

October 27, 2012



Clean Energy Atlanta Program to Offer Up to \$200M for Building Retrofits - The Business Journals





bizjournals



TidewaterCurrent 10.24.12 - "Clean Energy Atlanta is a landmark initiative that provides private funding for building energy upgrades at no installation cost, repaid through property tax assessments. The program is a one stop shop for financing and administering project deployment, connecting owners of eligible buildings with qualified local contractors to perform the renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades."

October 26, 2012



-  WESTERN INTERCONNECTION
-  EASTERN INTERCONNECTION
-  TEXAS INTERCONNECTION (ERCOT)
-  TRES AMIGAS, CLOVIS, N.M.

Tres Amigas to Link Major US Power Grids

enr.construction



TidewaterCurrent Linking the 3 main power grids in New Mexico will support the renewable energy industry. Producers and consumers will be able to sell and purchase power from anywhere.

October 26, 2012



NEWBio Could Kickstart Biofuel Industry in Northeast

triplepundit



TidewaterCurrent 10.30.12 - "According to NEWBio, there are more than 2.8 million hectares of surplus or idle agricultural land in the northeast that could be used for biofuel crop production, without cutting into existing supplies of food or animal feed crops" A \$10 million grant from the USDA will be used to kickstart a biofuel chain and offers an alternative to fracking. See more on biofuels in Clean - Eco Transport collection.

October 30, 2012



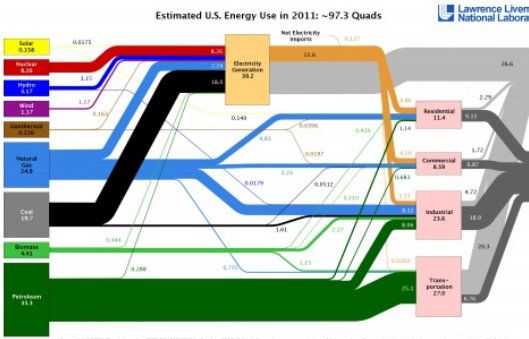
Norfolk Home to Virginia's Largest Solar Array - Tidewater Current | Fall 2012

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 10.19.12 - 2 MW project scheduled to go online by the end of the year.

October 23, 2012



Americans Used Less Energy in 2011, & More Renewable Energy

cleantecnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.25.12 - Good news. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory reports that renewable energy generation increased while overall energy use was down for 2011.
October 25, 2012



Furniture Maker IKEA Invests In Renewables To Become Self-Sufficient By 2020

redorbit



TidewaterCurrent 10.23.12 - By 2020 IKEA plans to be fully powered by wind and sun and grow as many trees as it uses in its products. A Greenpeace representative notes IKEA is at the forefront of companies transform their businesses in the face of environmental threats.
October 24, 2012

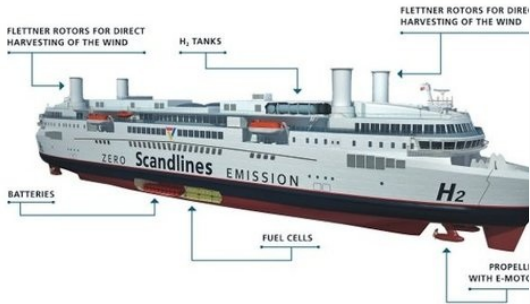


On the Way to 1 Million Solar Roofs: Los Angeles Can't Get Enough Solar Power

cleantecnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.22.12 - "Altogether, these solar projects will prevent about 955,000 metric tons of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere each year."
October 22, 2012



New Ferry Goes To Zero Emissions : Discovery News

news.discovery



TidewaterCurrent 10.24.12- "A passenger ferry that emits zero carbon will be plying the routes between Denmark, Germany and Sweden in the next five years. FutureShip, a subsidiary of GL Group, has designed a ship that runs on a combination of solar power, fuel cells, batteries and wind power. It can hold 1,500 passengers and about 1.3 miles of parking space for cars." See more in Clean - Eco Transport. October 25, 2012



New U.S. Navy Solar Power Plant at China Lake Saves \$13 Million a Year

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.20.12 - Solar PV panels were installed via a power purchase agreement with Sunpower Corp. and "the price of the solar-generated electricity is much lower than the price the Navy was paying for grid-supplied electricity, and that's where the savings comes in." October 21, 2012



Study: Solar power is contagious R&D Magazine

rdmag



TidewaterCurrent 10.19.12 - Yale and NYU study finds that homeowners are more likely to install solar when a neighbor has.
October 19, 2012

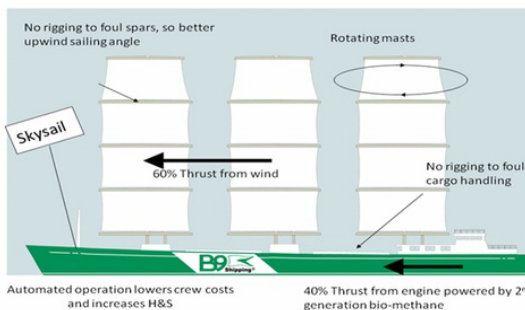


Pentagon, World's Biggest Fossil Fuel User, Shops for Biofuels

businessweek



TidewaterCurrent 10.19.12 - The DoD will soon announce 5 grants to companies producing renewable fuels Up to \$180 million will be provided over time to fund commercial production. They are looking to provide half of their fuel (which was some 130 million barrels last year) with renewable sources. The author goes on to discuss the companies likely to win grants. See more on biofuels in the Clean - Eco Transport collection.
October 21, 2012



Marine Propulsion – Is Wind back on the Horizon? - Tidewater Current | Fall 2012

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 90% of global trade is transported on vessels burning high polluting fuels. Wind is a benign and readily available resource on the high seas that innovative ship designers are looking to harness in new projects. See more snips in Clean - Eco Transport collection.
October 19, 2012



Solar In Your Gas Tank: US Will Rev Up Research «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 10.20.12 - Groundbreaking took place Friday for the solar fuel research center "Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis (JCAP)" at the Berkeley Lab's campus near UC Berkeley. The goal of research at the new facility is "(T)o develop a manufacturable solar-fuels generator, made of earth abundant elements, that will use only sunlight, water, and carbon as inputs and robustly produce fuel from the sun ten times more efficiently than current crops." See more snips in Clean - Eco Transport.
October 20, 2012



You Don't Need A Weatherman... «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 10.19.12 - In Virginia Beach at the AWEA's 2012 Offshore Wind Power Conference "AWC announced the findings of a report showing that with the construction of 7 GW of offshore wind capacity (enough to power over 2 million homes), over 170,000 jobs would be created in the region, adding \$19 billion to US GDP and federal, state and local revenues by \$4.6 billion. That breaks down to 70,000 direct jobs in manufacturing components; 40,000 jobs along the supply chain; and 50,000 jobs from the induced economic impact."
October 20, 2012

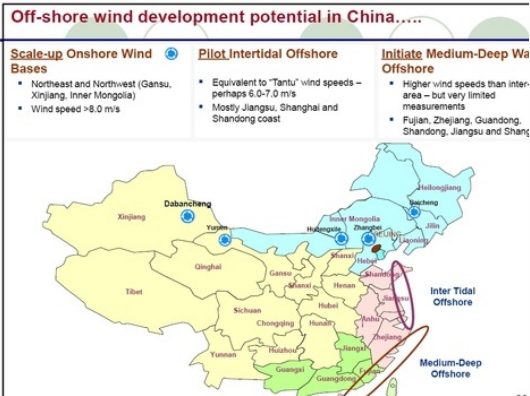


Audi's Carbon Neutral E-Gas

ecogeek



TidewaterCurrent 10.10.12 - The Audi A3 TCNG can run on regular gas or synthetic methane produced from non food organic waste using renewable energy. See more in clean - eco transport collection.
October 10, 2012



Offshore wind energy development sees boom in Fujian

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent "According to the International Energy Agency, wind energy will make the largest contribution to global renewable power by 2017, with China leading offshore wind power growth. ...According to its national plan, China's installed capacity is expected to reach 5 gigawatts between 2011 and 2015 and jump to 30 gW by 2020." With major projects generating power for years and underway in Europe, it's hard to fathom why the offshore wind industry is not growing our economy too.
October 18, 2012



Pittsburgh Can Now Buy 100% Renewables 10% Cheaper Than Standard Utility Rate

cleantecnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.16.12 - WOW "Pennsylvania is one of the country's better examples of competitive electricity market success, with more than 1.8 million consumers choosing an alternative supplier since January 2011."
October 18, 2012



Are traditional sail boats the future of trade? - CNN.com

cnn



TidewaterCurrent 10.12.12 - Nice article featuring the eco trading Tres Hombres brigantine. See more about sustainable/wind powered propulsion at <http://snip.it/snips/312255> and <http://snip.it/snips/235342> - More posts about sustainable shipping are in the the Clean - Eco Transport collection.
October 12, 2012



From Bush to Obama, U.S. Army Goes Green, then Greener

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.14.12 - The Army Net Zero Initiative which encourages installations to produce as much energy on site as possible and this is particularly important overseas where energy costs and security are a concern. AUS Army base in Germany installed solar panels that feed electricity into the grid. "The German government pays the base back for every kilowatt-hour of clean energy it generates, which partly offsets the price that the base pays for grid-supplied energy."
October 15, 2012



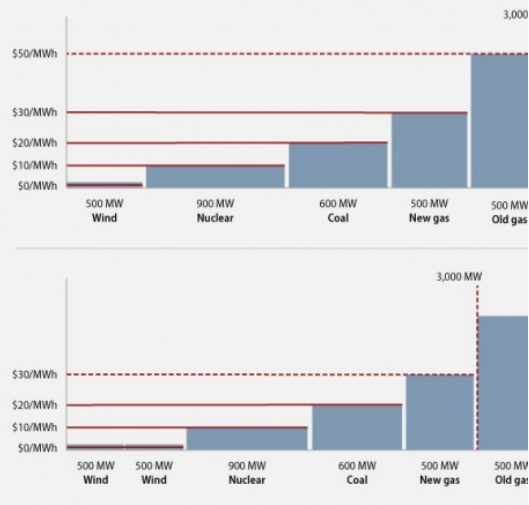
Romney Would Not Leave Wind Energy to Dangle - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent Worthwhile read although somewhat unclear in rationale. the author purports that Romney would end up supporting some form of extension of the PTC due to the pressure from companies and republicans in Congress from big wind producing states, Here's what companies said to congress: "A failure to pass an extension will amount to levying a tax on companies committed to buying American energy and growing the U.S.," says a letter written to congressional leaders by such businesses as Johnson & Johnson, Levi Strauss and Yahoo. "In today's economic climate, a tax hike on American businesses buying American renewable energy is unwarranted."
October 14, 2012

FIGURE 1
Adding more wind power reduces prices in electricity markets
 In the first example, the market clearing price is \$50. In the second example, more wind pushes the most expensive plants out of the mix, and the clearing price is reduced to \$30.



Wind Power Lowers Electricity Prices, And How

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 10.12.12 - Fascinating read on the energy market and how rates are determined. Wind production can and does reduce the price to consumers, but on the other hand conventional energy producers may not earn as much as they would if wind were taken out of the equation. Companies like nuclear Exelon are not happy about the impact on their bottom line and want to see the wind PTC expire (although they too receive a nuclear PTC). At any rate "A recent study of the Midwest Independent System Operator, for example, found that large amounts of wind could save consumers \$200 per year." October 12, 2012



German Energy Switch Saves \$736 Billion by 2050, Researchers Say

bloomberg



TidewaterCurrent 10.10.12 - The Renewable Energy Research Association reports that replacing nuclear and fossil fuel energy sources with renewables will save Germany 570 billion euros. October 10, 2012



Bloomberg earns WindMade label, uses 58 percent wind power

ecoseed



TidewaterCurrent 10.10.12 - First news organization to earn Windmade Certification. The company also uses energy derived from biomass. October 10, 2012



LA Chooses Clean Energy Over Coal - Compass

sierraclub.typepad



TidewaterCurrent "This is one of the biggest commitments any American city has made to move beyond coal and replace it with clean energy, and the Sierra Club applauds the LACity Council, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LADWP, and local community members for their leadership. "
October 10, 2012



Candidates Tout Different Routes To 'Energy Security' : NPR

npr



TidewaterCurrent 10.5.12 - More efficient cars, created by Obama fuel efficiency standards, resulted in a decline in oil consumption. "Romney wants to relax those standards. The Obama plan would also reduce the demand for oil by boosting energy alternatives like wind, solar, and natural gas. Behind the differences of emphasis in their energy plans lie other noteworthy policy differences. Romney would eliminate tax credits and other subsidies for the wind and solar industries. Obama would continue them. The Obama plan, on the other hand, calls for eliminating tax breaks for the oil industry. The Romney plan would keep those."
October 5, 2012



E.ON and Danish pension fund PensionDanmark agree on wind energy deal

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 10.8.12 - Pretty Interesting. "The German energy group E.ON has sold 50 per cent of three US wind farms— two in Texas and one in Pennsylvania – to the Danish pension fund PensionDanmark...." "This is our first direct investment in US wind farms, and also our first transaction with E.ON. Our investment in wind farms in Denmark, and also in the USA, will provide a stable and attractive return at a level very similar to what you can expect from equities, but with a significant less risk and expose to the business cycle, so we will continue to focus strongly on investment of this type," says Torben Möger Pedersen." October 8, 2012

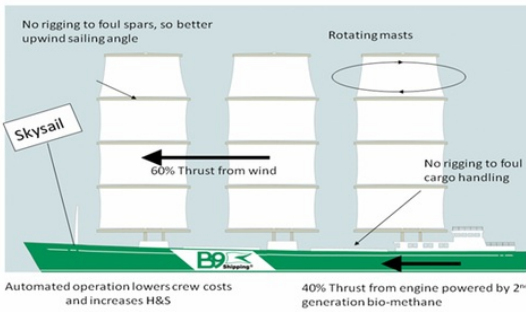


Terra Firma Planning a Renewable Energy Fund of \$5 Billion

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent "There has been a growing number of large private equity firms investing in renewable energy deals; including the firms KKR and Blackstone, along with mid-sized rivals HgCapital and Bridgepoint. China Development Bank is planning to market the new fund to investors in China, and Terra Firma will pursue investment in the United States and Europe amongst "traditional private equity investors and infrastructure fund investors," Reuters reports." October 9, 2012



Marine Propulsion – Is Wind back on the Horizon? - Tidewater Current | Fall 2012

[tidewatercurrent](#)



TidewaterCurrent Shipping designs that incorporate wind propulsion. See more in Clean - Eco Transport collection.

October 5, 2012



\$50 Million for Clean Energy, Energy & Water Efficiency via California County's Residential PACE Program

[cleantechnica](#)



TidewaterCurrent 9.30.12 - AB811 allows property owners to pay for permanently affixed energy and water efficient products and renewable energy systems through their property taxes.

October 1, 2012



Chanel Fashion Show Sports Wind Turbines, Solar Panels

[cleantechnica](#)




TidewaterCurrent Iconic Paris fashion runway indicator of growing public momentum towards the development of renewables.

October 5, 2012

Undecided Swing State Voters Favor Candidates Who Support Clean Air and Clean Energy


The 2012 Election Could Pivot on Energy

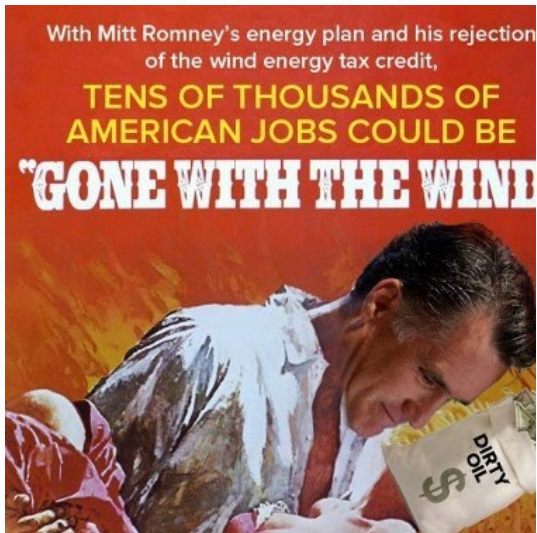
greentechmedia

 **TidewaterCurrent** 10.1.12 - Public Policy Polling found that undecided swing state voters favor candidates who support clean air, clean energy, reducing mercury pollution and favor higher fuel efficiency standards.
October 4, 2012

Designing the grid for renewables | SmartPlanet

smartplanet

 **TidewaterCurrent** 10.3.12 - Great post on grid management. Opponents to renewables have long argued that the US grid cannot handle the fluxes in generation capacity created by renewables. The author here points out that they have very effectively been able to manage variables in Europe, with existing grid infrastructure handling major inputs of renewable in very short time frames, while at the same time phasing out fossil fuel or nuclear generation. We too have the ability, perhaps just not the will.
October 3, 2012



Mitt Romney hates wind energy

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 10.2.12 - "Politico reported that senior Senate sources have said that Romney's opposition to extending the PTC "derailed" a bipartisan Senate agreement to renew the tax credit. The New York Times similarly reported that "Senate Republicans removed" the PTC extension from the Senate Finance Committee's tax extenders package "to show their loyalty" to Romney." October 3, 2012



California Governor Signs 19 Renewable Energy Bills Into Law

treehugger



TidewaterCurrent

September 29, 2012



should be a bigger part of the
country's electricity supply.

89% of US Say Solar Should be a Bigger Part of Energy Supply

solarnovus



TidewaterCurrent

September 26, 2012



Storing That Power: Pumped Hydro -

revmodo



TidewaterCurrent 9.25.12 - This is the first in a multipart series covering storage technology needed for the widespread utilization of renewable energy. See more in Energy-Storage/Transmission collection. September 25, 2012



San Diego Zoo Embraces Social Innovation By Installing Electric Vehicle Solar Charges

justmeans



TidewaterCurrent 9.28.12 - 10 solar canopies will produce 90 kW of energy and support 5 EV charging stations. "Using new battery social innovation technology, a 100-kW energy storage system will be charged by the solar canopies and used to offset power demands on the grid to charge the vehicles. When the battery charging is complete, the excess solar energy that is generated will be released into the electric grid to benefit the surrounding community." See more in the Clean - Eco Transport Collection. September 30, 2012

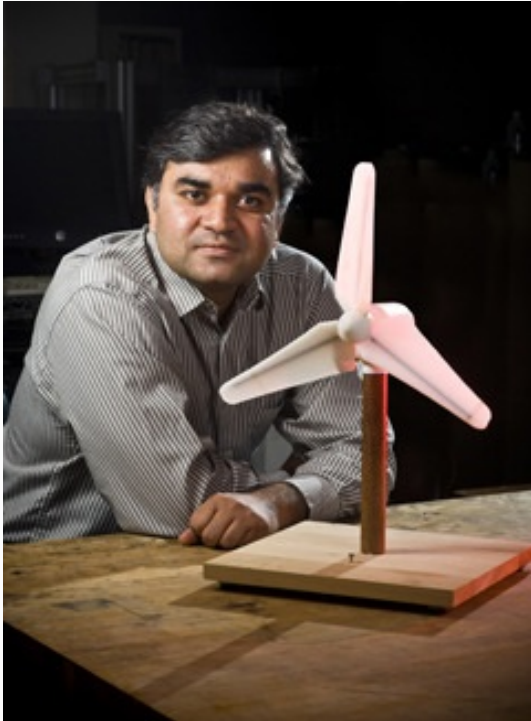


Maryland's Clean Energy Economy: Innovation Powered by Progressive Policy

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 9.26.12 - "Maryland currently generates 6.7 percent of its energy from in-state renewables. Much of the state's future generation growth is projected to come from wind and solar, and we are on track to achieve a 20 percent by 2022 renewable portfolio standard (RPS)" Includes video highlighting clean energy innovators. September 27, 2012



Virginia Tech, India center to launch solar and windmill research projects

vtnews.vt.edu



TidewaterCurrent 9.26.12 - Virginia Tech and partner MARG Swarnabhoomi are opening a research center in southeastern India to bring renewable energy to rural india.
September 30, 2012



Ocean Energy Flows To U.S. Grid For First Time «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 9.14.12 - Bangor, Maine - Bangor Hydro Electric Company confirms that energy is flowing from the Cobscook Bay Tidal project. Ocean Power Renewable Company anticipates that their TideGen, tidal generator, will provide enough energy to power 25-30 homes over the course of the year.
September 14, 2012



Romney Gets a Wind Power Tax Credit Smackdown from Starbucks, Yahoo!, & Others

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent Thank You: Starbucks, Yahoo, Ben & Jerry's, Johnson & Johnson, the Portland Trailblazers and 14 other american corporate icons for sending a letter to congress this week urging the extension of the wind power production tax credit.
September 20, 2012



France's Hollande outlines 'green' energy policy

france24



TidewaterCurrent "In a deal with the Greens before this year's parliamentary and presidential elections, Hollande's Socialist party promised to cut reliance on nuclear energy from more than 75 percent to 50 percent by shutting 24 reactors by 2025." and "Hollande affirmed his commitment to developing renewable energy and pledged every year to improve the energy efficiency of one million homes that are badly insulated."

September 16, 2012



Sun-drenched Southwest needs more transmission lines to become nation's solar powerhouse

washingtonpost



TidewaterCurrent 9.18.12 - NREL reports that renewable energy could supply 80% of electricity demand in the US by 2050, but in order for that to happen the aging transmission infrastructure needs to be upgraded. Transmission capacity is already an issue. In Arizona, the system will be overloaded by only half the projects in the works and in the North East, the lack of capacity has limited wind development.

September 19, 2012



Renewable standards boosted 'green' energy. Are storage standards next?

csmonitor



TidewaterCurrent 9.18.12 - California is looking to create the nation's first grid scale energy storage portfolio standard. The utilities are not on board but as the author notes: "Given that GE (NYSE: GE) is now working on a grid-scale battery technology, given how much GE's wind business has benefited from the expansion of RPS policies over the last decade, and given how active GE tends to be in energy policy circles, it's not a stretch to think that there will be a push for SPS-like policies" across the U.S."
September 19, 2012



Whisky distillery tries a wee dram of biofuel

reuters



TidewaterCurrent Disposing of products from the whiskey distillation process cost Tullibardine Distillery some \$250,000 a year. Working with Celtic Renewables, these byproducts will be used to produce biobutanol. See more in "Clean - Eco Transport" collection.
September 25, 2012



Freeing the Grid

freeingthegrid



TidewaterCurrent 9.11.12 - "Today the Vote Solar Initiative (Vote Solar) and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC) released our official 2012 findings for Freeing the Grid, a policy report that grades all 50 states on two key programs: net metering and interconnection procedures."

September 11, 2012



Typical Wind Farm Supports Nearly 1,100 Jobs; Adds Millions of Dollars to Local Communities

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 9.12.12 - NRDC report highlights the significant economic benefits experienced by communities that develop wind and calls for extension of PTC.

September 12, 2012



Energy democracy: Three ways to bring solar to the masses

grist



TidewaterCurrent 9,13,12 - Good overview of Leasing, Power purchase agreements and community solar programs.

September 13, 2012

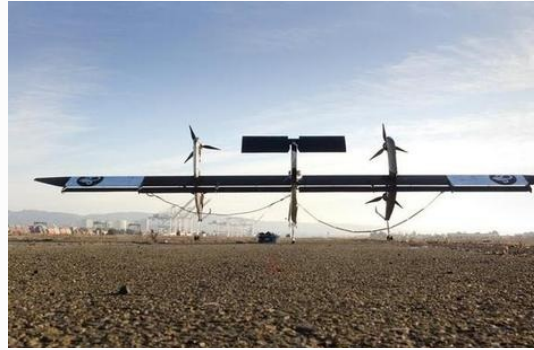
Town Partners on First Solar Farm

Town Partners on First Solar Farm

carycitizen



TidewaterCurrent 9.9.12 - Cary, NC - Very smart. Partnering with FLS Energy, the company will install and maintain the system and pay the town \$35,000 a year to lease the South Cary water reclamation facility site. Enough energy is expected to be produced to power 174 homes. Every community should be jumping on the band wagon. And they are in many states. Unfortunately in Virginia, this type of innovation by private companies has been mired in legalities that seemingly give Dominion a power monopoly. September 10, 2012



The 'Silent Green Revolution' Underway at the Department of Energy

theatlantic



TidewaterCurrent 9.9.12 - Author interviews Michael Grunwald, Time Magazine reporter and author of a book on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Grunwald highlights the endeavors of a little known agency created as part of the stimulus: ARPA-E which researches and invests (through loan guarantees) in emerging renewable technologies. Regarding Solyndra, it is noted: "A review led by John McCain's finance chairman found that overall, the \$40 billion loan portfolio is doing fine; it's got reserves to cover half a dozen Solyndra-style failures, and it's financing the world's largest wind farm, a half dozen of the world's largest solar farms, America's first cellulosic biofuel refineries, and much more. The larger point is that the stimulus isn't really picking winners and losers in the traditional sense; it's picking the game of clean energy.. September 11, 2012



NWF's new report - The Turning Point for Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy: Time for Action to Create Jobs, Reduce Pollution, Protect Wildlife & Secure America's Energy Future.

nwf



TidewaterCurrent 9.13.12 - National Wildlife Federation's just released report highlights the need to develop offshore wind energy resources that could cleanly power 14 million homes while creating 300,000 jobs and generating \$200 billion in economic activity.

September 13, 2012

TAKE ACTION NOW

Click here to tell the FHFA to stop blocking PACE and start supporting American jobs and energy savings.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Make Fannie Pull a U-turn for Solar (Take Action)

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 9.4.12 - Click the picture to support property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing programs. PACE programs were very successful supporting the growth of rooftop solar, but FHFA rules ended their use without due process. FHFA now has to go through the proper process and receive public input. You have until the 13 of this month to let them know your thoughts.

September 5, 2012



Drought-Stricken Farms Have 1 Lifeline — Wind Power

cleantecnica



TidewaterCurrent 9.4.12 - There is a lot more room for growth in the wind industry. If the PTC is extended, the industry will continue to grow and support rural economies. According to the author, "More than 98 percent of wind turbines are located on farms, ranches and other private lands. And the industry pays out more than \$400 million a year to property owners and local tax collectors, according to the Washington-based trade group, the American Wind Energy Association." September 4, 2012



The Renewable Energy Components of the Democratic and Republican Platforms

biomassmagazine



TidewaterCurrent 9.7.12 - Great review of renewable energy policy. "When you take an objective look at the information actually contained within the platform papers, the Democratic Party clearly offers far more detail of its support of renewable energy and how it will help advance the sector." September 7, 2012



Innovative Biofuel Company Coming To Charlotte's ReVenture Park™

reventurepark



TidewaterCurrent 9.5.12 - Charlotte, NC - Eco park on a former superfund site, is now home to ReNew World Energies an algae production company that will begin producing biofuel and food supplements (for livestock and fish feed) by the end of the month,. See more on biofuels in the CleanTech - Eco Transport collection.

September 6, 2012



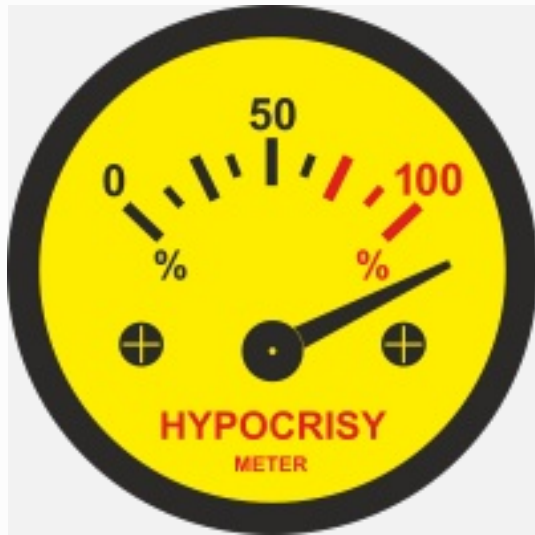
For a Look at the Future of U.S. Energy, Go to Texas

triplepundit



TidewaterCurrent 9.5.12 - New Leaf Energy, a division of energy giant Direct Energy in Texas, will offer 100% Texas produced renewable energy to consumers. It is expected to cost about \$25 more per month.

September 9, 2012



Why Do We Hold Renewable Energy to a Different Standard than Fossil Fuels & Nuclear Energy

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 9.1.12 - We don't. "According to a recent report from the venture capital firm DBL Investors, the U.S. coal, oil, gas, and nuclear industries have cumulatively taken in more than \$630 billion in tax credits, land grants, R&D programs, and direct investments from the government. That far surpasses the roughly \$50 billion in government renewable energy investments (wind, solar PV, solar thermal, geothermal, biofuels) through these same mechanisms over the decades" September 2, 2012



Why Virginia lags on solar

thecontributor



TidewaterCurrent 8.23.12 - The answer is simple: Virginia lags on solar because the utility (unfortunately not the people) have the power (political power). Good article. The Virginia Assembly should follow the solar vision provided by legislatures in a number of other states, such as Vermont, Massachusetts and more August 27, 2012



Microbes Make Methane from Waste Wind Power

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 8.23.12 - Wind farms at times produce more energy than can be used or stored. Researchers from Stanford and Pennsylvania State are developing a microbial electrosynthesis process to convert electricity to methane. The microbial methane uses atmospheric CO₂ and therefore the CO₂ that is released upon consumption is carbon neutral.

August 24, 2012



Cargo Ship Designers Turn to Wind to Cut Cost and Emissions

nytimes



TidewaterCurrent 8.27.12 - Wind power is returning to the high seas. From kites to new sail systems, wind is beginning to propel vessels once again. The pictured conceptual cargo carrier is underdevelopment by B9 Energy. More info on sustainable shipping in the Cleantech - Eco Transport collection.

August 29, 2012

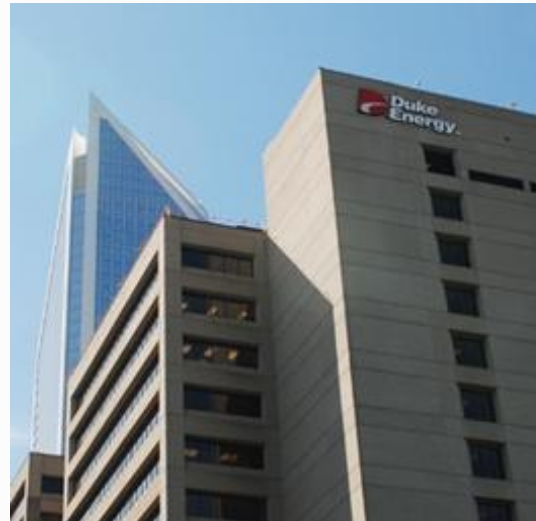


Renewable Electricity Nearly Doubles with Obama in Office

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 8.29.12 - Energy Information Administration reports that non hydro, renewable energy output in the US rose from 3% in 2008 to nearly 6% today.
August 30, 2012



Customers could pay for alternative energy projects under Duke plan - Triangle Business Journal

bizjournals



TidewaterCurrent 8.24.12 - Duke Energy, Progress Energy and the NC Sustainable Energy Association are joining together to develop a "pay on bill" plan for financing alternative energy projects. The group will formally meet on August 30 to begin hammering out the details.
August 29, 2012



Testa Talks Turbine: Checking In On The South Side's Wind Turbine

chicagoist



TidewaterCurrent 8.25.12 - Testa Produce in Chicago built its LEED Platinum distribution facility among the brownfields of what used to be the Union Stock Yards. But what is catching peoples attention from miles around is the massive 250 ft. wind turbine that produces 30% of the facility's energy (and on 15 days last year 100%). The payback on the wind turbine is 10 years. Solar panels provide another 10% of energy requirements and they will also power two electric delivery trucks beginning next month. See more architecture news in Sustainable Design - Green Building.

August 26, 2012



Solar-Powered Concert Stages? Yep, They Really Work

motherjones



TidewaterCurrent

August 20, 2012



PACE Clean Energy Programs May Rally With Your Help «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent FHFA has a new proposal for the public to comment on. Please urge FHFA to restore PACE programs — and act now, because the comment period closes on September 13th.

August 22, 2012



Bill Gates Backs Solar Powered, Hydrogen Fuel Cell-Equipped Toilet

treehugger



TidewaterCurrent 8.15.12 - Caltech won first place in the Gates Foundation Reinvent the Toilet Fair. They developed a working model of a solar powered toilet that turns human waste into energy. See more in Energy-Bio and Energy-out of the box collections.
August 19, 2012



BISEM Installs PV Curtain Wall Retrofit

solarnovus



TidewaterCurrent 8.20.12 - Building integrated solar curtain system retrofitted onto the existing LEED Platinum SMUD customer service center. DC electricity generated by the thin film panels will run a cooling system in the technology demonstration center. See more clips in Sustainable Design-Green Building collection.
August 20, 2012



Xcel Energy Sells Out Community Solar Garden Program

sustainablog



TidewaterCurrent 8.21.12 - Within half an hour the utility had 3 times the number of applications for projects than it could accept. "Xcel Energy plans to introduce a total of 4.5 MW of capacity to the grid with solar community gardens each of 500 kW or less. The first will be built by Clean Energy Collective on the property of the Golden Hoof Sustainable Farm and will be finished within a year" More snips in Energy-Solar collection. August 22, 2012



Mayor Menino to install solar panels on his house under incentive program - The Boston Globe

bostonglobe



TidewaterCurrent 8.23.12 - Boston Mayor is participating in the Solarize Massachusetts program with a solar lease. At a cost of only \$500, Solar City will install and maintain 16 panels on the Mayor's roof that will produce about 5,000 kW hours of electricity per annum. In exchange, the Mayor has contracted to purchase energy produced from his panels at a rate of \$0.12/kW hour for the next 20 years, less than the current utility rate of \$0.15/kWh. August 23, 2012



Boeing to Refine Waste Cooking Oil into Biofuel in China

waste-management-world



TidewaterCurrent 8.17.12 - China has a fast growing aviation industry and currently uses more cooking oil than jet fuel, so recycling the oil makes great sense both economically and environmentally. See more clips in Eco Transport. August 17, 2012



Impress all your air-breathing friends with a car that runs on air

grist



TidewaterCurrent 8.17.12 - Tata's Air Pod costs \$1.50 to full up with compressed air and can go 125 miles at a top speed of 43 mph. It's in the second phase of testing and is expected to cost about \$10,000. No word on this but a wind powered compression pump would be the way to go. See more snips in Eco Transport collection.
August 18, 2012



As smart electric grid evolves, engineers show how to include solar technologies

phys



TidewaterCurrent 8.17.12 - VT team discusses large scale distributed energy storage system for solar energy in an award winning student paper. The team developed an algorithm for managing a fleet of batteries connected to distribution transformers so solar energy stored in the batteries can be withheld for peak demand. Hope Dominion/Virginia Power has the vision to work with these guys.
August 18, 2012



Massachusetts Restricts Dirty Biopower

switchboard.nrdc



TidewaterCurrent 8.17.12 - First standards in the world that set a carbon emission standard for biomass. Under the standard, biomass energy produced using whole trees can not be classified as carbon neutral and will not be eligible to participate in the state renewable portfolio standard. Biomass energy produced from short rotation crops, wood waste, reclaimed wood and timber harvest residue is eligible for the PRS.

August 18, 2012



ASES
NATIONAL
SOLAR TOUR
October 6th
2012

Hampton Roads Solar Tour - 10/6-10/7/2012

ases



TidewaterCurrent Free 2 day tour is part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Tour. October 6 - the Southside and Gloucester and October 7 - the Peninsula. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Registration required at hrsolartour.com. More info about other localities on the ases.org site.

August 17, 2012



Scotland Plans Zero-Emissions Bus Fleet -

revmodo



TidewaterCurrent 8.15.12 - Aberdeen, Europe's offshore wind energy capital, plans to use wind to power hydrogen fuel cells that will run city buses. See more transportation related snips in Eco Transport collection.

August 16, 2012



Offshore Wind Energy Development Picking Up Pace

sustainablog



TidewaterCurrent 8.16.12 - Great overview of international offshore wind farm development including analysis of the US policy and developments. 12 countries have offshore wind farms and another 20 are planning projects. The US has not yet developed a project and although late to the game, China is developing capacity fast and could meet 20% of their energy needs with offshore wind by 2020.

August 17, 2012



NY Sun Initiative Announces \$107 Million in Incentives for New Solar Projects in New York

inhabitat



TidewaterCurrent 8.14.12 - A small percentage of the funding is for small scale residential projects. The bulk of the money will go to projects over 50kW that have also derived private funding. See more in Energy-Solar.

August 15, 2012



The Deal: European Supergrid Sets High Expectations

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 8.13.12 - Undersea network of transmissions line will promote renewable development, reduce energy costs and provide energy stability. See more snips in Energy-Storage/Transmission collection.

August 13, 2012

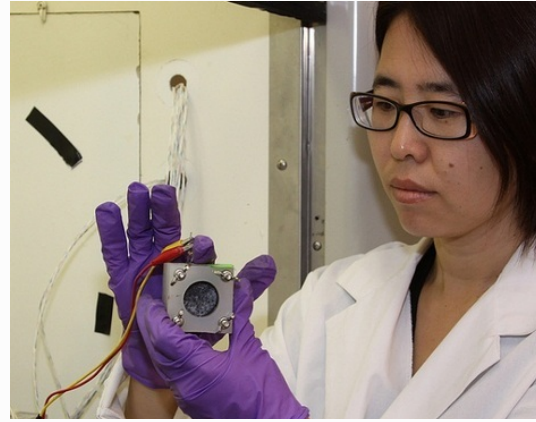


GE unveils charge point for wind-powered cars

businessgreen



TidewaterCurrent 8.14.12 - Urban Green Energy and GE have teamed up and are planning to deploy wind powered electric vehicle charging stations in the US and Australia later this year. See more snips in the Eco Transport collection.
August 14, 2012



Scientists: Wastewater Can Be An Energy Superstar «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 8.14.12 - 3% of electricity goes toward treating wastewater. With microbial fuel cell technology being developed at Oregon State scientists, sewage treatment plants will be able to produce all their own energy and more. According to the author, this technology could be a real game changer. See more in Energy-Bio and Energy-out of the box.
August 15, 2012

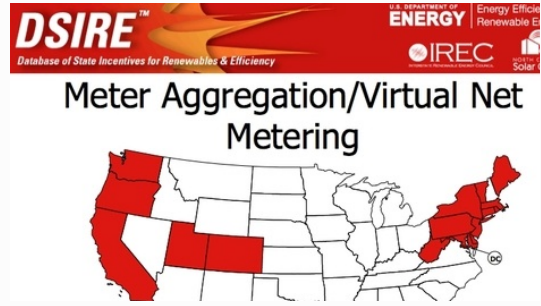


YES, In My Backyard! Local Solar Power Celebration in Charlotte - August 19

prweb



TidewaterCurrent 8.13.12 - YIMBY Celebration planned in Vermont community with a solar collective. A 24 kW system was sited in a meadow 1000 feet from 6 homes that share the energy produced and offsets 20 tons of carbon annually. A tour of the installation, information and free Ben & Jerry's Ice cream will be available at the 10 Stones Meadow August 19 3-6 p.m. More snips in Energy-Solar and Sustainable Development-Green Building collections.
August 14, 2012

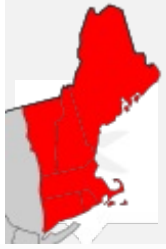


Making Projects Happen with Group Net Metering Policies

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent Author highlights the benefits of community solar programs, including siting, financing, reduced cost based on economies of scale, reduced default risk and the ability of renters to participate. States in red have some form of group or virtual net metering programs for solar. 8.7.12 - See more posts in Energy-Solar collection.
August 11, 2012



Massachusetts Launches Regional Renewable Energy Initiative with Other 5 New England States - Energy and Environmental Affairs - Mass.Gov

mass.gov



TidewaterCurrent 6 New England Governors agree unanimously to coordinate a regional renewable energy procurement process. Massachusetts has already implemented a Green Communities Act which will promote renewable investment and sets a exemplary goal that 20% of electricity come from renewables by 2020.
August 9, 2012



China hikes 2015 solar power target by 40 pct | Reuters

in.reuters



TidewaterCurrent China's goal is to produce over 9% of its energy through renewable resources by 2015. According to the table included, wind, hydro and ocean power production will also expand dramatically.
August 9, 2012



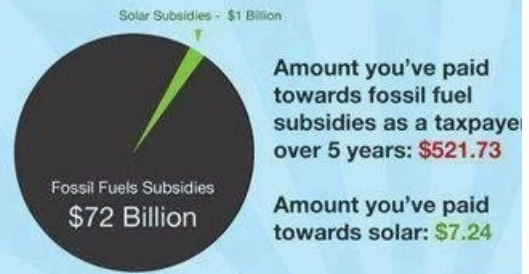
GM increases solar energy commitment with new investment

examiner



TidewaterCurrent 8.12.12 - The largest solar rooftop installation in the world is on a GM plant in Spain and the company has a number of other projects in place in the US and several planned, including one on a Baltimore, MD facility. They recently partnered with Sunlogics to expand solar energy production at their facilities with the intent to build solar canopy electric car charging stations. August 13, 2012

What if solar got the same subsidies as fossil fuels?



Places where solar energy is cheaper than grid power*

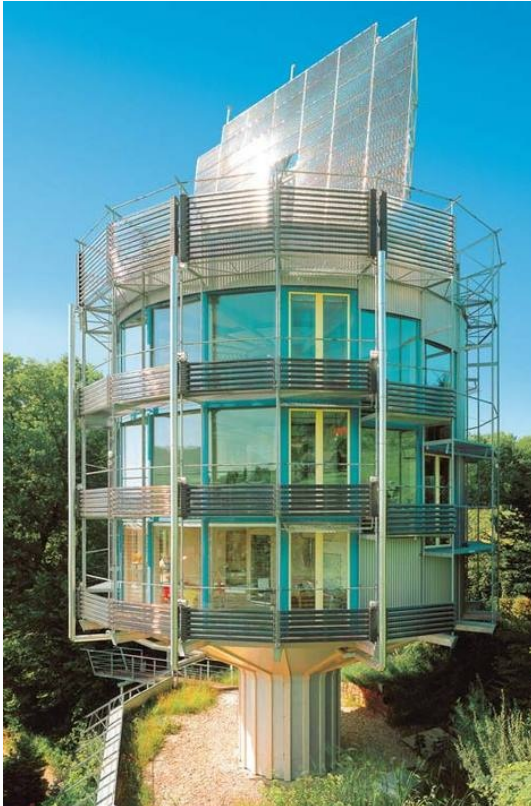


US Solar Subsidies Versus Fossil Fuel Subsidies

peswiki



TidewaterCurrent What if solar got the same subsidies as fossil fuels? It would be cheaper than grid power everywhere in the US. August 12, 2012



Sustainable Communities for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

designbuildsource.com.au



TidewaterCurrent 8.9.12 - Freiburg, Germany known as one of the greenest cities in Europe is a model for sustainable development. In addition to infrastructure and building technologies that save energy, residents rely on wind and solar that is often integrated into building design for much of their energy. More clips on green building can be found in the sustainable design - green building collection.

August 10, 2012

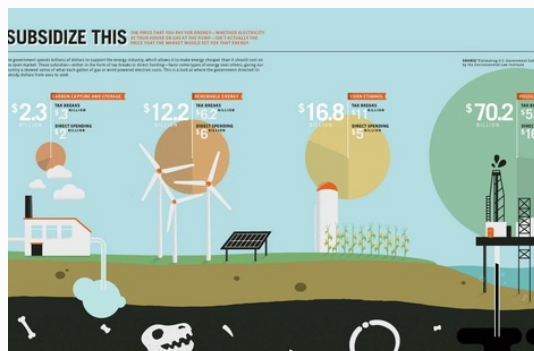


PortWorld News - Port of LA converts to wind and solar power

portworld



TidewaterCurrent 8.7.12 - Marine Traffic Control station is now powered by solar panels and 4 wind turbines. The new facility is being unveiled today. Check the Eco Transport collection for more news.
August 7, 2012



The Real Deal on US Subsidies: Fossil's \$72B, Renewable Energy's \$12B

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 8.3.12 - Tax breaks and direct government investment in the fossil fuel industry has been much larger than that enjoyed by the wind and solar business.

August 6, 2012



Shoalhaven One Launch Tomorrow: Algae.Tec Invests \$4m in Region

algaetec.com.au



TidewaterCurrent 8.1.12 - Non GMO algae biodiesel plant opens in New South Wales, Australia. Designers recycled 5 shipping containers to grow and harvest algae in. CO2 produced at an adjacent ethanol plant will be pumped into the algae tanks to fuel growth. Video links included. More on biofuels in Eco Transport Snip it collection.
August 5, 2012



Back to the Basics of Sustainability -- Houses of Bark and Energy of Sunshine

energy.gov



TidewaterCurrent 8.8.12 - Highland Craftsmen (which received a Cradle to Cradle Gold Certification for its poplar bark shingle product) is now powering its North Carolina facility manufacturing facility with solar panels. In addition to achieving net zero electricity use, they improved the energy efficiency of their natural gas kilns by 40%.
August 8, 2012



U.S. Military's Big Plan For Renewable Energy Projects - Forbes

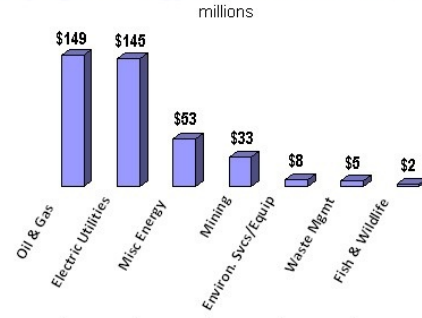
forbes



TidewaterCurrent 8.6.12- 16 million acres to be opened up for solar, wind and geothermal projects to provide a reliable and secure source of energy for military bases. Land would be leased to privately funded projects by developers. Each of the services is looking to install 1 Gigawatt of power near its bases by 2025.

August 7, 2012

Lobbying on Energy & Natural Resources, 2011



Energy policy: Follow the money | Smartplanet

smartplanet



TidewaterCurrent 8.8.12 - With our energy policy being created by lawyers who essentially work for the folks who supported their campaigns - big corporations - oil, gas and utilities, you begin to see why renewables continue to flounder in this country despite huge public support. Meanwhile, the author notes that in technocratic nations, renewables are booming.

August 8, 2012



Lloyds Bank Poised to Make More than \$500 Million in Clean Energy Investments

cleantecnica



TidewaterCurrent Lloyds has its eyes on offshore wind, solar power, and biomass plants.

August 2, 2012



2016 Olympics to be Completely Green-Powered

designbuildsource.com.au



TidewaterCurrent 8.3.12 - At 105 feet, Rio's breathtaking solar city tower will be a hybrid solar water energy generator that will power the Olympic village and much of the City.

August 3, 2012



Turning Unwanted Land into Clean Energy | Get Solar.com

getsolar



TidewaterCurrent 8.3.12 - Second only to California in solar energy production, NJ has gone from only 6 installations in 2001 to over 15,000 with 4000 more planned. Many projects are being sited on brown fields and landfills - land that would otherwise likely go unused. See more in Energy-Solar collection.
August 5, 2012



Triple Win for Biofuels on Capitol Hill; \$100M for Military Biofuels; Tax Extenders Package; Algae wins tax credit parity

biofuelsdigest



TidewaterCurrent 8.3.12 - Committee level action still requires full Senate Vote and conference with the House of Representatives.
August 3, 2012



The Green Future Arrives In California As Utilities Hit 20% Renewable Energy Target - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 8.1.12 - California leading the way. The next renewable portfolio standard (RPS) is 33% by 2020.
August 2, 2012



Marine Energy Park in Scotland launched

eandt.theiet



TidewaterCurrent 7.30.12 - The Pentland Firth park including the European Marine Energy Centre will be launched today by the UK Energy Ministry.
July 30, 2012



Wind Tax Credit Still Alive In Capitol Haggling «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent "As expected, the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday afternoon passed a tax-break package that would extend the expiring wind production tax credit. If passed by the full Senate and House – not likely to happen for weeks or months, if at all – wind facilities that begin construction before the end of 2013 would be eligible for the 10-year credit. The vote was 19-5."

August 3, 2012



Mirror, Mirror, Make Me a Kayak ...out of Sunlight

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.31.12 - Heliostats concentrate solar energy to help heat ovens that mold plastics into products like kayaks. LightManufacturing's system is scalable and can be adapted to different manufacturing processes that require heat. More in Energy-Solar collection.

July 31, 2012



OneRoof Energy Planning \$100M Fund, 4,000 Rooftops by Year's End

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 7.30.12. - More third party solar financing announced. Market of solar backed securities could reach \$4,6 billion by the end of the year. More snips in Energy-solar collection.

July 30, 2012



Bladeless wind energy technology company looks for manufacturing partner

power-eng



TidewaterCurrent 7.31.12 - Tunisia company Saphon has designed a bladeless system to capture and/or store wind energy and convert it to electricity via a hydraulic motor. The company claims it is more efficient than traditional generators. See more in Energy-wind collection.
August 1, 2012



Wheat Straw to Ethanol Conversion Plant Opens in Germany

ens-newswire



TidewaterCurrent 7.26.12- The first commercial-scale cellulosic plants in the United States are expected to come on line in 2013 or 2014. More are planned In Europe, Canada, China and Brazil. See more snips on biofuels in the Eco Transport collection.
July 30, 2012

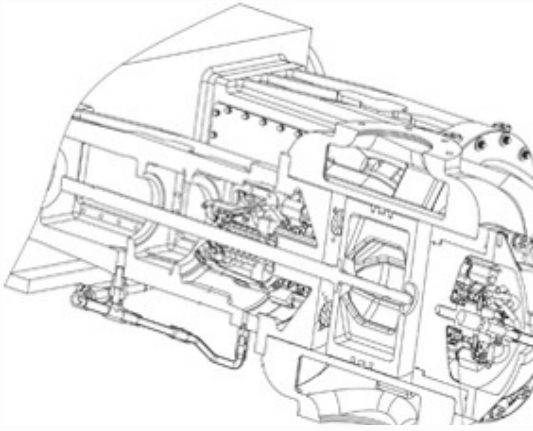


Banks Double Down On Solar Investments - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 7.27.12 - Credit Suisse and US Bankcorp find good business funding solar leasing programs. See Energy-Solar for more clips.
July 29, 2012



Steam Punk Remakes Power Grid With Compressed Air

wired



TidewaterCurrent For renewable power technologies to play a more significant role in any grid, efficient storage is essential. One young entrepreneur has started a company and developed a compressed air storage system that is twice as efficient as other systems. LightSail Energy has the backing of Khosla Partners and with numerous countries turning to renewables for their energy future, they are in a good business position. More in Energy-Storage/Transmission.

July 31, 2012



Berlin Superhome Generates More Energy Than It Consumes

treehugger



TidewaterCurrent 7.26.12 - More than enough energy produced to power the house, two vehicles and an electric bike. A battery is used for storage and extra electricity is sold to the grid. Link to a video tour included. See more in Sustainable Design-Green Building. July 28, 2012



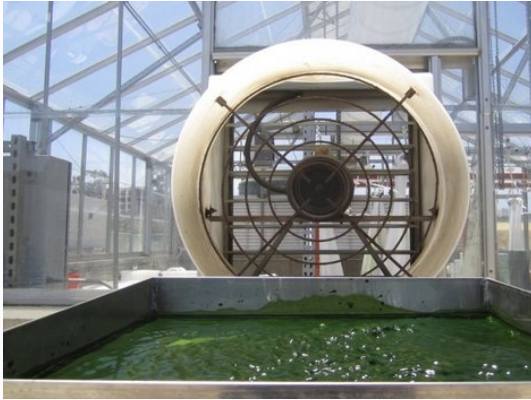
Pavegen Tiles Turn Footsteps Into Electricity - Earth911.com

earth911



TidewaterCurrent 7.27.12 - Small amount of Kinetic energy derived from footfalls can light up the surface of the recycled tile, the rest can be stored in a battery for localized uses. Lighted cross walks would be a great use of this technology.

July 28, 2012



This Little Green Plant Could Be The Biofuel Of The Future

businessinsider



TidewaterCurrent 7.27.12 - Great Photo Essay on biofuel production from algae program at University of California San Diego. More on biofuels in Eco Transport collection. July 29, 2012



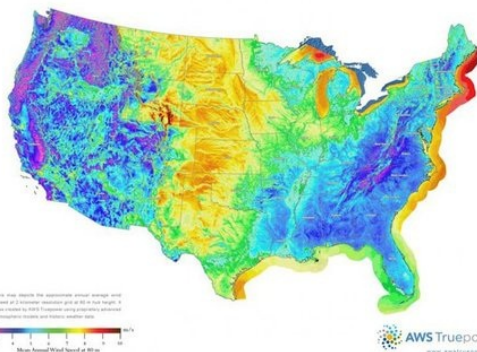
WORCESTER ED: Students prepare for green future

delmarvanow



TidewaterCurrent 7.26.12 - MD High school on the Eastern Shore has created a renewable energy STEM academy. The 4 year program includes PV, solar thermal and wind energy courses. July 30, 2012

WIND RESOURCE OF THE UNITED STATES



America's Energy Situation In 15 Maps

businessinsider



TidewaterCurrent Great overview in map form of all resources- fossil and renewable. As the No. 2 producer of wind energy in the world, behind China, it would appear that we are doing ok, until you recognize the potential generation we're missing out on. Similar situation with solar. July 28, 2012



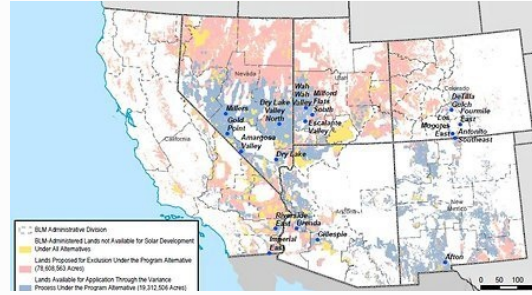
Study Shows Renewable Energy Potential in Every State

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.27.12 - NREL report "US RE Technical Potential" is a living document highlighting renewable energy potential in all 50 states.

July 27, 2012



Interior Names Solar 'Hot Spots' Out West

green.blogs.nytimes



TidewaterCurrent 7.24.12 - 17 sites consisting of 285,000 acres of US public land have been identified for fast tracking of solar project development. Some 78 million acres were removed from consideration based on a number of concerns while another 19 million acres are being considered. Solar and environmental groups support the initiative.

July 25, 2012



South Pacific Island of Tokelau To Become The World's First Solar-Powered Nation

inhabitat



TidewaterCurrent 7.25.12 - Some 4032 solar panels and 1344 batteries will be installed to provide power to the 1400 residents of the three Tokelau atolls (now currently reliant on diesel power). See more solar initiatives in Energy-Solar Collection.

July 26, 2012



Cities will convert 260 million tons of waste to energy | SmartPlanet

smartplanet



TidewaterCurrent 7.26.12 - With the largest per capita energy consumption and waste production, it certainly seems like a good idea in the US. The waste stream will be reduced. Biomass in the waste stream may limit the contribution to GHG emissions. but other emissions could be a concern.

July 26, 2012



Brazil To Invest Heavily In Wind Power «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 7.26.12 - As noted in the article, international investors are lining up to get a piece of the action. Here's the summation: "So – a government committed to renewable energy, a banking structure willing to be flexible to underwrite its development and a determination to site a number of the wind farms in impoverished regions of the country – it would seem that Brazil has become a wind power investor's dream."

July 26, 2012



Switzerland Looking To Replace Nuclear Energy With Solar

revmodo



TidewaterCurrent 7.24.12 - The goal is to replace half of the nuclear generation capacity with solar. It's still unclear how it will be achieved.

July 25, 2012



1,000 GW of Wind Power Could be Generated in Atlantic

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.26.12 - Author is right on target: "The fact that the US is such a wealthy and technologically advanced country with some environmental awareness and regulations but has such a glaring absence of offshore wind power is beyond shocking." The offshore generating capacity is phenomenal off our shores. Meanwhile, Europe increased offshore generation by 50% last year. Clean Technica (<http://s.tt/1j3ZZ>)
July 26, 2012



Smart Grid Demonstration Project at Mueller

pecanstreet



TidewaterCurrent 7.22.12 - In a community sporting the largest collection of solar panels and electric vehicles in the US, a study is being conducted on the integration of clean energy into the smart grid. More info on the Austin Texas project including a link to a PBS video can be found in a snip in Architecture Collection
July 22, 2012



NJ Solar Program Gets New Life Under New Law

nj1015



TidewaterCurrent 7.23.12 - Christie signs legislation today that will promote solar installations in the state. Already 2nd in the Nation for solar energy generation, the move supports the industry by increasing the states solar energy requirement in it's renewable energy portfolio. More in Energy-Solar collection.
July 23, 2012



Cuba tests biofuel vehicle successfully

newstrackindia



TidewaterCurrent 7.23.12 - The inedible Jatropha plant was used in a blend to fuel a Toyota Hilux. The 1500 test run indicated the fuel burned more efficiently than non blended fuel. The recently opened jatropha fuel plant can produce 100 tonnes of fuel a year. More info in the Eco Transport collection.
July 23, 2012



How To Tap A Trillion Dollars For Renewable Energy Investment - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 7.23.12 - Good review of our energy policy (or lack thereof). Comprehensive energy policy is needed to stimulate up to a trillion dollars of investment money for renewables that is just sitting on the sidelines because there is no comfort in investing while there is no long term plan.
July 24, 2012



Tell Congress to Expedite Renewable Energy 13A+A-

ecowatch



TidewaterCurrent If you are among the majority of Americans that support renewable energy, sign the linked petition.
July 21, 2012



Conservative South Carolina Republican Going Nationwide with Clean Energy Plan

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.24.12 - Former Representative Inglis highlights the need to include the costs of pollution, global warming and wars into the price of fossil fuels. He wants to create a level playing field and supports shifting energy policy away from fossil fuels towards renewables.

w

July 24, 2012



Brazil to build first algae-based biofuel plant

mnn



TidewaterCurrent 7.20.12 - The factory will be sited on a sugar plantation that is producing ethanol. CO2 emitted in ethanol production will be fed into the facility to stimulate algae growth.

July 20, 2012



Small Japan village goes all solar - Energy-Solar Collection

news.cnet



TidewaterCurrent 7.19.12 - With rallies against nuclear power taking place, the population of one village is taking more meaningful action. They've installed 216 panels to sell energy to the utility which should cover their town operating cost.

July 19, 2012



Changing Cities: Ending Hawaii's Oil Addiction

abcnews.go



TidewaterCurrent Hawaii has an ambitious plan to wean itself off of oil. In order to cut oil use by 70% by 2030, planners are looking to develop renewable resources. The Navy uses about 20% of the State's energy supply, so they are helping in this endeavor. Testing of biofuels in Green Fleet exercises is taking place this month and solar, wind and wave energy sources are being developed. To distribute energy, a high voltage DC cable between islands is also planned.

July 19, 2012



Cow Power in Action: 920,000 kWh of Electricity and Happier Cows

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.19.12 - The USDA through it's Rural Energy for America Program is helping livestock operators collect and anaerobically digest manure to produce biogas. The biogas produced at Pennwood Farm in Pennsylvania provides more electricity than needed generating income from the sale of the extra electricity and leftovers from the digestion process can be used for bedding saving the farmer \$60,000 per year. This is a win win program as the cow manure will never make into our waterways.

July 20, 2012



Tell Congress to Expedite Renewable Energy 0A+A-

ecowatch



TidewaterCurrent If you are among the majority of Americans that support renewable energy. Sign this petition.

July 19, 2012



Pentagon biofuels effort aids energy independence - Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Sen. Susan Collins

politico



TidewaterCurrent Two Senators from the Armed services committee, one democrat and one republican, wrote this piece in support of DOD biofuel development. The DOD is the single largest consumer of fuel in the world, and with national security their priority, it would seem like a worthwhile endeavor to wean our forces off of foreign oil. Of course, there are economic benefits too, as US companies produce domestic resources from algae, switchgrass and ag. wastes..

July 20, 2012



Can Solar And Wind Power Save Our Rivers? «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 7.10.12 - Report by River Network emphasizes the large negative impact of fossil, nuclear and hydroelectric power on water resources, whereas PV and wind have a negligible impact.

July 17, 2012



U.S. Military Adding Solar Roofs to More Base Housing - Energy-Solar Collection

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.17.12 - Solar City is involved in a long term project to generate 300 megawatts of power from military housing rooftop solar projects. Today they announced 3 additional projects in California and Colorado.

July 17, 2012



Push in Congress to ban biofuels in military has big long-term costs

csmonitor



TidewaterCurrent 7.16.12 - Great editorial by a retired US Air Force Commander supporting the need for Military use/ investment in biofuels. More on biofuels can be found in TidewaterCurrent "Eco Transport" and "Transportation-Fuel/Vehicles" collections .
July 16, 2012

YOUR MONTHLY USAGE & AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURE (ADT)		SERVICE ADDRESS		ACCOUNT NUMBER	BILL DATE DUE 1	
MONTH	ADT	METER NUMBER	METER READING	RANGES OF DAYS	METERED USAGE	METERED REBOARD
OCT 05	782	52	8559	9349 711 E 31	782.00 kWh	D
SEP 05	820	49				
AUG 05	661	70				
JUL 05	449	71				
JUN 05	552	46				
MAY 05	570	51				
APR 05	547	47				
MAR 05	537	28				
FEB 05	688	25				
JAN 05	778	20				
DEC 04	878	23				
NOV 04	920	40				
OCT 04	615	50				

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE
LAST BILL AMOUNT	133.21	11/02/05
PAYMENTS THROUGH 16/24/05 THANK YOU	-133.21	11/21/05
BALANCE FORWARD	133.21	
CURRENT CHANGES		
DELIVERY SERVICES RESIDENTIAL	7.80	
Customer Chg	5.59	
Delivery Chg - Lat 250 kWh	16.85	
Delivery Chg-Over 250 kWh	11.21	
Standard Cost Chg		
System Benefit Chg	2.35	
Consumption Tax	-0.43	
TOTAL CURRENT EL CHANGES	43.25	
CURRENT CHANGES SUPPLIER SVC EL	43.25	
Transmission Fund	0.0552	
TOTAL CURRENT SVS CHANGES	43.25	
APPROXIMATE NET METER READING: 11/20/05		
OTHER		
LATE CHARGE	0.74	
TOTAL OTHER	0.74	
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	0.74	

On-bill repayment: Great promise, but challenges remain

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent Paying for a renewable energy system through your power company on your bill every month is one financing option being explored for residential improvements. The author explores the issues.
July 18, 2012



Denmark Ups Its Wind Power Ambition to 50% by 2020

treehugger



TidewaterCurrent 7.18.12 - With an impressive 20% of energy generated through wind resources, the Danes are focused on increasing capacity to 50%. According to a survey the majority of the population want even more wind generation and most folks have no issue with local development.
July 19, 2012



Morocco plans to become 40% renewable by 2020

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 7.15.12 - Importing most of its energy, Morocco has an ambitious plan to reduce dependence on foreign resources and develop more solar and wind.
July 15, 2012



CESA Webinar: New Developments in PACE Programs - July 26

cleanenergystates



TidewaterCurrent Free Event to highlight PACE like financing methods being considered for clean energy projects.
July 16, 2012



Following the Sun – Solar Touring Continues this summer as Ra begins it's 131 day Solar Odyssey along the Great Loop

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent 7.14.12 - Tour to begin in Clearwater on July 22. Links to website included with schedule of stops.
July 14, 2012



Wind Power: Small business bill stalls; PTC extension not considered - REVE

ewind.es



TidewaterCurrent 7.15.12 - Extension of the PTC was nixed as the Bill it was included in " the Small Business Jobs and and Tax Relief Act" failed to move win enough votes to move forward in the U.S. Senate.
July 15, 2012



A PACE Rebirth? Sacramento and Ygrene Try to Unlock Green Homes

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 7.16.12 - Author provides a great review of the demise and potential resurgence of municipal financing programs for solar (and other green technologies). There seems to be a lot of interest from lenders to finance rooftop solar and it appears that Sacramento may have figured out a way to allow it despite issues with Fannie May and Freddie Mac. For more Solar news see the "Energy-Solar" TidewaterCurrent Collection.

July 16, 2012



Solar gardens nourished by Xcel incentives set to bloom in Colorado

denverpost



TidewaterCurrent 7.15.12 - Great opportunity for renters to participate in solar power production. Colorado has got the right idea. With this kind of promotion solar will soon be ubiquitous (at least in Colorado and the handful of states that allow community programs). Most productive in the summer when electric demand is highest, this kind of program should be implemented in all states to reduce GHG emissions from coal plants.

July 15, 2012



Union calls for P.T.C. tax extension after Gamesa layoffs

ecoseed



TidewaterCurrent 7.10.12 - Union urging Congress to extend the PTC. 400 wind manufacturing facilities in 43 states likely to be impacted if the PTC is not extended.
July 10, 2012



Crowdsourcing, Limited Partnerships and Other Tools for Financing our Clean-Energy Future

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 7.12.12 - Great review of financing options for renewable energy projects.
July 13, 2012



IKEA installs 21st PV system in Virginia

pv-tech



TidewaterCurrent 7.11.12 - Largest solar array connected atop Woodbridge store. This the 21st installation for the retailer and 18 more are planned.
July 11, 2012



Wind and wave renewable energy devices to be tested in Massachusetts coastal waters

southcoasttoday



TidewaterCurrent 7.14.12 - Yesterday a University of New Hampshire barge was launched at Fairhaven wharf for deployment in Muskeget Channel to test a tidal generator. It is part of project coordinated out the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center based at UMass Dartmouth (which includes numerous state and private organizations) to test, tidal, wave, and wind devices. The fast moving current between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, is ideal for testing and deployment of hydrokinetic devices.
July 14, 2012



Community Wind Arrives Stateside

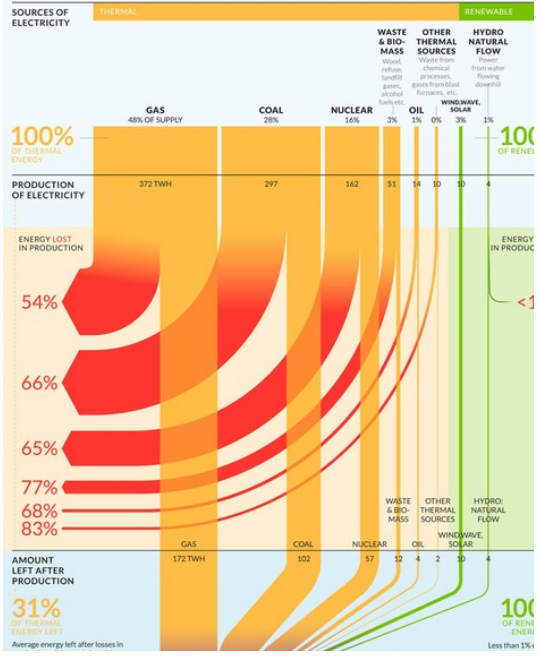
renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 7.5.12 - Common in Europe, community wind projects are now growing at faster rate than commercial projects in the US. Farmers, public and private schools, colleges, tribal governments, municipalities, electric cooperative and business are buying into wind. A number of projects are highlighted included a project in Boston that reduced the town's street lighting bill to zero.
July 9, 2012

UP IN SMOKE

How is electricity produced in the UK?
How much energy is lost along the way and what can you do about it?



Up in smoke: how efficient is electricity produced in the UK?
 guardian.co.uk

TidewaterCurrent Infographic shows energy loss from renewable and traditional sources in the UK. Renewables are clearly more efficient.
 July 13, 2012



Congress Introduces Wind Energy Bills

onlinetes

TidewaterCurrent 7.6.12 - The wind industry is suffering and jobs are being lost. The PTC could be extended through the Wind Powering American Jobs Act and companies hiring new employees could enjoy a 10% tax break through the Hire Now Act. Both Bills would support the ailing wind industry and spur the development of projects now on hold.
 July 6, 2012



Solar Institute to train jobless veterans to install solar panels

articles.sun-sentinel



TidewaterCurrent 7.4.12 - Veterans Affairs Dept. to provide training for vets in the solar sector at Florida's US Solar Institute. The school is the only all solar school licensed by the state and is connected with Underwriters Labs. The program can be completed in a few with weeks with practical job training lasting a few more.
July 5, 2012

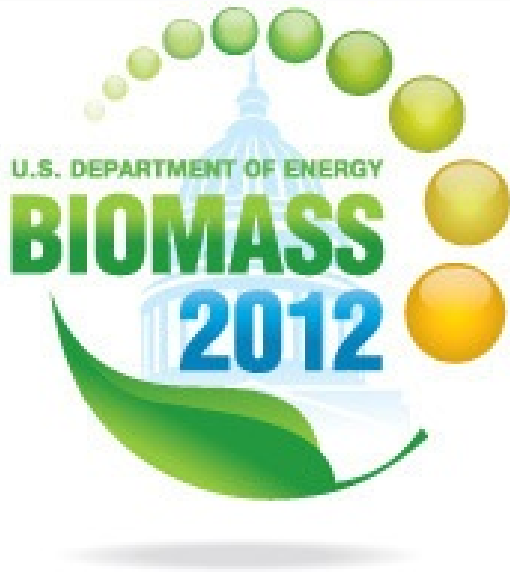


Orange You Glad I Said Biofuel? Transportation-Fuel

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.7.12 - Orang Peel Exploitation Company (OPEC) organized to create a zero waste biorefinery project for discarded orange peel from the juice industry. An OPEC refinery is planned for NY. So it could just be a matter of time before orange biofuel can be pumped into our gas tanks.
July 7, 2012



Biofuel market gets a boost - Transportation-Fuel

daytondailynews



TidewaterCurrent 7.8.12 - GE commits to purchasing 5 million gallons of biofuel a year for its jet engine testing facilities in Ohio. July 8, 2012



Community-Owned Solar / Solar Gardens for 4/5 of Americans?

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.6.12 - Net metering is important to participating in a community solar garden. In order to offset your energy bill with a that produced in a community system you support, a virtual program needs to be in place. A few states offer the program and more are considering it. Links are provided to the Solar Garden Institute and NREL's guide to community solar, July 6, 2012



U.S. Navy moves ahead on biofuels despite congressional ire

reuters



TidewaterCurrent 7.5.12 - Navy Biorefinery effort to provide some \$210 million in matching funds to aid private investment in biofuel production. According to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus the push "enhances our national security." Congress has banned the Navy from spending more on biofuel than conventional fuel in the future, but there simply isn't support to block this new initiative.

July 6, 2012



Celebrities Rally to Stop Fracking and Promote Renewable Energy

ecowatch



TidewaterCurrent 7.3.12 - First Ever "Stop the Frack Attack" Rally in DC July 28. Since, congress has exempted the oil and gas industry from Clean Air and Water provisions, environmental leaders including celebrities are gathering to protest fracking and promote renewable energy.

July 4, 2012



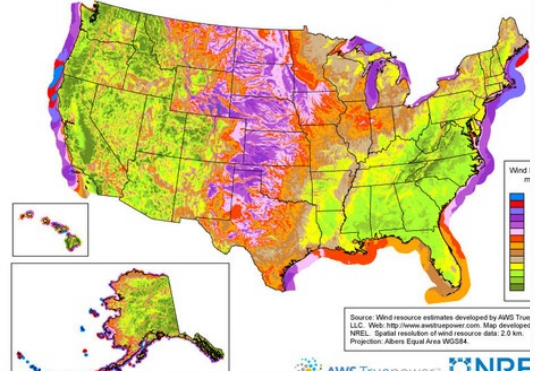
Winds of Change: The Wind Industry Is Leaving the US

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 7.2.12 - Without the PTC, industry leaders are looking to make investments outside the US. There is demand and political support for wind development in Latin America, India and Canada. Why waste their time, energy and resources here? Renova expects its farms in Brazil will produce the world's cheapest wind power.
July 3, 2012

United States - Land-Based and Offshore Annual Average Wind Speed at 80 m



Area offshore Mass., RI closer to seeing wind projects following US environmental assessment

washingtonpost



TidewaterCurrent 7.2.12 - Stage being set for leasing process as Bureau of Ocean Energy Management completes offshore assessment that will simplify the process expected to begin as early as next year. Interested parties have 30 days to make comments on the assessment.
July 3, 2012



SCS Renewables Unstealths With a Solar Project Brokerage Platform

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 7.2.12 - Solar financing on-line brokerage. A link to a list of project already brokered by the firm is included (many in N.C.). The project hopes to open the door to new money and reduce financing costs. The author notes the DOE Sunshot program is also addressing financing issues.

July 4, 2012

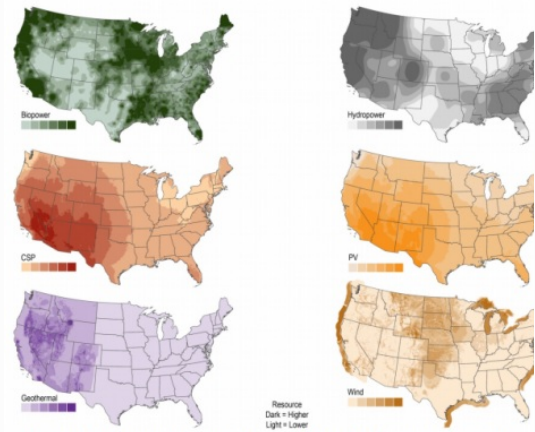


Figure 1-3. Geographic distribution of commercial renewable resources in the contiguous United States

The data used in RE Futures modeling may differ from the underlying data for these maps. See Short et al. (2011) for a detailed description of the data sources used in the ReEDS modeling. Sources for the underlying data used in Figure 1-3 include Chapter 8 (Volume 2) for hydropower; Milbrandt (2005) for bioenergy; NREL (2007) for solar (CSP and PV); the

80% Clean, Renewable Energy by 2050: More Than Possible, But Need More Political Will (& Public Demand)

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 7.2.12 - NREL and more report that renewable energy reliance is feasible in the near term. <http://cleantechnica.com/2012/07/02/80-clean-renewable-energy-potential-2050-us/>

July 2, 2012

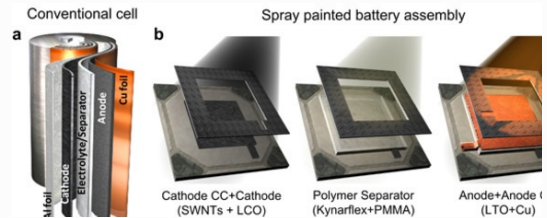


Hawaiian Cable Project 'May Boost Hopes' For US Offshore Wind «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 7.2.12 - 25% of energy in Hawaii must be supplied by renewables by 2020. The inter-island HVDC cable will allow for the distribution of energy developed on different islands to be shared among currently unconnected grids. Planners expect that the grid will be able to support 1/3 of energy from renewable sources, considered a game changer if successful, which will have a positive impact on East Coast wind development. More info here: <http://energy.hawaii.gov/resources/hawaiiis-energy-future-depends-on-an-inter-island-undersea-cable-system>
July 3, 2012



Spray Paint Battery Could Turn Any Surface Into Power Storage

webpronews



TidewaterCurrent 6.29.12 - Rice University researchers have developed a spray painted battery that they envision could be used with paint on solar cells for building exteriors making solar energy production and storage very affordable. Video included.
<http://www.webpronews.com/spray-paint-battery-could-turn-any-surface-into-power-storage-2012-06>
June 29, 2012



Japan opens solar energy parks

phys



TidewaterCurrent 7.1.12 - Concern over nuclear safety has resulted in a push to develop renewables as a law became effective yesterday requiring companies to purchase renewable energy at a fixed price. Meanwhile 49 out of 50 reactors in Japan closed for safety checks.
<http://phys.org/news/2012-07-japan-solar-energy.html>
July 2, 2012



Sailing Into a Sustainable Future

tidewatercurrent



TidewaterCurrent Several posts on how renewable technologies are being integrated into the shipping/watercraft industry. Biofuels, kites, wind are among the technologies highlighted as well as port, shipping and eco industry initiatives.

June 30, 2012



Greenpeace denied Edmonton billboard space for oil spill ad

theglobeandmail



TidewaterCurrent Vote Solar's Slogan was to be used with permission by Greenpeace on an Edmonton billboard. At the 11th hour, the billboard company backed out on the deal without explanation. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/marketing/greenpeace-denied-edmonton-billboard-space-for-oil-spill-ad/article4351183/?cmpid=rss1> July 1, 2012



Solar-Powered Charger for the Apple iPhone

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 6.30.12 - Solar Cell protective case made by EnerPlex uses Ascent CIGS technology to charge iPhone battery. <http://cleantechnica.com/2012/06/30/solar-powered-charger-for-the-apple-iphone/> June 30, 2012

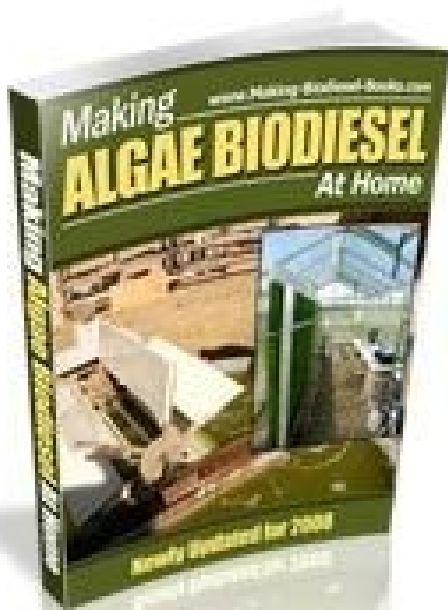


How Norway can help Germany store green energy

dw.de



TidewaterCurrent 6.26.12 - Excess renewable energy created in Germany will be transmitted through an underwater cable to Norway reservoirs for storage. When needed, like at night, Norway will transmit it back. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,16050689,00.html> June 29, 2012



The US Navy's biofueled Green Fleet to highlight this year's RIMPAC War Games

biofuelsdigest



TidewaterCurrent 6.29.12 - Banned from buying any fuel more expensive than conventional oil, the Navy will use Biofuels already purchased during the Rim of the Pacific exercises this summer. These exercises are with international fleets representing some 20 countries. US Ships using the biofuels are attracting a lot of interest from participating fleets, as they too are looking to develop biofuels. The author suggests that like in the arms race, the drive to develop biofuels globally, may move congress to continue to support the US Navy's leadership in biofuels.

<http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2012/06/29/the-us-navys-biofueled-green-fleet-to-highlight-this-years-rimpac-war-games/>

June 29, 2012



Smart trains: Philly public transit line goes green with energy storage pilot

smartgridnews



TidewaterCurrent 6.28.12 - A regenerative braking project with funding through the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority is underway. The technology is being used in Philadelphia to capture wasted heat generated from breaking trains. The energy can be stored and fed directly to the grid when there is high demand.

http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Projects_Demo_Pilots/Smart-trains-Philly-public-transit-line-goes-green-with-energy-storage-pilot-4916.html

June 28, 2012



Virgin Airlines To Invest in Biofuels

wire.kapitall



TidewaterCurrent 6.22.12 - Richard Branson and Virgin have founded a new organization called the Carbon War Room and hired a previous president of Costa Rica to run the group which will look to reduce carbon emissions globally. Virgin is very interested in algae and isobutanol based fuel. Author notes that 1500 flights on biofuels have been reported. Great list of producers and price points included.
<http://wire.kapitall.com/investment-idea/virgin-airlines-to-invest-in-biofuels/>

June 23, 2012



Sun's Out, Soup's On: Campbell Does Solar «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 6.27.12 - One sixth of an Ohio Campbell Soup plant is being supplied by solar power. As noted by the author, the project in part was undertaken for marketing purposes and brand improvement. It's a smart business strategy that hopefully will be noticed by more businesses.

<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/06/suns-out-soups-on-campbell-goes-solar/>

June 28, 2012



More solar would lower energy costs for Texas in summer months – SEIA -

ecoseed



TidewaterCurrent 6.2012 - Brattle Group study finds that wholesale energy prices would decline in summer with the addition of solar to the electric grid. With capacity issues seen last summer and expected this summer, more solar would serve the state well.
<http://www.ecoseed.org/renewables/solar/14783-more-solar-would-lower-energy-costs-for-texas-in-summer-months-seia>
June 22, 2012



Solar Power Rises from City Dump

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 6.27.12 - Re-powering America's Land Program supports developing brown-fields into renewable energy parks. A Canton, MA solar power project is one more example of landfill to solar projects. The EPA has identified 14 million acres of abandoned industrial sites that could be used in this way.
http://cleantechnica.com/2012/06/27/jjinko-solar-builds-solar-power-canton-landfill/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+IM-cleantechnica+%28CleanTechnica%29
June 27, 2012

Renewable Energy Can Supply 80% of US Electricity

sustainablebusiness



TidewaterCurrent 6.19.12 - NREL's RE Futures Study concludes that the abundance and diversity of US renewable energy resources (geothermal, wind, solar and wave) can support multiple combinations of technologies for energy production and supply 80% of energy by 2050. <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.display/id/23802>
June 20, 2012



The Next War Could Be Fought with Fireflies

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 6.17.12 - Fascinating quick read on biomimicry research at Syracuse University and creating light using the same biochemical reactions as fireflies. <http://cleantechnica.com/2012/06/17/dod-funds-biomimicry-research-on-firefly-lights/>
June 18, 2012



New Fact Checking Site for Energy Issues - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 6.20.12 - Author impressed with the initiative and the level of resources devoted to the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) site. The site is at <http://energyfactcheck.org/http://www.forbes.com/sites/tomkonrad/2012/06/20/breaking-energyfactcheck-org/>
June 22, 2012



Buy solar panels through town

boston



TidewaterCurrent 6.10.12 - The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center has initiated a program in 17 communities to facilitate group purchases of solar panels which provide volume discounts making solar more affordable. Hopkinton is one of the communities. To find out more about how the program is being developed there, visit <http://www.hopgreen.com/> - http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2012/06/10/buy_solar_panels_through_town/
June 10, 2012



Going "Green" with Wind & Solar Powered Stoplights

1011now



TidewaterCurrent 6.13.12 - Lincoln, Nebraska - First of its kind study on powering a stop light with renewable energy. A hybrid wind solar system has been deployed and information is being gathered on the amount of energy each can produce and contribute. The project is being funded through a DOT grant. If implemented on a large scale, the city could save money. http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Green_Wind__Solar_Powered_Stoplights_158986715.html
June 14, 2012



Don't Scuttle The U.S. Navy's Biofuels Program - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 6.12.12 - This plea to the Senate to support the DoDs current biofuels program published in Forbes indicates the enormous interest in this topic. The author recognizes that costs for biofuels aren't competitive with conventional fuel, but notes that costs for biofuel production have been halved over the last couple of years and that military investments in the past have created giant industries that support our economy. The Green Fleet program this summer will test biofuels and although more may have spent more for the fuel, all the money comes back into the US economy.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/toddwoody/2012/06/12/dont-scuttle-the-u-s-navys-biofuels-program/>

June 12, 2012



Renewable energy costs falling: agency

phys



TidewaterCurrent 6.6.12 - Chairman of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) reports solar energy costs have dropped 60% in recent years and other renewable sources like wind and hydro have also and they will continue to do so.

<http://phys.org/news/2012-06-renewable-energy-falling-agency.html>

June 7, 2012



SoCalGas demonstrates Cogenra's cogeneration solar system for cooling purposes

gizmag



TidewaterCurrent 6.4.12 - Thermal hot water generated in a dual concentrating PV/thermal system is being used for air conditioning. SoCalGas is testing the absorption chiller technology. The system is smaller than flat panel PV systems and with the production of electricity and hot water it is more efficient than a single solar system.
<http://www.gizmag.com/cogenra-cogeneration-solar-power-socalgas/22801/>
 June 5, 2012



Leveling the Energy Playing Field: Senate Bill to Allow Renewable Energy MLPs

ibtimes.co.uk



TidewaterCurrent 6.7.12- There are some public servants actually doing their jobs. Master Limited Partnerships utilized to subsidize the fossil fuel industry could soon be extended to the renewable energy industry. That is, if a Senate Bill with bipartisan support, is enacted. One study found that as much as \$6 billion in private capital, currently excluded from renewable energy project, could be invested.
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/2012-0608/leveling-energy-playing-field-senate-bill-allow-renewable-energy-mlps.htm>
 June 8, 2012



Even Karl Rove supports wind energy. Will Romney get on board?

leanforward.msnbc.msn



TidewaterCurrent 6.6.12 - Karl Rove, and in general the Republican party, is for the renewal of the Production Tax Credit for wind. If that's the case, why hasn't it already been renewed?? ?? Projects are being cancelled or pushed back and jobs lost. The author goes on to discuss Romney's position, which he has yet to make known. Whether he supports the PTC or not, Romney's comments on renewable energy are at best skeptical.

http://leanforward.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/06/06/12088947-even-karl-rove-supports-wind-energy-will-romney-get-on-board?lite

June 7, 2012



Navy's green fleet runs into fiscal storm

utsandiego



TidewaterCurrent 6.9.12 - Insightful article covering the dilemma of biofuel development in the military. Biofuels are not competitive with petroleum and Congress is banning the DoD from purchasing fuels more expensive than petroleum. As we all know, new technologies are expensive and with commercialization, prices fall. Just look at the price drops in the electronics industry - personal computers and cell phones. As the single largest consumer of fuel in the US, the DoD should lead the way to a secure and environmentally sound fuel supply. Of course, jobs would also be created in the development of the industry.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/jun/09/navys-green-fleet-runs-into-fiscal-storm/?page=1#article>

June 9, 2012



The new new hydropower: Small-scale turbines have big potential

grist



TidewaterCurrent 6.4.12 - Hydrokinetic energy is being tapped in an irrigation canal. Highways of channels have been developed worldwide and are particularly prevalent in the western United States to deliver water to farms and cities. The Bureau of Reclamation which manages thousands of miles of canals is working with the Interior Department and the Army Corps of Engineers to expand the use of this environmentally sound resource. A Seattle Start up, Hydrovolts, is testing technology to capturing the energy of this flowing water. Meanwhile, a Boston based company is testing somewhat different hydrokinetic technology in the Mississippi River. Video included.
<http://grist.org/renewable-energy/the-new-new-hydropower-small-scale-turbines-have-big-potential/>
June 5, 2012



Iowa Boosts Solar, Other Clean Energy Incentives «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 6.4.12 - State tax credits available in Iowa for solar and geothermal system investment. Georgia also has solar tax credits.
<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/06/iowa-boosts-solar-other-clean-energy-incentives/>
June 4, 2012



Unlikely Firms Jump Onto Solar Power Bandwagon

blogs.wsj



TidewaterCurrent 5.31.12 - Japan - Abandoned lots & golf courses all over the country are likely to become solar power plants as the the government announces that utilities have to purchase renewable energy at double current retail rates from suppliers.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2012/05/31/unlikely-firms-jump-onto-solar-power-bandwagon/>

May 31, 2012



Connecticut's \$10M Package To Boost Residential Solar «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 6.4.12 - CT has committed to produce 27% of its energy from renewables . Now the General Assembly has established a a quasi public agency with \$10 million to support residential PV systems through financing solutions that leverage more investment from private capital.

<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/06/connecticuts-10m-package-to-boost-residential-solar/>

June 4, 2012

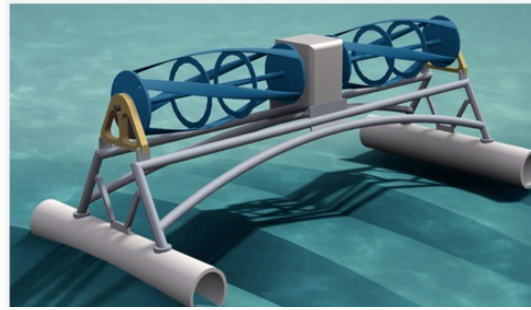


Will Scotland Dominate in Smart Grid?

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 6.1.12 - It looks like Scotland will dominate the smart grid. With ambitious plans to be 100% powered by renewable energy in 2020, they are also looking to commercialize smart grid technologies. A new workforce will be needed to develop and manage the infrastructure and university programs and partnerships have been created to supply a trained workforce. Are we prepared?
June 2, 2012



Tidal Energy Company Seeks To Make Rural River Power in Alaska - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 5.31.12 - Ocean Renewable Power Company looks to test in stream generator in Igiugig. Like many villages in Alaska, residents rely on transported and therefore expensive diesel fuel and therefore there is great potential for renewables in the state. The company is moving forward with an installation in tidal Cobscook Bay, Maine.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidferri/2012/05/31/tidal-energy-company-seeks-to-make-rural-river-power-in-alaska/>
June 1, 2012



How to Make Renewable Energy Competitive

nytimes



TidewaterCurrent Great article. There is still hope for renewables. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are traded publicly like stocks and could be used to finance renewable energy projects. In order to do so, first the IRS must clarify that renewables are eligible for REIT and then Congress must act to allow master limited partnerships to invest in "inexhaustible" resources as it allows them to invest in exhaustible resources.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/02/opinion/how-to-make-renewable-energy-competitive.html>
June 3, 2012



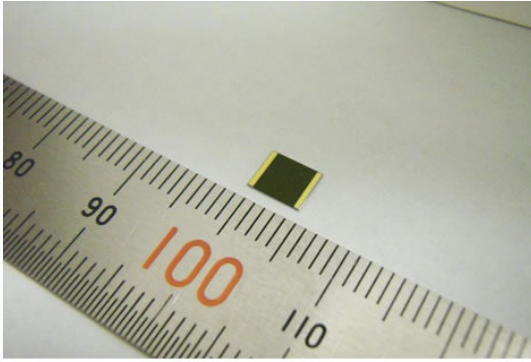
Airlines, Farm Groups Petition Senate for Military Biofuels

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 5.26.12 - Article highlights concerns of a unique partnership of groups fighting the Senate and House subcommittee panels ban on DoD biofuel purchases that are more costly than market oil.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/05/26/airlines-farm-groups-petition-senate-military-biofuels/>
May 28, 2012



Sharp develops concentrator solar cell with world's highest conversion efficiency of 43.5%

phys



TidewaterCurrent 5.31.12 - 43.5% Breakthrough in concentrated solar cell efficiency the result of Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization and confirmed by the Fraunhofer Institute.
<http://phys.org/news/2012-05-sharp-solar-cell-worlds-highest.html>
May 31, 2012



Companies explore sustainable shipping technologies - Channel NewsAsia

channelnewsasia



TidewaterCurrent 5.25.12 - Sustainable Shipping Initiative announces action plan to incorporate energy efficient technologies into the industry. Cargill Food's shipping tests a million dollar kite that will help propel the ship and reduce fuel usage (pictured). Included is a link to a video.
<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/corporatenews/view/1203538/1.html>
May 29, 2012



Military Base Solar Takes Aim At Grid Parity «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 5.26.12 - California National Guard base at Camp Roberts will test ability of thin film to compete with grid produced energy. The goal of the 1 MW thin film solar installation from Nanosolar is to achieve a levelized cost of energy. While the thin cell technologies don't convert as much sunlight to energy as tradition PV cells, CIGS are much less expensive to produce and Nanosolar utilizes an economical roll-to-roll printing process.

<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/05/military-base-solar-takes-aim-at-grid-parity/>

May 28, 2012



On Clean Energy, Time To Follow Where Google, GE, Buffett Lead - Forbes

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 5.29.12 - Even considering the setbacks posed to the renewable energy industry resulting from uncertainty of federal support for clean technology, some big corporate players (Google, Buffet & GE) envision a good long term return on their clean energy investments. Still, the author notes that not many other players have such deep pockets and government investment is needed to drive business and protect the environment.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/manishbapna/2012/05/29/on-clean-energy-time-to-follow-where-google-ge-buffett-lead/>

May 30, 2012



Whitley County project producing houses with little or no energy costs | GreenSpot | Kentucky.com

kentucky



TidewaterCurrent 5.28.12 - Affordable net zero community developed in Whitley, Kentucky. Designed with Passive House standards the homes cost about \$200,000 to build. But with various grants the homes are being sold at \$110,000 - \$ 115,000. They served as a learning opportunity for the builder who was able to reduce costs as the development progressed. With no net annual energy bill, the new owners are getting an awesome deal. Hope to see more of these programs.
<http://www.kentucky.com/2012/05/28/204304/whitley-county-project-producing.html>
May 30, 2012



Solar Leasing Programs - Going Solar Without Spending a Lot

abcnews.go



TidewaterCurrent 5.25.12 - ABC News - GMA- Installation of a solar system cost mitigated through leasing program.
May 25, 2012



In historic Anna Maria village, green energy flourishes

heraldtribune



TidewaterCurrent 5.26.12 - Sarasota - Eco Village conserves historic buildings, resources and attracts shoppers. A Florida couple redevelops shopping community to net zero and LEED Platinum certifications. 8 historic homes sporting 400 solar panels produced 85 MW hours of electricity while only consuming 81 MW hours. They capture and store rainwater for toilet flushing and irrigation.
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20120526/ARTICLE/120529665>
May 27, 2012



Solar energy industry is flourishing in Mass. - The Boston Globe

bostonglobe



TidewaterCurrent 5.26.12 - With high energy costs, PV systems are more competitive in Massachusetts. So, it's no wonder it sits only behind CA in a rank of solar markets. Enough solar power is produced to power some 15,750 homes. State and municipal initiatives as well as solar leasing programs are making it easier for consumers to go solar.

<http://bostonglobe.com/business/2012/05/26/mass-solar-sells/SHng2cMVXrfKbLVMQYSfjO/story.html>

May 27, 2012



Green Energy Advocates Criticize Lack of State Incentives

clarendon.patch



TidewaterCurrent 5.26.12 - Great overview of Virginia solar policy (or lack there of). Solar installer based in Virginia generates most of it's business in MD. The company cites lack of state policies promoting solar. Despite designating the state as the "energy capital of the east coast," Governor McDonnell recently vetoed the "Solar Freedom Bill" which would prohibit HOAs from banning solar installations.

<http://clarendon.patch.com/articles/green-energy-advocates-criticize-lack-of-state-incentives-d1d1ea8a>

May 27, 2012



Net Zero Is Bliss At Maharishi University In Iowa «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 5.27.12 - MUM Sustainable Living Center functions entirely off the grid and is net energy positive producing more energy than is consumed. There are also water purification and waste water treatment systems on site that utilize plants, algae and bacteria. Visit the TidewaterCurrent Sustainable Design-Green Building Snip it collection for more green building clips.
<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/05/net-zero-is-bliss-at-maharishi-university-in-iowa/>
May 28, 2012



Army, Air Force Mount Renewable Energy Push - DCMilitary.com

capflyer



TidewaterCurrent 5.25.12 - Washington, DC - 1 GigaWatt of renewable energy to be developed on Army and Air Force installations by 2025. Officials cite energy security as the motivation. Terry Yonkers an Air Force Assistant Secretary notes that biofuel development is important to the Air Force. Jet engines run cooler on them increasing engine life. Unfortunately, Congress may get in the way. Another snip (<http://snip.it/snips/167244>) highlights both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees passage of a ban on DoD usage of biofuels more expensive to produce than oil.
<http://www.capflyer.com/article/20120525/NEWS09/705259897/army-air-force-mount-renewable-energy-push>
May 25, 2012



Form follows function for Barcelona's Solar House 2.0

gizmag



TidewaterCurrent 5.22.12 - Barcelona Public Information Center Solar home boasts protrusions that limit solar gain in summer but let in winter sun and support solar PV panels optimally angled to capture energy. Average energy production daily is 100 kWh while only 20 kWh used. <http://www.gizmag.com/endesa-pavilion-solar-house-20/22627/>
May 23, 2012



New Davies Student Center will run completely on renewable energy

weau



TidewaterCurrent 5.23.12 - University of Wisconsin Eau Claire students pay for green student center. Each student pays \$20 a year for sustainable projects. For the student center, they agreed to purchase Renewable energy credits to provide all the their energy from wind. http://www.weau.com/home/headlines/New_Davies_Student_Center_will_run_completely_on_renewable_energy_153284235.html
May 24, 2012



Solar Impulse takes off on first intercontinental flight

phys



TidewaterCurrent 5.24.12 - Departing from Switzerland, a solar powered airplane is undertaking a 2,500 km trip to Rabat, Morocco. Around the world trip is planned for 2014. <http://phys.org/news/2012-05-solar-impulse-intercontinental-flight.html>
May 24, 2012

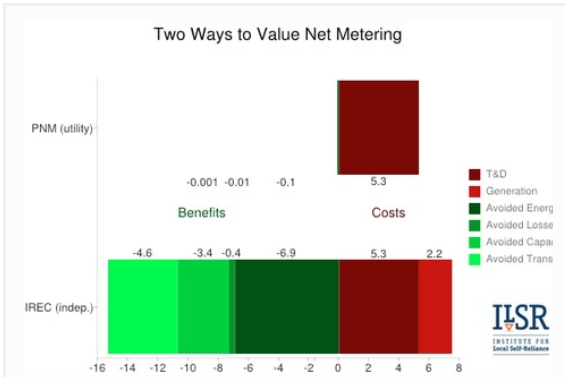


Goldman sets \$40 billion clean energy investment plan

chicagotribune



TidewaterCurrent 5.23.12 - Bank Giant Goldman Sachs sees renewables as a big profit opportunity. They will target solar, wind, hydro, biofuels, biomass, storage, transmission, transportation, lighting and efficiency projects.
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-goldman-greenbre84m1gy-20120523,0,6788193.story>
 May 24, 2012



Net Metering a Cost to Utilities, or a Benefit?

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 5.22.12 - International Renewable Energy Council finds that when valued appropriately new metering can save utilities a lot more than they would be paying out in avoided costs. The case was demonstrated in New Mexico. There the utility would save 15 cents per kWh in avoided costs, yet net metering customers were being credited 5.3 cent per kWh.
<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/05/21/net-metering-a-cost-to-utilities-or-a-benefit/>
 May 22, 2012



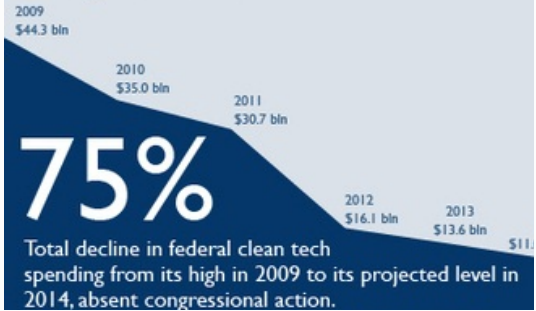
Foreign Dominance of U.S. Clean Energy Market Spells Trouble for America

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 5.22.12 - Report "Fire Sale: The End of American Ownership of Clean Energy" compares the renewable energy industry in the US to the auto industry noting that of the 26 banks actively investing in clean energy in the US, only 6 were US based.
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2012/05/foreign-dominance-of-us-clean-energy-market-spells-trouble-for-america>
 May 22, 2012

Federal Clean Tech Policy Support Is Falling off a Cliff

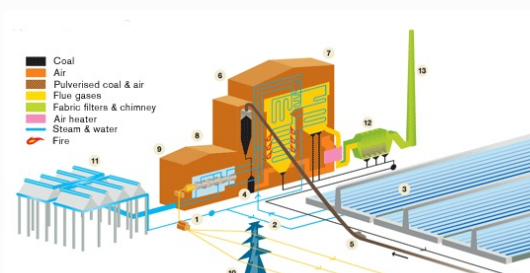


The Breakthrough Institute: Beyond Boom and Bust: Report Overview

thebreakthrough



TidewaterCurrent Putting Clean Tech on a Path to Subsidy Independence. Link to full report included. Live Webinar May 23 Info:
<http://snip.it/snips/163555>
 May 21, 2012



Solar and Coal: Arch Enemies or Best Friends?

theenergycollective



TidewaterCurrent 5..21.12 - The author purveys an interesting perspective on combining fossil fuel and solar for power production. The hybrid technology could be used to update existing coal fired systems and thereby reduce GHG emissions.
<http://theenergycollective.com/rhys-clay/85569/solar-and-coal-arch-enemies-or-best-friends>
 May 21, 2012



Power Play — German (Renewable) Energy Revolution Video

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 5.20.12 - In the video link, the efforts of two towns that have become energy producers are highlighted. It exemplifies what is possible when there is public support.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/05/20/power-play-german-energy-revolution-video/>

May 20, 2012



Renewable Energy in Virginia: 5 Things You Need to Know

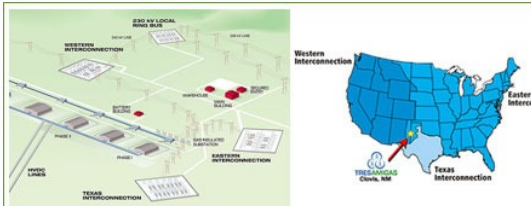
vienna.patch



TidewaterCurrent 5.21.12 - Author highlights renewable energy initiatives in Virginia (or lack thereof). The General Assembly did set a voluntary standard for the state's renewable energy generation of 15% by 2025 (many states have mandatory standards). Right now only 4% of our energy is from

renewables. <http://vienna.patch.com/articles/renewable-energy-in-virginia-5-things-you-need-to-know>

May 21, 2012



SuperStation Grid Connecting Project Moves Forward in New Mexico

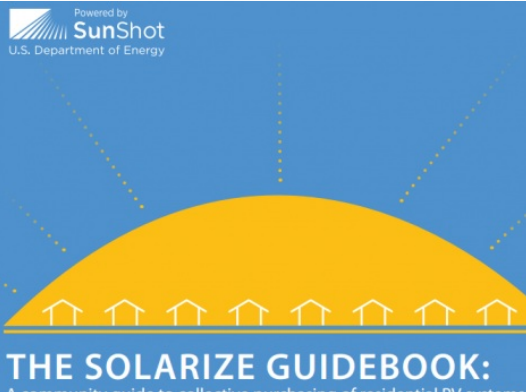
ecogeek



TidewaterCurrent 5.16.12 - Plans for the Tres Amigas Super Station in New Mexico, which will connect the nation's electric grid, are moving forward and construction is expected to begin this summer. With the connection, energy supply will be more reliable and renewable energy produced at remote solar and wind projects can be transferred to any part of the country.

<http://www.ecogeek.org/component/content/article/3765>

May 21, 2012



Solarize Your Community (Learn How from New Solarize Guidebook)

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 5.21.12 - The NREL guidebook is available as a PDF at this link: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54738.pdf>. It provides lots of resources for community PV projects including financing, leasing and power purchase agreements. <http://cleantechnica.com/2012/05/21/solarize-your-community-learn-how-from-new-solarize-guidebook/> May 21, 2012



Energy-Solar - 2.3MW Oberlin Solar: Small College, Big Power «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 5.18.12 - New solar array at Oberlin to cover 10 acres, the largest at any university, will move the college forward in its endeavor to become carbon neutral by 2025. - <http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/05/2-3mw-oberlin-solar-small-college-big-power/> May 18, 2012



Energy-Marine/Hydro - 100-Foot Subsea Turbine Successfully Installed at World's First Tidal Farm Off the Coast of Scotland

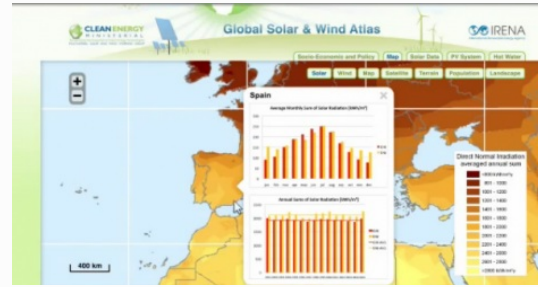
inhabitat



TidewaterCurrent 5.19.12 - A 100 foot tall underwater turbine was installed this week in the Sound of Islay off of Orkney Island.

<http://inhabitat.com/worlds-first-tidal-farm-successfully-installs-100-foot-subsea-turbine/>

May 20, 2012



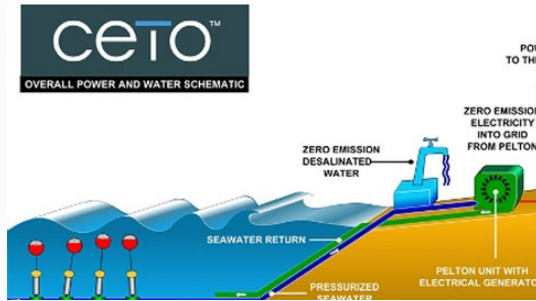
Global Atlas for Wind & Solar Energy

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 5.19.12 - Project launched for GIS based global renewable energy data by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). No time frame as to when the system will be available. The US is among the 95 members of IRENA, however there are some very big players (Canada, Russia, Brazil and China) not currently participating. <http://cleantechnica.com/2012/05/19/global-atlas-for-wind-solar-energy/>

May 20, 2012



Aussie Wave Power Tech Washes Ashore In Bermuda «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 5.18.12 - Coupled with high per capita energy consumption and high fuel costs due to their remote location, Bermuda officials are looking to the sea for energy. Carnegie Wave Energy of Australia and Triton Renewable Energy of Bermuda just completed a 12 month study of wave power and they are looking to develop a full scale wave farm . -

<http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/05/aussie-wave-power-tech-washes-ashore-in-bermuda/>

May 18, 2012



Building meets own energy demand with 4,570 solar panels - Renewable Energy Magazine, at the heart of clean energy journalism

renewableenergymagazine



TidewaterCurrent 5/17/12 - The Environmental Energy Innovation Building of the Ookayama Campus of Tokyo Institute of Technology. - http://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/article-pv_solar-20480-71-Building%20meets%20own%20energy%20demand%20with%204,570%20solar%20panels

May 20, 2012

Visualizing The U.S. Electric Grid

The U.S. electric grid is a complex network of independently owned and operated power plants and transmission lines. Aghil Infrastructure, combined with a rise in oil electricity consumption, has forced experts to critically examine the status and health of the nation's electrical systems.



The Backbone of the Electric System: A Legacy of Coal and the Challenge of Renewables | Guest Blog, Scientific American Blog Network

[blogs.scientificamerican](http://blogs.scientificamerican.com)



TidewaterCurrent 5.17.12 - Great explanation of our electric generation system including coal's role in the structure of the national grid as well as some of the challenges to integrating renewables. - <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2012/05/17/the-backbone-of-the-electric-system-a-legacy-of-coal-and-the-challenge-of-renewables/> May 18, 2012



Dominion Va. proposing solar-power incentive - Businessweek

[businessweek](http://businessweek.com)



TidewaterCurrent 5/17/12 - Today Dominion announced a plan, submitted to regulators for approval, to buy solar generated power from small commercial producers. Producers would be paid 15 cents per kWh over a 5 year demonstration period. May 17, 2012



Washington DC Goes Green

[thegreenregister](http://thegreenregister.com)



TidewaterCurrent 5/16/12 - Last month the Mayor of DC released plans to cut energy consumption by 50% and increase renewable energy production by 50%. The Vision for a Sustainable DC also calls for more bike lanes and path, more natural cover and locally grown food. This program should benefit the Potomac (which American Rivers just put at the top of it's most threatened list). May 17, 2012



Apple to use only green power for main data center

reuters



TidewaterCurrent 5/17/12 - 5/17/12

- Apple's data center in Maiden, NC rated LEED Platinum will soon sport 250 acres of solar panels and a biogas fuel cell plant. The facility will be coal free by the end of 2012. - <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/17/us-apple-idUSBRE84G0YW20120517>
May 17, 2012



Americans Willing to Pay (a Little) More for Clean Energy

green.blogs.nytimes



TidewaterCurrent

May 16, 2012



U.S. Military Not Retreating on Clean Energy

blog.cleantechies



TidewaterCurrent 5/16/12 - Despite legislation threatened by Congress that would limit the military's use of biofuels, the armed services remain committed to renewables for numerous reasons, namely the cost (including human lives) of getting fuel to front lines.

May 17, 2012



Danielle Fong: Perfecting green energy storage

mnn



TidewaterCurrent 5.16.12 - Another inspiring story about a young woman with the potential to change the world (see snip on in Amanda Rees re Transportation-Fuel). Fong is founder of Lightsail Energy which is creating compressed air energy storage technology that doubles current efficiency levels in the industry. With \$14 trillion expected to be spent on electric infrastructure globally, she's in the right business. -

<http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/stories/danielle-fong-perfecting-green-energy-storage>
<http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/stories/danielle-fong-perfecting-green-energy-storage>
May 18, 2012



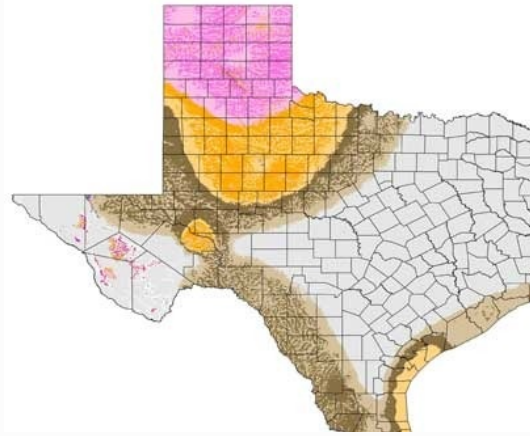
Energy- Solar - SpinRay Offers UL Listed Solar Appliance

jetsongreen



TidewaterCurrent 5/14/12 - Plug and Play Solar kit available from SpinRay Energy retails for \$1099.00 from Amazon. -

<http://www.jetsongreen.com/2012/05/solar-appliance-deckpower120-spinray-energy.html>
May 15, 2012



ERCOT: Texas increased renewable generation by 13 percent in 2011

power-eng



TidewaterCurrent With wind contributing the lions share, renewable energy production increased 13% in Texas in 2011.
May 16, 2012



Biggest CPV Plant in US Now on the Grid at Alamosa

greentechmedia



TidewaterCurrent 5/15/12 - 30 MW concentrated photovoltaic installation in Colorado use 500 50 kW solar trackers. -

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Biggest-CPV-Plant-in-U.S.-Now-on-the-Grid-at-Alamosa/>
May 15, 2012



Clean Currents and SolarCity Pioneer New Way for Homeowners to Adopt Solar Power

eon.businesswire



TidewaterCurrent 5/15/12 - Maryland and the District of Columbia residents offered power purchase agreements that provide free solar installations. Unfortunately, the program is unlikely to extend to Virginia due to a lack of a true RPS standard and the dominance of one utility so there is no competitive market in the state.
May 16, 2012



76% of Americans Want Clean Energy Instead of Nuclear, Natural Gas, & Coal

cleantechnica



TidewaterCurrent 5/15/12 - There is nonpartisan support among the American public for renewable energy reports the Civil Society Institute. Unfortunately, the poll indicates that the public is also aware that corrupt politics is the culprit behind the lack of government support for renewables. - <http://cleantechnica.com/2012/05/15/76-of-americans-want-clean-energy-instead-of-nuclear-natural-gas-coal/>
May 15, 2012



150 NC residents produce solar power with Progress Energy :: WRAL.com

wral



TidewaterCurrent 5/15/12 - Raleigh, NC - The SunSense Solar PV program offered through Progress Energy helps accepted homeowners reduce the economic impact of solar investment. With 200-300 more installations expected yearly, studies will be conducted to determine the impact of a growing number of small scale generators on the grid.
May 16, 2012



Green Energy Won't be Soiled

forbes



TidewaterCurrent 5/10/12 - Federal Program to streamline development of renewable energy projects on tainted and/or federal lands. - <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2012/05/10/green-energy-wont-be-soiled/>
May 10, 2012



European Renewable Energy SuperGrid Comes Into Focus

sustainablebusiness



TidewaterCurrent 5/10/12 - European Renewable Energy Super grid to bring wind energy from Ireland, solar power from North Africa and geothermal energy from Iceland. - <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.display/id/23696>
May 11, 2012

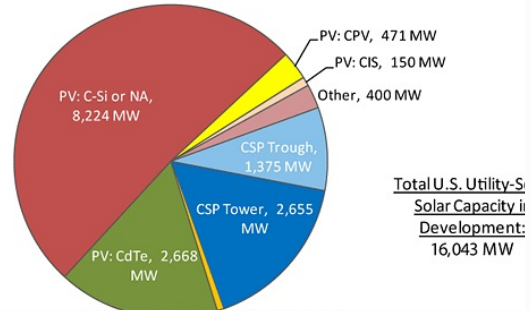


Dirty Deeds Lead to Renewable Energy

designbuildsource.com.au



TidewaterCurrent 5/10/12 - Sewerage Geothermal energy pioneered in China heading to the States. NovaThermal Energy of Philadelphia acquired the license for the technology and will test the technology at the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant. - <http://designbuildsource.com.au/dirty-deeds-lead-to-renewable-energy>
May 14, 2012



Two New Reports on Utility-Scale Solar

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent 5/11/12 - Solar Reports - Utility-Scale Concentrating Solar Power and Photovoltaics Projects: A Technology and Market Overview - <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/51137.pdf> and Federal and State Structures to Support Financing Utility-Scale Solar Projects and the Business Models Designed to Utilize Them - <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/48685.pdf>
May 11, 2012



Solar Investing Goes Mainstream

blog.rmi



TidewaterCurrent The Jobs Act passed last month is likely to promote individual investment in renewables as crowd funding companies can now generate returns for investors. -

http://blog.rmi.org/blog_Solar_Investing_Goes_Mainstream

May 14, 2012



Dominion Virginia Power cancels Halifax solar test project

www2.timesdispatch



TidewaterCurrent 5/12/12 -

Richmond, VA- At a time when Dominion Power is being bashed for their lack of commitment to renewables, the company's plans to develop a solar test project have been cancelled. According to the Richmond Time's Dispatch, the decision was made because the technology for the battery storage system they intended to just didn't materialize. Why not try a different storage system? Meanwhile the company says it does plan to move forward with a community rooftop solar endeavor. -

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/state-news/2012/may/12/tdbiz01-dominion-virginia-power-cancels-halifax-co-ar-1909242/>

May 13, 2012



Maine Giving Green Power Option To The People «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 5/8/12 - Renewable Energy - Maine Public Utilities Commission just launched the Maine Green Power program allowing the purchase of renewables at 1.5 cents extra per kWh. - <http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/05/maine-giving-green-power-option-to-the-people/>
May 9, 2012



Conservative thinktanks step up attacks against Obama's clean energy strategy

guardian.co.uk



TidewaterCurrent 5/8/12 - Subversion plan by fossil fuel funded advocacy groups to taint the wind and solar industries and the Obama administrations support of the renewable sector made public in this article from the Guardian (a large and reputable U.K. news source). - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/08/conservative-thinktanks-obama-energy-plans?newsfeed=true>
May 9, 2012

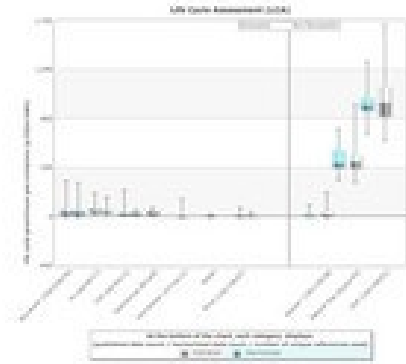


The Most Energy-Efficient Hospital In The Country

fastcoexist



TidewaterCurrent 5/7/12 - Gunderson Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, is the most energy independent hospital in the nation. With landfill gas, a wind farm and biogas schemes at a local brewery and dairy, the facility hopes to energy independent by 2014. Why? They expect to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs and additionally make money selling power back to the community. - <http://www.fastcoexist.com/1679797/the-most-energy-efficient-hospital-in-the-country>
May 9, 2012



NREL Unveils 'More Accurate' Energy Project Emissions Calculator · Environmental Management & Energy News · Environmental Leader

environmentalleader



TidewaterCurrent 5/8/12 - The National Renewable Energy Lab's "Meta-Analysis of Life Cycle Assessment" investigates cradle to grave greenhouse gas emission from various energy sources, renewable and fossil. Wind and nuclear are comparable, with solar slightly higher while natural gas and particularly coal (as one would expect) are exponentially higher.
May 8, 2012

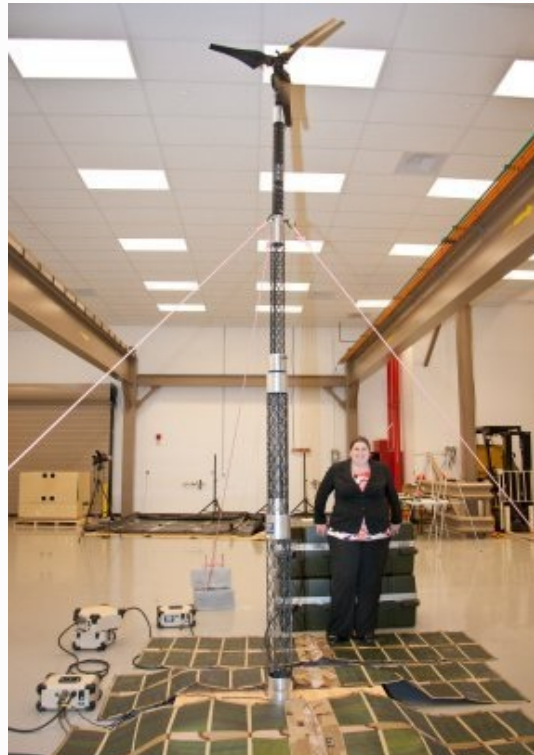


Iron Mountain Looks to Solar PV; Johns Hopkins Brings 818kW Online · Environmental Management & Energy News · Environmental Leader

environmentalleader



TidewaterCurrent 5/8/12 - Rooftop PV - Power purchase agreement deals - Iron Mountain and Johns Hopkins do NOT own the solar systems housed on their rooftops. Third parties developed and manage the projects, while power is purchased at fixed rate prices from the developers. - <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2012/05/08/iron-mountain-looks-to-solar-pv-johns-hopkins-brings-818kw-online/>
May 8, 2012



Army scientists develop deployable renewable-energy solutions

army.mil



TidewaterCurrent 5/10/12 - Army developing microgrids which integrate, solar, wind and batteries for remote settings.
May 10, 2012



North American Windpower: New Bill Proposes To Extend Wind Energy PTC, Slash Oil Subsidies

nawindpower



TidewaterCurrent 5/1/12 - The bill - Investing to Modernize the Production of American Clean Energy and Technology (IMPACT Act) - http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.9777
May 5, 2012



Community Power vs. the Kochs

huffingtonpost



TidewaterCurrent 5/7/12 - Renewable Energy Revolution supported by community power programs - lots of references to successful endeavors through local grass root and municipal efforts - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/aaron-bartley/local-alternative-energy_b_1466309.html
May 7, 2012



Lorton May Become a Green Energy Corridor

lorton.patch



TidewaterCurrent 5/3/12 - Virginia land use committee considers implementing a plan to develop a green energy corridor. If it moves forward, it would be the first such scheme in the country - <http://lorton.patch.com/articles/lorton-may-become-a-green-energy-corridor>
May 5, 2012



Environmental Groups To Protest Dominion's 15-Year Plan

wamu



TidewaterCurrent 5/7/12 - Virginia - Renewable Energy - Environmental groups bash Dominion's new energy plan for not including renewable resources like wind and solar. Protests planned. - http://wamu.org/news/12/05/07/environmental_groups_to_protest_dominions_15_year_plan
May 8, 2012



Gamesa reaches a critical milestone in its offshore strategy: the first offshore prototype to be installed in Spain

gamesacorp



TidewaterCurrent 5/7/12 -

Meanwhile, in Virginia, plans to install the first US offshore turbine near Cape Henry have today been suspended, despite recent state approval for the project. Gamesa and its partner site concerns over federal energy policy and the extension of the renewable energy tax credit. - see: <http://hamptonroads.com/2012/05/plans-chesapeake-bay-wind-turbine-suspended>
May 7, 2012



PV for All: Low-Income Housing Residents Going Solar

renewableenergyworld



TidewaterCurrent

May 3, 2012

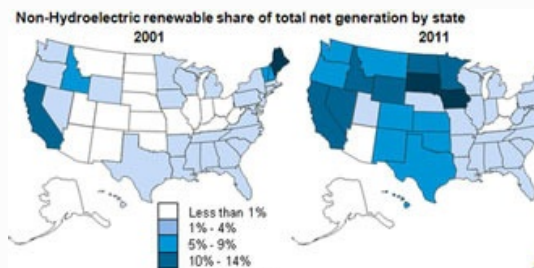


Turning trash into solar treasure

kxan



TidewaterCurrent 5/7/12- The City of Austin is looking to convert old landfills into solar farms. They are not the first to consider such an endeavor. San Antonio developed the first project in 2008 and projects are planned or in place in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York. - <http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/local/austin/turning-trash-into-solar-treasure>
May 8, 2012



Map Shows Growth of Renewables in US

sustainablebusiness



TidewaterCurrent 5/1/12 -

<http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.display/id/23662>
May 2, 2012



Wall Street Bank Backs Residential Solar Fund

energy.aol



TidewaterCurrent 5/4/12 - MySolar fund created by Clean Power Finance to provide \$300 million for residential solar leasing. - <http://energy.aol.com/2012/05/04/wall-street-bank-backs-residential-solar-fund/>
May 5, 2012



The Kickstarter for solar could make you money starting this Summer

gigaom



TidewaterCurrent 5/4/12 - Solar Mosaic - crowd funding for solar rooftop installations to implement leasing program open to investors. - <http://gigaom.com/cleantech/the-kickstarter-for-solar-could-make-you-money-starting-this-summer/>
May 5, 2012



Clean-Powered New Zealand: Not Living In Caves «

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent 5/2/12 - Renewable Energy supplies 80% of NZ power, without any loss of first world lifestyle. - <http://www.earthtechling.com/2012/05/clean-powered-new-zealand-not-living-in-caves/>
May 3, 2012



Connecticut's \$1 Billion Renewable Energy Play

earthtechling



TidewaterCurrent
April 27, 2012



TheGreenMiles.com: Clean Energy Employs More People in MA Alone Than Coal Mining Does in All of Appalachia

thegreenmiles.blogspot



TidewaterCurrent 4/25/12 - Clean Energy Employs More People in MA Alone Than Coal Mining Does in All of Appalachia -

<http://thegreenmiles.blogspot.com/2012/04/clean-energy-employs-more-people-in-ma.html#.T6FFMe3WrHM>
May 2, 2012



Report: Virginia Ideal for Clean Energy

energyboom



TidewaterCurrent George Mason University reports that renewables can become competitive with conventional energy and tens of thousands of jobs.

May 1, 2012



Condo Owners Fight Homeowner Associations For Their Right to Install Solar Power

inhabitat



TidewaterCurrent 20 states limit HOAs from banning solar installations. Virginia is not among them.

April 27, 2012