

Energy Policy Update

Energy and Environmental News

September 14, 2009



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE

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economic advancement*

This newsletter is published by the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office and is provided free of charge to the public. It contains verbatim excerpts from international and domestic energy and environment-related publications reviewed by the Education and Community Outreach personnel. For inquiries, call **(602) 771-1143** or toll free **(800) 352-5499**. Compiled and edited by Gloria Castro, Special Projects Coordinator. To register to receive this newsletter electronically, email [Gloria Castro](mailto:Gloria.Castro).

For additional program information, access: <http://www.azcommerce.com/Energy/Energy+Policy+Update+-%28Monthly+Publication%29.htm>.

Click [here](#) to view Grant Opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, ARIZONA-RELATED TITLES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE

ARIZONA

2 Scottsdale Schools to Get Sun Panels

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 11] Coronado and Desert Mountain high schools in Scottsdale won regulatory approval to install large solar-power systems this year, which will likely prompt other Arizona schools to follow suit. SolarCity Corp. of California asked the Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates the state's utilities, for special permission to build solar-power systems and sell the electricity to the schools.

Arizona Cardinals Go Green with Power at UOP Stadium

[Phoenix Business Journal, Sept. 8] The Arizona Cardinals will bring a little green into their colors as the team works with University of Phoenix Stadium to use renewable energy for home games this year. The club, along with sponsor University of Phoenix will power use renewable energy from Salt River Project. The stadium will purchase enough renewable energy for 10 games — about 95,000 kilowatt-hours — the amount used to power up to about 60 homes in Phoenix for one month.

Arizona Needs Radical Transit Overhaul, Leaders Say

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 9] Arizona's economy and quality of life will suffer if the state fails to radically change its planning and funding for transportation, a group of community and political leaders said Wednesday in Mesa. While only about 25 people attended, the morning session at Mesa Community College represented the thinking of a much broader group that met last spring in Tucson to brainstorm a way out of present and future gridlock. More such meetings are planned around the state, including two in the Valley. They're all under the auspices of Arizona Town Hall, a private group that has helped frame public policy discussions for nearly 50 years.

City Eases Solar Panel Rules

[KOLD News website, Sept. 10] With more than 300 days a year of sunshine, Lake Havasu City is a natural choice for generating solar power. The city is now taking steps to ease restrictions on residential use of the blackened glass solar panels. With an unanimous vote, the city council Tuesday approved two-foot setbacks for solar panels from the edge of residential roofs. The council also voted to allow height exceptions for the entire rooftop surface and allow solar panels to exceed the 15-foot residential height limit by three feet.

Electric Rate Hike Kicks In

[Arizona-Range News, Sept. 9] Sierra Vista - Effective this month, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative customers will be paying a little more for the electricity they use. The Arizona Corporation Commission recently approved a rate increase that started Sept. 1 and will be reflected in the utility's October 2009 billings. The utility

began its rate case process in June 2008 by using 2007 data as its test year. Regulators reviewed and made amendments to the rate request and then OK'd the amended version Aug. 25 in Phoenix.

First Solar Signs Deal to Build Plant in China

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 9] Tempe-based First Solar Inc. announced a plan Tuesday to build the world's largest solar power plant in China, opening the door for the manufacturer to serve one of the world's most rapidly developing economies. The plan not only represents a milestone for alternative energy but a validation of the company's efficiency and low production costs. First Solar faces at least five major solar-panel manufacturing competitors in China. First Solar signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese government Tuesday to build a 2,000-megawatt plant in Ordos City, Inner Mongolia.

Glendale Firm Turning Food Into Cleaner-Burning Motor Fuel

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 11] Valley restaurants are turning to a new Glendale company that collects used cooking oil to convert into cleaner-burning motor fuel. Green Dining Network aims to build up a following not only in the West Valley but eventually across the state.

NE Valley Communities Go Green in Effort to Save Cash

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 8] The budget crunch has caused communities in the northeast Valley to step up efforts to save money, leading to more eco-friendly building, energy conservation and paper savings.

Solar Plant Permit OK'd

[Yuma Sun, Sept. 9] In what could be the first of many, a planned solar plant is one step closer to coming to Dateland, and Yuma County officials say they're excited. Wednesday, the Yuma County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a special use permit for the Agua Caliente Solar Project, a planned solar plant 70 miles east of Yuma. The vote was made in the planning and zoning portion of the meeting, which was in the afternoon. If the group obtains one final permit later this month from the Arizona Corporation Commission, the project could be a reality.

SRP Urged to Invest in Energy Efficiency

[East Valley Tribune, Sept. 10] A public hearing by the Salt River Project board of directors revealed a shocking phenomenon Thursday: consumers who said they are willing to pay higher electricity rates. There was a catch, however. They want all of the additional money used for energy-efficiency programs that would reduce electric consumption - and thereby save money in the long run. The speakers, some representing environmental groups, urged the utility to set the goal of a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2020, excluding power supplies to new customers.

Valley Co. Buys Arizona's Third Largest Solar Energy Plant

[ABC15.com website, Sept. 9] Phoenix - A Valley company purchases third largest private solar energy plant in Arizona. Union Distributing (in conjunction with Solar Hawk Energy™) announced it will install two solar energy power plants at Union Distributing's petroleum bulk plant facilities in Phoenix and Tucson respectively. This will be one of the largest, privately-owned solar energy installations in Arizona. Union's \$1,600,000+ dollar purchase of the highest-efficiency, monocrystalline, photovoltaic solar energy system will reduce Union Distributing's electricity costs.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND EFFICIENCY

Wind Could Meet China's Electricity Needs by 2030

[Yahoo News, Sept. 10] Chicago, IL - China could meet all of its future electricity needs with wind power if the government continues to subsidize the development of wind farms with price guarantees, a study published Thursday has found. Already the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide, China's electricity needs are expected to double in the next two decades and it is currently adding several new coal-fired power plants to its grid every week.

Ford, Granholm Discuss Plans for Energy Park

[Fresno Bee, Sept. 10]Wixom, MI - Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. and Gov. Jennifer Granholm have formally announced plans to redevelop a closed auto plant near Detroit as the nation's largest renewable energy park. Ford and Granholm spoke at the Wixom site Thursday with officials from Xtreme Power of Kyle, Texas, and Clairvoyant Energy of Santa Barbara, Calif. The companies plan to buy the 320-acre Wixom Assembly Plant if state tax incentives and federal loans are approved.

States Sharing the Sea for Wind Industry

[New York Times, Sept. 9] Boston, MA- Plans are brewing to promote a network of offshore wind farms all along the East Coast connected by a transmission "spine" and shared shipping ports where local turbines will embark for deepwater power fields over the horizon. A unique collaborative will emerge this fall that aims to temper the fierce competition among seaside states racing to build the first -- or second and third -- offshore project into a national effort to construct a whole fleet of them. Officials in coastal states and industry leaders are organizing the group, which aims to provide an influential voice for the nation's infant offshore effort.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

A Battle Over California Emissions Rules

[New York Times, Sept. 11] The United States Chamber of Commerce is joining with the National Automobile Dealers Association to try to derail California's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. In a preliminary filing on Tuesday with the United States Court of Appeals in Washington, the chamber and the association asked for a review of an action by the Environmental Protection Agency in June that granted California a waiver allowing it to regulate tailpipe climate emissions.

House Passes \$1 Billion Wind Energy Bill

[San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 10] The House passed legislation on Wednesday that would initiate a \$1 billion program to make wind turbines more efficient and reliable. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., aims to ensure that huge wind-generating turbines - some with blades spanning 100 yards - can be more cost effective in harnessing power from the wind. Wind power makes up about 2 percent of the nation's electricity portfolio. But the Energy Department last year predicted that with the development of more efficient and cheaper turbines, wind could provide 20 percent of U.S. electricity supplies by 2030.

Natural Gas Hits a Roadblock in New Energy Bill

[New York Times, Sept. 6] Houston, TX - The natural gas industry has enjoyed something of a winning streak in recent years. It found gigantic new reserves, low prices are encouraging utilities to substitute gas for coal, and cities are switching to buses fueled by natural gas. But its luck has run out in Washington, where the industry is having trouble making its case to Congress as it writes an energy bill to tackle global warming. For all its pronouncements that gas could be used to replace aging, inefficient coal-fired power plants — and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the process — lawmakers from coal-producing states appear committed to keeping coal as the nation's primary producer of power.

Salazar Says U.S. Climate Bill High On Agenda

[Reuters, Sept. 9] Washington, D.C. - Despite Washington's nearly single-minded focus on healthcare reform, the Obama administration still expects the U.S. Senate to pass climate change legislation, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said on Tuesday. "Right now we are focused on this crusade for healthcare reform for the country and that's where our time and energy will go for the days ahead," Salazar said during an interview at the Reuters Global Climate and Alternative Energy Summit.

ENERGY-GENERAL

For OPEC, Current Oil Price Is Just Right

Vienna - Has the world found its Goldilocks price for oil at \$70 a barrel — not too high for consumers, not too low for producers? For members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, who were meeting here late Wednesday, today's price seems just about right. For consumers, high prices obviously mean more expensive gas. But they also help make investments in renewable fuels competitive and spur the development of

costly sources of oil, like deepwater reserves. Striking the right balance in the price of oil has always been one of the biggest sticking points in the relations between producers and consumers.

Home Power Plants Project Unveiled in Germany

[Yahoo News, Sept. 9] Berlin – Germany - An ambitious project was unveiled in Germany on Wednesday to install mini gas-fired power plants in people's basements and produce as much electricity as two nuclear reactors within a year. The Hamburg-based renewable energy group Lichtblick and its automaker partner Volkswagen say the plants would produce not only heating and hot water but also electricity, with any excess power fed into the local grid. The two firms said the concept of "SchwarmStrom" (literally, "swarm power") would allow Germany to abandon nuclear and coal power stations sooner and help compensate for the volatility of renewables like wind and solar power.

WESTERN POWER

California Kicks Off \$75m Green Jobs Training Program

[GreenBiz, Sept. 8] Los Angeles, CA - California is making a \$75 million down payment on what is being touted as the nation's largest state-sponsored green jobs training program. Paid for in part with stimulus funds, the Clean Energy Workforce Training Program aims to prepare 20,000 California adults for a range of green collar jobs, such as green building design, solar panel installation, and sustainable landscape, among other professions.

Colorado, China Sign Deal to Increase Business

[Yahoo Finance, Sept. 11] Denver, CO - Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter and a Chinese trade official signed an agreement to promote business investments on Thursday as representatives of about 30 Chinese companies scoped out Colorado as a possible location for new offices and plants. Ritter and Yujing Zhang, who oversees machinery and electronic trade for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, signed the memorandum of cooperation in both English and Chinese at the state Capitol as visiting business representatives watched. "We bring industry leaders here to have a better understanding of Colorado and advance collaboration," Zhang said through an interpreter. The companies visiting with Zhang include electronics manufacturers and renewable energy companies, firms which are exploring locations in the United States to manufacture their products and avoid the growing cost of fuel to ship exports from China.

Solyndra Breaks Ground for New 500MW Solar Panel Plant

[GreenerBuildings.com website, Sept. 9] Fremont, CA - Thin film solar-panel maker Solyndra Inc., recipient of the DOE's first loan guarantee to back innovative technology, has begun construction of a second manufacturing plant. With Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger lending a hand, Solyndra broke ground for the new plant, which it is calling Fab 2, on Friday In March, Chu announced that Solyndra would be the first firm to receive a federal loan guarantee under a DOE program that was established more than three years ago to promote innovative technology -- but lay dormant until this spring with the coming of the new administration in Washington, D.C., and passage of the Recovery Act.

State Poised to Up Renewable Mandates

[San Francisco Business Times, Sept. 4] Not even the state regulator of utilities thinks California utilities can meet more robust renewable mandates that will likely become law soon. Politicians say increasing renewable energy to 33 percent of all electricity sales by 2020 is key to meeting greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, and the California Public Utility Commission, which regulates private utilities, supports the change. Utilities already are saying they will not be able to meet the current state mandate, which requires 20 percent renewables by 2010.

INDUSTRIES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Google Plans New Mirror for Cheaper Solar Power

[Reuters, Sept. 10] San Francisco, CA - Google is disappointed with the lack of breakthrough investment ideas in the green technology sector but the company is working to develop its own new mirror technology that could reduce the cost of building solar thermal plants by a quarter or more.

GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL

To view Arizona and U.S. Gasoline and Diesel fuel data plus other pertinent oil information click [here](http://www.azcommerce.com/Energy/MotorFuel/).

GRANTS

The RFPs created or supplemented as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) are identified in the RFP titles.

Reducing Indoor Environments – Region 9

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, requests proposals for Indoor Environments: Reducing Public Exposure to Indoor Pollutants. This initiative will support demonstration, training, outreach and/or education projects to reduce exposure to indoor pollutants for K-12 schools and homes. Projects must take place in CA, AZ, HI, NV, or the Pacific Islands. \$125K expected to be available, up to 3 awards anticipated. A Notice of Intent to Apply is requested, but not required, and is due 9/18/09. Final proposals due 9/29/09. For more info, contact Shelly Rosenblum at rosenblum.shelly@epa.gov or go to: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/indoor-environments-2009.html>. Refer to Sol# EPA-R9-AIR6-09-007. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

School Construction Program – Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Education requests proposals for the Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Program. This program provides support for emergency repairs and modernization of school facilities to local educational agencies that submitted applications for funding under Section 8002 (Payments for Federal Property) or Section 8003 (Basic Support Payments) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Additional rating points given for projects utilizing energy-efficient and recyclable materials and projects that use alternative building methods and materials. \$59.4 million expected to be available, responses due 10/1/09. For more info, contact Kristen Walls-Rivas at Impact.Aid@ed.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=49108>. Refer to Sol# ED-GRANTS-081709-001. (Grants.gov 8/17/09)

Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation

The National Science Foundation requests proposals for Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation. Through this new funding opportunity, the NSF seeks proposals from interdisciplinary teams of researchers, with transformative ideas that represent an opportunity for a significant shift in fundamental engineering knowledge with a strong potential for long term impact on national needs or a grand challenge. Areas of interest include: 1) Renewable Energy Storage, and 2) Science in Energy and Environmental Design (SEED): Engineering Sustainable Buildings. This solicitation is in coordination with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. \$29 million expected to be available, up to 14 awards anticipated. Letters of Intent due 10/9/09, preliminary proposals due 11/13/09, final proposals due 3/31/10. For more info, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09606. Refer to Sol# 09-606. (Grants.gov 8/13/09)

NSF STTR Phase I (due 11/17/09)

The National Science Foundation requests proposals from small businesses for Phase I of the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program. STTR requires researchers at universities and other research institutions to play a significant intellectual role in the conduct of each STTR project. The topic of interest is Multi-Functional Materials. The subtopics of interest include: Bio-inspired Materials and Systems; Materials for Energy Generation and Storage; Materials for Sustainability; Nanostructured Materials; and Smart Materials and Structures. \$5 million expected to be available, up to 35 awards anticipated. Responses due 11/17/09. For more info, contact Ben Schrag at bschrag@nsf.gov or go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09605. Refer to Sol# 09-605. (Grants.gov 8/13/09)

Aviation and Climate Change

The U.S. Department of Transportation seeks proposals for Aviation Climate Change Research Initiative Two. This work would include in-depth data analysis, observations and modeling simulations in order to develop improved estimates of aviation climate impacts. Environmental concerns due to aviation activities range from noise levels near airports to impacts of emissions on regional ambient air quality and global climate. Growth in aviation may lead to increased aircraft emissions and associated environmental impacts unless well informed optimally balanced mitigation measures are implemented in a timely manner.

Responses due 9/17/09. For more info, contact Steve Garanin at Steve.Garanin@volpe.dot or go to: <https://www.fbo.gov/?tab=documents&tabmode=form&subtab=core&tabid=300c9563f7a9ff77cef190fb3985fad0>. Refer to Sol# DTRT57-09-R-20030. (FBO 8/12/09)

Environmental Information Exchange Network

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for the National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program. This program supports the development of information technology and information management capabilities needed to actively participate in the Exchange Network, a secure, Internet and standards-based way to support electronic data reporting, sharing, and integration of both regulatory and non-regulatory environmental data. \$10 million expected to be available, up to 50 awards anticipated. Responses due 11/20/09. For more info, contact Edward Mixon at mixon.edward@epa.gov or go to: <http://epa.gov/exchangenetwork/grants/>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OEI-10-01. (Grants.gov 7/29/09)

Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study. Through this RFP, EPA is offering Graduate Fellowships for master's and doctoral level students in environmental fields of study. 16 Topic Areas identified which include, but are not limited to: Global Change; Energy; Green Engineering/Building/Chemistry/Materials; and Environmental Behavior and Decision Making. \$4.5 million expected to be available, up to 120 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/22/09. For more info, contact Brandon Jones at 2009FellowshipsRFA@epa.gov or go to: http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2009/2009_star_gradfellow.html. Refer to Sol# EPA-F2009-STAR. (Grants.gov 8/19/09)

Brownfields Assessment Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Brownfields Assessment Grants. A brownfield site is defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land. This program supports inventories, characterizations, assessments, planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites. \$37.3 million expected to be available, up to 171 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/16/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-09-04.pdf>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-09-04. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

Brownfields Cleanup Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Brownfields Cleanup Grants. Cleanup grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at specific brownfield sites owned by the applicant. An individual applicant can apply for up to \$200K per brownfield site and can submit up to three site-specific cleanup proposals. \$35.1 million expected to be available, up to 163 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/16/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-09-05.pdf>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-09-05. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

Brownfields Revolving Loan Funds

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants. This program provides funds for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving fund and to make loans and provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. \$7 million expected to be available, up to 7 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/16/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-09-06.pdf>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-09-06. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

Interdisciplinary Solar Energy Research

The National Science Foundation Divisions of Chemistry (CHE), Materials Research (DMR), and Mathematical Sciences (DMS) requests proposals for the CHE-DMR-DMS Solar Energy Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to support potentially catalytic interdisciplinary work by groups of researchers to address the scientific challenges of efficient harvesting, conversion, and storage of solar energy. The intent is to encourage new collaborations in which the mathematical sciences are linked in a synergistic way with the chemical and materials sciences to develop novel, potentially transformative approaches in an area of much activity but largely incremental advances. \$7 million expected to be available, up to 10 awards anticipated. Preliminary proposals due 12/8/09, final proposals due 3/10/10. For more info, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09604. Refer to Sol# 09-604. (Grants.gov 8/13/09)

For additional information visit the DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program home page at: <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

Special thanks to the Washington State University Extension Energy Program for collecting this information.
