

BREEE News V38

Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group

<http://boulderenergy.org>

9/26/05

"If all of us were renting the earth, we'd have lost our deposit."

- Toyota Motor Corporation

"Xcel plans to establish **rebates** that could range from 20 percent to 50 percent of capital cost on the photovoltaic systems as of **Jan. 1, 2006**, said Xcel ..."

- Daily Camera. 9/26/05 in a front-page article on the Solar Home Tour and Zero Energy Homes. Emphasis by Ken.

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/county\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2423\\_4109833,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/county_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2423_4109833,00.html)

*Hot Picks*

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**Peak Oil Talk at Boulder's Fiske Planetarium 9/28. 7 PM**

<http://www.deepsupport.net/peakenergy/fiske.pdf>

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**Denver CRES Meeting on Solar Hot Water. 9/28. 5:30 PM**

NREL Visitor's Center.

[http://www.cres-energy.org/newhtml/news\\_cresclips.html#%93Perspectives\\_on\\_Solar\\_Hot\\_Water%94\\_September\\_28\\_Meeting](http://www.cres-energy.org/newhtml/news_cresclips.html#%93Perspectives_on_Solar_Hot_Water%94_September_28_Meeting)

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**Solar Week in Boulder**

**Boulder Tour of Solar Homes 10/2**

[http://www.conservationcenter.org/e\\_solarhometour.htm](http://www.conservationcenter.org/e_solarhometour.htm)

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**Fort Collins, Denver Tour of Solar Homes 10/1**

[http://www.cres-energy.org/newhtml/about\\_tsh.html](http://www.cres-energy.org/newhtml/about_tsh.html)

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To Submit to BREEE News – email [Regelson@mac.com](mailto:Regelson@mac.com). Put BREEE News in the Subject. Suggest a title and a 2 or 3 sentence summary. Include a link to the original article or a web page, or provide your email address, for more information.

Edited and distributed by Ken Regelson. Articles that do not list who submitted them are probably from Ken.

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*From Boulder & Colorado:*

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### **BREEE Volunteer (still) Needed**

To update our website. Mostly just to simplify it and remove the old stuff.

Contact Ken [regelson@mac.com](mailto:regelson@mac.com)

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### **Boulder County Ballot Measure 1A - Vote Yes to Support County Sustainability Efforts**

I asked Will Toor for some of the sustainability details in 1A. His response:

"A portion of the incremental funds is earmarked for new county sustainability initiatives. The earmarking language specifies that the funds can be used for programs in energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, and water quality. The exact amount of money will depend on the economy, but it will grow each year for 5 years. In the first year the incremental funds for sustainability programs will probably be around \$300,000, growing to about \$1.2- \$1.5 million in 5 years.

We would likely use some of the funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in county buildings and fleets, and some for public programs, either delivered by the county or by nonprofits like CRC. As an example of the type of things, we are currently getting ready to fund CRCs orphan solar program with funds from the drop in the bucket campaign, and we have just given the go ahead to our transportation department to use county funds and seek a federal grant for a program to bring E-85 and E-25 fueling stations to Boulder County, and to begin a pilot plug in hybrid program in the county fleet."

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### **Colorado PUC Renewable Engineer Job Opening**

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/Employment.htm>

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### **Press on Colorado Interconnection Standards Resulting from A 37**

<http://renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=36855>

From Doug Grinbergs.

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**Aquila Pulls Plug on Utility Sale to Pueblo**

<http://www.chieftain.com/metro/1127437425/1>

From Ross Vincent.

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*Calendar.*

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**10/14 - 15. Boulder. Bioneers Conference**

<http://ecenter.colorado.edu/bioneers/index.html>

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**11/2 - 4. Denver. Brownfields Conference (Free)**

Keynote speaker (one of Ken's favorites!) William McDonough.

<http://www.brownfields2005.org/en/Article.aspx?id=23>

Sustainability track.

<http://www.brownfields2005.org/en/Sessions.Browser.aspx>

(click on the "Track" tab, then select sustainability from the pop-up menu).

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**11/10 - 11. Denver. Peak Oil Conference**

World-class lineup of 20 speakers. Day 1 will focus on the oil supply vs. depletion balance going forward, Day 2 will focus on intelligent responses and mitigating actions to the looming peak oil phenomenon. Fee.

<http://www.aspo-usa.com/fall2005/index.cfm>

From Morey Wolfson.

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*From Elsewhere:*

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## **Short Takes**

Exemplary Utility Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs. Report by ACEEE.

<http://aceee.org/pubs/u053.pdf>

What would an energy system look like if you designed it from scratch today? Perhaps many micro-grids rather than a national grid.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4245584.stm>

Melting of arctic sea ice may have reached a point of no return. "...melting arctic ice so rapidly that the region is beginning to absorb more heat from the sun, causing the ice to melt still further and so reinforcing a vicious cycle of melting and heating."

[http://news.independent.co.uk/world/science\\_technology/article312997.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/science_technology/article312997.ece)

Ford plans to up hybrid production to 250,000 cars per year by end of the decade.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/22/business/22ford.html>

Katrina causes one of largest US oil spills at 6 million gallons of crude oil (so far). By comparison, Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons.

<http://www.nrdc.org/media/pressreleases/050915.asp>

Newsweek: Why cheap gas is a bad habit.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9285514/site/newsweek/>

It's easy being green - the benefits of energy-efficient buildings in NJ.

<http://www.nj.com/business/ledger/index.ssf?/base/business-1/1126794601118340.xml&coll=1>

From Ross Vincent and others.

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## **The Sierra Summit**

Members of the Sierra Club met and voted on the future direction of the club. The speech by Al Gore on Katrina and global warming is worth a read.

"A scientist at MIT has published a study well before this tragedy (Katrina) showing that since the 1970s, hurricanes in both the Atlantic and the Pacific have increased in duration, and in intensity, by about 50 %. The newscasters told us after Hurricane Katrina went over the

southern tip of Florida that there was a particular danger for the Gulf Coast of the hurricanes becoming much stronger because it was passing over unusually warm waters in the gulf. ... The oceans generally have been getting warmer. And the pattern is exactly consistent with what scientists have predicted for twenty years. Two thousand scientists, in a hundred countries, engaged in the most elaborate, well organized scientific collaboration in the history of humankind, have produced long-since a consensus that we will face a string of terrible catastrophes unless we act to prepare ourselves and deal with the underlying causes of global warming."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0912-32.htm>

The vote from the Summit was that a vision of a clean energy future become the Club's number one priority. How this will translate into campaigns and programs of the Sierra Club remains to be seen.

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### **Study: Destructive Power of Storms is Up and Global Warming is a Factor**

"Theory and modeling predict that hurricane intensity should increase with increasing global mean temperatures, but work on the detection of trends in hurricane activity has focused mostly on their frequency and shows no trend. Here I define an index of the potential destructiveness of hurricanes based on the total dissipation of power... and show that this index has increased markedly since the mid-1970s. This trend is due to both longer storm lifetimes and greater storm intensities. I find that ... hurricane power dissipation is highly correlated with tropical sea surface temperature, reflecting well-documented climate signals, including ... global warming. My results suggest that future warming may lead to an upward trend in tropical cyclone destructive potential, and—taking into account an increasing coastal population— a substantial increase in hurricane-related losses in the twenty-first century."

<ftp://texmex.mit.edu/pub/emanuel/PAPERS/NATURE03906.pdf>

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### **NJ Ups Renewables Requirement From 4% by 2008 to 20% by 2020**

Solar set-aside at 2%. Expected to increase electric rates by less than 2% over 20 years.

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAGO272.htm>

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### **High Efficiency (50%+) PV Possible Using Photonic Bandgap Materials.**

Today's residential grade PV is anywhere from 12 to 20%. Satellite grade PV in the low 30-percents.

[http://www.rednova.com/news/display/?id=241288&source=r\\_science](http://www.rednova.com/news/display/?id=241288&source=r_science)

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### **A Call for Consistent Support of Renewables**

"They're putting up another wind farm near Walla Walla, in Washington state. The towers are coming from Korea, Vietnam and Canada. The turbines, blades and other parts were made in Denmark.

What are Americans doing? They're taking the stuff other people make off of boats and trucking them to the wind farm. Americans might have been manufacturing these windmills, were their national leaders not so wrapped up in the needs of oilmen.

...

'Would you want to sell into a market that is a \$3-billion market one year and a half-billion market the next year?' asks Randall Swisher, executive director of the American Wind Energy Association."

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2002498160\\_harrop16.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2002498160_harrop16.html)

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### **Emerging Tech: Bubbling Flue Gasses Through Algae Captures NOX & CO2**

Bubbling flue gasses through water and algae filled tubes in sunlight captures up to 86% of the NOX and 40% of the CO2. Energy rich biomass and reduced emissions are the byproducts. Biomass can be used for biodiesel or burned as fuel.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=36663>

<http://www.greenfuelonline.com/advance.htm>

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### **Embodied Energy in Materials. GHG Reductions From Recycling.**

Embodied energy in materials links.

[http://climateprotectioncampaign.typepad.com/cpc/2005/09/individual\\_clim.html](http://climateprotectioncampaign.typepad.com/cpc/2005/09/individual_clim.html)

<http://www.cmit.csiro.au/brochures/tech/embodied/>

Recycling and solid waste reduction help reduce GHG emissions.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/ActionsWaste.html>

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### **Carbon Disclosure Project**

"The CDP 3 information request was signed by 155 institutional investors with assets of more than \$21 trillion and sent on 1st February 2005..." to the Financial Times' 500 global companies (Largest. Most valuable.) The report or individual companies' reports can be viewed from:

<http://www.cdproject.net/>

(Note that Xcel is not on the FT 500 list and has not submitted a disclosure even though CDP welcomes any large company to respond. - Ken)

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### **U.S. Climate Change Technology Program Strategic Plan Draft for Public Comment**

US DOE and others produce a 100-year, 256 page plan on what to do about climate change. Public comment period ends November 2.

<http://www.climatechange.gov/stratplan/draft/index.htm>

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### **Bio-fuels (Ethanol, Biodiesel) Have Positive Energy Balance**

They use less fossil fuel energy to make than the energy they provide as reported in this commentary from a senior bio-energy researcher at NREL.

Ethanol from corn grain (most of today's bio-ethanol production) "corn ethanol delivers a 34% gain in fuel energy for each unit of fossil energy invested..."

Ethanol from cellulose (the rest of the corn stalk or from switchgrass, etc. No commercial scale plants that I'm aware of, but many "close") "...savings of 90%..."

Biodiesel from virgin soybean oil (not waste oil recycled from deep-fat fryers): "...using 70% less fossil energy than its petroleum counterpart."

See the first article in:

[http://www.eesi.org/publications/Newsletters/ECO/bco%2028/bco\\_28.pdf](http://www.eesi.org/publications/Newsletters/ECO/bco%2028/bco_28.pdf)

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