

BREEE News V41

Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group

<http://boulderenergy.org>

11/17/05

"True marketing starts out ... with the customer, his demographics, his realities, his needs, his values. It does not ask, What do we want to sell? It asks, What does the customer want to buy?"

- Peter Drucker

Hot Picks

Boulder County Commissioners Consider Resolutions on Sustainability

On Tuesday, November 22 at 2:00 p.m. Boulder County Commissioners will consider adopting two resolutions guiding Boulder County toward more sustainable energy and waste practices. The Commissioners will consider: "A Resolution Adopting a Sustainable Energy Path for Boulder County" and "A Resolution Adopting Zero Waste as a Guiding Principle and Supporting the Creation of a Zero Waste Plan." Both of the resolutions call for the development of detailed action plans, the analysis of existing practices and opportunities to achieve the goals identified, and an assessment of the plans' environmental, operational, community, and budgetary impacts.

Please come to the hearing and share your views.

From Pam Milmoe pmilmoe@co.boulder.co.us

Xcel Polls Boulder on Public Power

"In my opinion, some of the questions were pretty straight, some were based on inaccurate statements of the real facts, and a few were pretty much pure push,' Steve Pomerance wrote in an e-mail..."

http://dailycamera.com/bdc/county_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2423_4245549,00.html

Further research into this topic reveals that Xcel appears to be following a cookbook approach to defeating a municipalization attempt. See:

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3650/is_200309/ai_n9242432

... points "TWO: Get Involved Early" and "FIVE: Use Public Opinion Research... Defeating a takeover, especially when it involves a community vote, requires an effective communications strategy. This means framing the debate on the company's terms (rather than the proponents') and providing information to the community that persuasively makes the case against takeover."

Also see:

http://www.ucan.org/law_policy/energy.html

And an article that documents Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) use of " ... the Edison Electric Institute's ... helpful little book ... a guide to nullifying public-power takeovers. *New Public Power Takeovers: Strategic Resources for Defeating Municipalization* "

http://www2.dcn.org/orgs/localpower/PGE_Playbook.pdf

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For a positive look at public power visit:

<http://www.appanet.org/aboutpublic/index.cfm?ItemNumber=9415>

Follow Davis, Woodland, and West Sacramento, California as they engage in a "ratepayer revolt" to enjoy the advantages of public power at:

<http://www2.dcn.org/orgs/localpower/>

Solar Austin Challenges Cities - Energy Freedom Challenge

Which City Will be First to 50% Renewable Electricity.

http://www.statesman.com/metrostate/content/auto/epaper/editions/wednesday/metro_state_34f5a2d974b620b30086.html

<http://solaraustin.org/issues.html>

From Amanda Erath.

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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:

Colorado Springs Municipal Utility to Start \$4 per Watt Rebates for Solar

Also, they will allow what sounds like true net metering. Residential and commercial programs are planned to start 1/1/2006. Details to follow.

City of Boulder Exceeds Windpower Challenge Goals

"The Boulder Wind Challenge ended on Oct. 31 with 1,150 new wind power subscribers, which is over twice the initial goal of 500."

<http://www.cogreenpower.org/ResultsPR.pdf>

From Susan Innis.

Colorado Lawmakers' Energy Summit

Reporting on this week's energy summit at the legislature.

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/9977439/>

From Morey Wolfson.

Peak Oil Conference

Detailed reporting on last week's ASPO-USA peak oil conference in Denver.

<http://www.theoil drum.com/story/2005/11/10/233544/36>

<http://www.theoil drum.com/story/2005/11/12/0150/4833>

From Morey Wolfson.

Xcel Names President for Colorado

http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2005/10/31/daily28.html?f=et61&hbx=e_du

From Ross Vincent.

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Calendar.

11/18. Boulder. Free. Learn More about Renewable Energy.

Lee Boughey of NREL speaks 7:30 - 8:30 AM. Boulder County Recycling Center.

<http://www.bgbg.org/calendar.php>

11/18. Boulder. Free. Talk and Tour of CU Solar Decathlon House

Team presentation at 3 PM. Open House at 4.

<http://www.bgbg.org/calendar.php>

11/18. Denver. Free. CoSEIA Implementing A 37 Workshop

CoSEIA is planning a Friday, November 18, all day meeting to bring together those CoSEIA members involved in the PV business, representatives from Xcel, Colorado Springs Utility, and Aquila, and as many State and County electrical inspectors as we can get to come.

<http://www.coseia.org/Education.html>

11/19. 12/10. Denver. Fee. GreenEdge Advanced Training

GreenEdge™ Advanced Residential Green Building is an advanced training geared towards builders, remodelers, architects, interior designers, and other interested professionals seeking to expand their knowledge of and abilities to implement technical Green Building practices.

<http://www.greenedgetraining.org/>

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From Elsewhere:

Short Takes

Report on the Smart Grid of the Future.

http://www.globalenvironmentfund.com/GEF%20white%20paper_Electric%20Power%20Grid.pdf

Seattle Power and Light no longer producing greenhouse gasses. First in country.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/247816_warming10.html

Recycling silicon for solar.

<http://www.enf.cn/magazine/issue2/recycle.html>

Solar manufacturers vow to keep up with demand (at least for new home market).

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/10033525/>

"New York State announced Wednesday that it would adopt California's strict new limits on automobile emissions of carbon dioxide..."

http://www.insidebayarea.com/oped/ci_3211593

Interesting ideas for use of satellite navigation - Electro-car public transport and tracking waste disposal.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4394080.stm>

From Leslie Glustrom, Blake Jones, Morey Wolfson, Bert Melcher, and others,

Campaign Contributions, Politics, and Big Oil

(A very illuminating article. Probably worth a full read. Highlights below. - Ken)

"Senators ... ordered oil executives to appear before the Energy and Commerce committees to explain high fuel prices and record company profits. ... But instead of calling oil executives on the carpet yesterday, senators gave them the red-carpet treatment. The companies ... have given about \$400,000 in PAC money this year alone..."

Executives were not required to swear an oath to tell the truth.

"Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho, \$96,950), explaining popular hostility to the industry. 'I must tell you, it's not terribly fun defending you. But I do.' ... "

"At times, the senators seemed to be bigger boosters of the industry than the executives themselves. Under questioning from Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore., \$12,500), all five executives testified that they did not need the tax breaks in the recent energy bill.

'That energy legislation is zero in terms of how it affects Exxon Mobil,' said the company's chairman, Lee Raymond.

This did not sit well with Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex., \$306,820). 'But,' she asked, don't the tax breaks 'make a difference' in investment decisions?

Raymond would not play along. 'They will not significantly alter the programs that we have,' he said."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/09/AR2005110902058_pf.html

From Nick Lenssen

Japan's Energy Efficiency Rating System Pushes Car and Appliance Efficiency

"The Japanese Top Runner program sets energy efficiency standards for 11 products such as passenger vehicles, air conditioners televisions, copying machines and refrigerators. Target energy efficiency values are set on the basis of whether a product has the highest energy efficiency of all the products in the same group currently in the market. Under the law, all manufacturers and importers are then obliged to achieve the target set by one of their competitors by a specified year. If a further improvement of energy efficiency is highly likely by the target year, this is taken into account in setting the standard. Thus, target values can be even higher than the current highest level of energy efficiency. A new labeling scheme helps out by indicating the degree to which the Top Runner target for the product is achieved (90%, 120%, etc.)"

<http://www.e-parl.net/energy/success/japan-print.htm>

From David Schaller.

Fox News CEO Warms to Climate Change

"The documentary is said to ignore scientific skeptics who believe that human activity is not responsible for catastrophic climate change... Fox News Channel reporter Rick Folbaum ... explained that 'after months of research and interviews with many experts, I've learned this simple fact: The earth is heating up. And it's happening much faster than ever before. No one can argue with this. ... Learn the facts about global warming and decide for your self what needs to be done about these new realities'"

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/viewstory.asp?Page=%5CSpecialReports%5Carchive%5C200511%5CSPE20051109a.html>

(I have not seen the special, but it is interesting that Fox News chose to run this without including the opposite viewpoint. Are they saying the opposite view has little validity? It is an interesting time. - Ken)

Iowa City Municipalization Attempt Fails

Mid-American (their investor owned utility) outspent the supporters of the attempt 30 to 1 spending more than a half million dollars.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051109/NEWS01/511090307/1079>

Possible Municipalization Attempt in Minneapolis

Xcel's home town.

<http://www.skywaynews.net/articles/2005/11/07/news/news02.txt>

From Leslie Glustrom.

Roseville Municipal Utility in California: BEST Program

Blueprint for Energy efficiency and Solar Technology (BEST) Program to install 8 MW of solar in 4000 new homes by 2015.

<http://renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=38820>

Greenclips - Green Building Newsletter

(I find this free green building newsletter very worthwhile - Ken)

The latest issue includes articles on:

- Rest area toilets flush into a greenhouse system, purified water back in to flush toilets.
- Operable windows in commercial buildings (because people like them).
- Use of raised floors for data/electric/HVAC

<http://www.greenclips.com/>

(This is the end of BREEE News)
