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ENERGY POLICY

Winning the Race: How America Can Lead the Global Clean Energy Economy

Apollo Alliance and Good Jobs First - March 2010 - 16 pages

<http://apolloalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/wtr3-2010final.pdf>

The report estimates that some 70 percent of America's renewable energy systems and components are manufactured abroad. If America continues to import 70 percent of the clean energy systems and component parts demanded by new investments in renewable energy, it stands to lose out on an estimated 100,000 clean energy manufacturing jobs between now and 2015, and potentially a quarter million manufacturing jobs by 2030, according to the report.

The Clean Energy Recovery: Creating Jobs, Building New Industries and Saving Money

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming – Hearing - March 10, 2010

http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs?id=0015#main_content

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested in projects that create clean energy jobs while helping families save money on their energy bills. These investments in renewable energy, efficiency, weatherization and new technology development have established robust American energy industries, such as advanced battery technology to power cars and trucks. On Wednesday March 10, the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming explored some of the clean energy results from the Recovery Act, and discussed how an American-made clean energy future can continue.”

A Comparison of the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (CEJAP Act) and the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal Act (CLEAR Act)

Pew Center on Global Climate Change - March 2010 - 3 pages

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/policy-memo-cejap-clear-march2010.pdf>

The brief compares key elements of two bills currently under consideration in Congress. The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (CEJAP Act) provides a comprehensive, economy-wide approach to achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by capping emissions, using a combination of auctions and free allocations for distributing allowances, and allowing firms to trade and purchase offsets to reduce compliance costs. The second bill, the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal Act (CLEAR Act), caps greenhouse gas emissions, but the approaches used in these bills differ significantly. The brief describes the key features of each bill and Table 1 at the end of the brief contains a side-by-side comparison of the bills.

Kari Manlove, Daniel J. Weiss

How to Use Executive Authority to Boost Investments, Create Jobs, and Save Oil

Center for American Progress – Memo – April 20, 2010 – 12 pages

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/energycarpediem.pdf>

“We propose a series of policies that the administration could adopt to launch additional innovative approaches to clean energy and climate solutions. We also track the administration’s progress on our 10 pre-inauguration proposals for executive action on clean energy and global warming.”

Energy Tax Incentives Driving the Green Job Economy

Committee on Ways and Means - Hearing - April 14, 2010

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Hearings/hearingDetails.aspx?NewsID=11120>

The hearing will examine the effectiveness of current energy tax policy and identify additional steps that the Committee can take to ensure continued job growth in this area while at the same time advancing national energy policy focus on a discussion of current and proposed energy tax incentives.

Richard W. Caperton, Sima J. Gandhi

America’s Hidden Power Bill: Examining Federal Energy Tax Expenditures

Center for American Progress - Report - April 2010 - 30 pages

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/energytaxexpenditures.pdf>

Energy-related tax expenditures serve a broad range of purposes, from promoting renewable electricity generation to encouraging domestic production of oil. But the question is, are these energy programs working? And is implementing programs through the tax code the best way to achieve government goals?

Vice President Biden Announces Recovery Act Funding for 37 Transformational Energy Research Projects

ARPA-E - - April 29, 2010

<http://arpa-e.energy.gov/NewsMedia/News/tabid/83/vw/1/ItemID/21/Default.aspx>

At a Recovery Act Cabinet Meeting today, Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced that the U.S. Department of Energy is awarding \$106 million in funding for 37 ambitious research projects that could fundamentally change the way the country uses and produces energy. Funded through DOE’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), the \$106 million is awarded to projects that could produce advanced biofuels more efficiently from renewable electricity instead of sunlight; design completely new types of batteries to make electric vehicles more affordable; and remove the carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants in a more cost-effective way.

Who’s Winning the Clean Energy Race? : Growth, Competition and Opportunity in the World’s Largest Economies

Pew Charitable Trusts - March 24, 2010 - 44 pages

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Global_warming/G-20%20Report.pdf

For the first time, China led the United States and other G-20 members in 2009 clean energy investments and finance, according to the data. China invested \$34.6 billion in the clean energy economy, nearly double the United States’ total of \$18.6 billion. Over the last five years, the United States also trailed five G-20 members, Turkey, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, and Italy, in the rate of clean energy investment growth.

Out of the Running? How Germany, Spain, and China Are Seizing the Energy Opportunity and Why the United States Risks Getting Left Behind

Center for American Progress – Report – March 2010 - 47 pages

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/out_of_running.pdf

“China, Germany, and Spain are early winners in the next great technological and industrial revolution. The United States, which has yet to fully embrace a truly sustainable growth strategy for the low-carbon future, is not.”

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

William R. Prindle

From Shop Floor to Top Floor: Best Business Practices in Energy Efficiency

Pew Center on Global Climate Change - April 2010 - 176 pages.

http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/PEW_EnergyEfficiency_FullReport.pdf

In the last decade, rising and volatile energy prices coupled with increasing concern about climate change and growing support for action on energy and environmental issues has driven a surge of corporate environmental commitments. Energy efficiency has emerged as a key component of these commitments. Leading firms that give greater attention to energy efficiency report billions of dollars in savings and millions of tons of avoided greenhouse gas emissions according to the report.

Increasing America’s Energy Efficiency: A Key Pillar for Securing America’s Energy Future

U.S. Chamber of Commerce - April 2010 - 24 pages

<http://www.energyxxi.org/images/efficiencypaperfinal.pdf>

The report argues that while targeted tax incentives can play a role in fostering deployment of clean energy, there are other instruments that may prove to be more impactful and less expensive over time.

HomeStar: Job Creation Through Home Energy Retrofits

House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment - Hearing - March 18, 2010

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1928:homestar-job-creation-through-home-energy-retrofits&catid=130:subcommittee-on-energy-and-the-environment&Itemid=71

This hearing examined proposed legislation to incentivize home energy retrofits and increase employment in the construction and related sectors. Witnesses:

- * Cathy Zoi, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy
- * Larry Laseter, President, Masco Home Services
- * John Engler, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Manufacturers
- * Michael Thaman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Owens Corning
- * Christopher A.S. Pratt, Vice President, Construction and Development Services, LLC

Top 25 Cities with the Most Energy Star Labeled Buildings in 2009

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - March 23, 2010 - 1 page

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2009_Top_25_cities_chart.pdf

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) releases a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings that earned EPA’s Energy Star in 2009. The list is headed by Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, Houston, Lakeland, Dallas-Fort Worth, Atlanta and New York. Energy efficiency saves building owners money and fights climate change.

Dora L. Costa and Matthew E. Kahn

Energy Conservation “Nudges” and Environmentalist Ideology: Evidence from a Randomized Residential Electricity Field Experiment

National Bureau of Economic Research - April 26, 2010 - 34 pages

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w15939.pdf>

“Nudges” are being widely promoted to encourage energy conservation. The report shows that while the electricity conservation “nudge” of providing feedback to households on own and peers’ home electricity usage works with liberals, it can backfire with conservatives. It predicts that a Democratic household that pays for electricity from renewable sources, that donates to environmental groups, and that lives in a liberal neighborhood reduces its consumption by 3 percent in response to this nudge. A Republican household, that does not pay for electricity from renewable sources and does not donate to environmental groups, increases its consumption by 1 percent.

OIL AND GAS

Clean Energy Policies That Reduce Our Dependence on Oil

Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment - Hearing - April 28, 2010

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1976:clean-energy-policies-that-reduce-our-dependence-on-oil&catid=130:subcommittee-on-energy-and-the-environment&Itemid=71

The hearing examined the impact of oil dependence on our economy and national security, and how recent Environmental Protection Agency regulation and future policies can reduce that dependence.

Offshore Oil and Gas Development

U.S. Government Accountability Office - Web posted April 7, 2010 - 40 pages

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10276.pdf>

Interest has re-emerged in developing oil and gas in the nation’s offshore areas, such as the North Aleutian Basin. Located on the outer continental shelf (OCS) where the Aleutian Islands meet the Alaskan mainland around Bristol Bay, the basin may contain sizable oil and gas deposits, although the area’s environmental and cultural sensitivity has made oil and gas development in the area controversial. GAO examines issues related to oil and gas development in the North Aleutian Basin.

A Natural Gas Revolution? Examining the Impact

Resources for the Future – Seminar - April 7, 2010

<http://www.rff.org/Events/Pages/A-Natural-Gas-Revolution-Examining-the-Impact.aspx>

“Over the past few years, the outlook for domestic natural gas markets has shifted dramatically. A few years ago, most forecasts showed the United States growing increasingly dependent on imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Now, it seems likely that North America will grow increasingly self-sufficient in natural gas, even if new climate policy initiatives substantially increase U.S. natural gas use.”

Marc D. Weidenmier

Hedging Against Peak Oil Shocks

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research - March 31, 2010 - 45 pages

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/hedgingagainstpeakoilshocks.pdf>

The author says that oil shocks have different effects on energy and non-energy producing states.

Rising Oil Prices: A Potential Threat to Economic Recovery and Energy-Efficiency Policies

Joint Economic Committee - April 21 2010 - 4 pages

http://jec.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=90968ba2-bad4-47d4-acfb-c9c7a16d342d

The report shows that the United States, which has made little progress towards reducing its dependence on oil for transportation, remains vulnerable to oil price spikes. The share of U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) going to oil expenditures has more than doubled from 1.8 percent in 1993 to 3.8 percent today and is close to the 4 percent level – a level often associated with recessions. The reliance on oil to meet the country’s transportation needs also harms the environment: the transportation sector has been the largest producer of carbon dioxide since 1999, producing almost one-third of total CO2 emissions in the United States.

Susan Lyon, Rebecca Lefton, Daniel J. Weiss

Quenching Our Thirst for Oil - Growing Global Oil Demand Harms U.S. Security and Economy

Center for American Progress - Article - | April 23, 2010

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/oil_quench.html

"Worldwide oil demand growth will cause economic harm to Americans if left unaddressed. Growing foreign demand combined with U.S. demand will produce rising oil prices—something we’re already beginning to see with oil prices recently hitting an 18-month high of \$87 per barrel in April 2010."

Joel Bluestein and Jessica Rackley

Coverage of Petroleum Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions under Climate Policy

Pew Center on Global Climate Change - April 2010 - 24 pages

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/coverage-petroleum-sector-emissions.pdf>

The petroleum sector, which includes the production, import, processing, transportation, and distribution of crude oil and refined products such as gasoline, heating oil, diesel, propane, and jet fuel, is a significant source of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The paper provides an overview of the petroleum sector, identifying the key entities and associated facilities in the petroleum supply chain. There is also information on GHG emissions from the petroleum sector, a summary of which emission sources are currently subject to a fuel tax and which are not, and an evaluation of the implications of adopting an alternative point of regulation for GHG emissions from petroleum.

VEHICLE FUELS

W. Ross Morrow, Henry Lee, Kelly Sims Gallagher, Gustavo Collantes

Reducing the U.S. Transportation Sector's Oil Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School - Policy Brief - March 2010

http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/19973/reducing_the_us_transportation_sectors_oil_consumption_and_greenhouse_gas_emissions.html

“To meet the Obama Administration's targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, Americans may have to experience a sobering reality: gas at \$7 a gallon, according to researchers. To reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the transportation sector 14 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 -- the target set in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget for fiscal 2010 -- the cost of driving would simply have to increase. In their study, the researchers devised several combinations of steps that policymakers might take in trying to address the heat-trapping emissions by the nation's transportation sector, which consumes 70 percent of the oil used in the United States.”

Vehicle Fuel Economy: NHTSA and EPA's Partnership for Setting Fuel Economy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards Improved Analysis and Should Be Maintained

GAO - February 25, 2010 - 64 pages

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-10-336>

In May 2009, the U.S. administration announced plans to increase the Department of Transportation's (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards and establish the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for vehicles. NHTSA redesigned CAFE standards for light trucks for model years 2008 through 2011, and some experts raised questions about the rigor of the computer modeling NHTSA used to develop these standards. GAO was asked to review (1) the design of NHTSA and EPA's proposed standards; (2) how they are collaborating to set these standards; (3) improvements compared to a previous rulemaking, if any, NHTSA made to the modeling; and (4) the extent to which NHTSA analyzed the effects of past light truck standards and the accuracy of data used to set them.

Technologies and Approaches to Reducing the Fuel Consumption of Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles

National Research Council and Transportation Research Board - March 31, 2010

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12845

The study evaluates various technologies and methods that could improve the fuel economy of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, such as tractor-trailers, transit buses, and work trucks. The book also recommends approaches that federal agencies could use to regulate these vehicles' fuel consumption. Currently there are no fuel consumption standards for such vehicles, which account for about 26 percent of the transportation fuel used in the U.S.

COAL

The Role of Coal in a New Energy Age

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming – Hearing - April 14, 2010

http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs?id=0017#main_content

For the first time in recent memory, the CEOs of America's top two coal mining companies, and a leading international company, came to Capitol Hill to answer questions on their positions on climate change, clean energy policy, and the challenges that face their industry. "Just as our national energy policy is at a crossroads, so, too, is the coal industry," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, who chairs the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, the committee that hosted the CEOs. "Whether it's climate science, the viability of 'clean coal,' or safety concerns, I believe Congress requires answers from the coal industry on their ability to be a part of our clean energy future."

Carbon Capture and Sequestration Legislation, Including S. 1856, S.1134, and Other Draft Legislative Text

Senate Energy Committee - Hearing - April 20, 2010

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=f7492203-de28-8890-5335-601db031dfed

"I would like to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Fossil Energy's Clean Coal Research Program and how our Research, Development and Demonstration Program is directly relevant to the legislation being discussed at this hearing."

Gudong Sun

Coal in China: Resources, Uses and Advanced Coal Technologies

Pew Center on Global Climate Change - March 2010 - 31 pages

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/coal-in-china-resources-uses-technologies.pdf>

China's energy-development pathway has increasingly become a topic of international attention, particularly as China has become the largest national source of annual greenhouse gas emissions. At the forefront of this pathway is a reliance on coal that has spanned many decades. In a world faced with increasing environmental pressures, China must develop ways to utilize coal more efficiently and more cleanly. Its ability to do so will be crucial for its domestic energy security, for its local environment and the well-being of its population, and for the future of the global climate.

Coal Mining: Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities

Bureau of Labor Statistics - April 2010 - 9 pages

<http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/osar0012.pdf>

Coal mining is a relatively dangerous industry. Employees in coal mining are more likely to be killed or to incur a non-fatal injury or illness, and their injuries are more likely to be severe than workers in private industry as a whole, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NUCLEAR

CFR's Nuclear Energy Guide

Council on Foreign Relations - Guide - Webposted April 2010

http://www.cfr.org/publication/21447/nuclear_energy_guide.html

This interactive guide explores the past, present, and future of nuclear power, focusing on its unique benefits and risk.

H. Sterling Burnett

Nuclear Power Development: Removing Roadblocks

National Center for Policy Analysis - Brief Analysis - March 29, 2010

<http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba700.pdf>

"The disposal of used nuclear fuel rods remains a roadblock to expansion of U.S. nuclear power capacity. Reprocessing used fuel rods would dramatically reduce the amount of waste requiring long-term storage. It would also dramatically increase domestic energy supplies. With or without recycling, sites like WIPP offer a safe, ready solution."

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Tony Dutzik et al.

Building a Solar Future: Repowering America's Homes, Businesses And Industry with Solar Energy

Environment America - March 9, 2010 - 65 pages

<http://www.environmentamerica.org/uploads/37/06/370684e48c4a60d6c25763175070f0ae/Building-a-Solar-Future.pdf>

America has virtually limitless potential to tap the energy of the sun. Solar energy is clean, safe, proven and available everywhere, and the price of many solar energy technologies is declining rapidly. By adopting solar energy on a broad scale, the nation can address our biggest energy challenges, according to the authors.

Scaling Up Solar: How Far Can We Go?

The Brookings Institution - Event - April 28, 2010 - 118 pages

http://www.brookings.edu/events/2010/0428_solar.aspx

The “green” technology boom is being heralded as the next technological revolution, able to lower greenhouse gas emissions, promote economic growth and create millions of new jobs. A number of new policies are being adopted at both the national and local levels to foster the growth and adoption of the new green technologies—including production tax credits for solar, wind and geothermal; renewable portfolio standards; and feed-in tariffs, to name a few. Solar energy has benefitted from increased private investment and public subsidies in recent years but seems to remain ever on the edge of breakthrough.

U.S. Geothermal Power Production and Development

Geothermal Energy Association - Update: April 2010 – 33 pages

http://www.geo-energy.org/pdf/reports/April_2010_US_Geothermal_Industry_Update_Final.pdf

“The United States currently leads the world’s countries in online geothermal energy capacity and continues to be one of the principal countries to increase its geothermal growth. In 2007 geothermal energy accounted for 4% of renewable energy-based electricity consumption in the United States. As of April 2010, geothermal electric power generation is occurring in nine U.S. states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. Other states, such as Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas are soon to be added to the list. The United States has a total installed capacity of 3086.6 MW.”

100% Renewable Energy – and Beyond – for Cities

World Future Council - March 2010 - 29 pages

http://worldfuturecouncil.org/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/100_renewable_energy_for_citys-for_web.pdf

What does '100 percent renewable' really mean, and what does 'and beyond' signify? The paper provides strategies for cities to become 100% powered by renewable energy.

China, Norway and Offshore Wind Development

World Wildlife Fund - March 29, 2010 - 72 pages

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/china_norway_offshore_wind_final_wwf_march_2010.pdf

The report outlines the status of offshore wind power development in China and looks at how the Norwegian offshore industry can contribute to speed it up.

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS

Colombia

Energy Information Administration - March 23, 2010 - 8 pages

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Colombia/pdf.pdf>

Colombia has seen an increase in oil production in recent years following a period of steady decline. The Colombian government has enacted a series of regulatory reforms to make the sector more attractive to foreign investors. In addition, it has implemented a partial privatization of state oil company Ecopetrol in an attempt to revive its upstream oil industry. The security situation in the country has also improved, with few attacks against oil and natural gas infrastructure in recent years.

South Africa

Energy Information Administration - March 2010 - 8 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/South_Africa/pdf.pdf

South Africa's energy sector is critical to the economy as the country relies heavily on its large-scale, energy-intensive mining industry. South Africa has only small deposits of oil and natural gas and uses its large coal deposits for most of its energy needs. As a result, carbon emission and intensity levels for South Africa are relatively high. The country also has a highly developed synthetic fuels industry, producing gasoline and diesel fuels from coal and natural gas.

Yemen

Energy Information Administration - March 2010 - 6 pages
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Yemen/pdf.pdf>

Yemen's location on the Bab al Mandab, one of the world's most strategic shipping lanes through which an estimated 3.7 million barrels of oil pass daily, makes Yemen important to the global oil trade. Disruption to shipping in the Bab el-Mandab could prevent tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden from reaching the Suez Canal/Sumed pipeline complex, requiring a costly diversion around the southern tip of Africa to reach western markets.

MISCELLANEOUS

Patrick Canning et al.

Energy Use in the U.S. Food System

U.S. Department of Agriculture - March 10, 2010 - 39 pages
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR94/ERR94.pdf>

Energy is an important input in growing, processing, packaging, distributing, storing, preparing, serving, and disposing of food. Analysis using the two most recent U.S. benchmark input-output accounts and a national energy data system shows that in the United States, use of energy along the food chain for food purchases by or for U.S. households increased between 1997 and 2002 at more than six times the rate of increase in total domestic energy use. This increase in food-related energy flows is over 80 percent of energy flow increases nationwide over the period.

The Smart Grid and Privacy

Electronic Privacy Information Center -
<http://epic.org/privacy/smartgrid/smartgrid.html>

"The move from an Internet of people to the "Internet of things" means that many appliances would come with unique Internet protocol addresses and wireless communication applications. How these devices might be used to collect information on their use, and who would have access to that information, and for what purpose is still unknown. The key to privacy protection is to have the user maintain control over the collection, use, reuse, and sharing of personal information including their use of electricity."

The Need for Energy Storage

California Energy Storage Alliance
<http://www.storagealliance.org/whystorage.html>

CESA is currently developing our "Storage Vision for California". This will be our perspective on energy storage in California in 2020: how much storage will be optimal given California's energy goals, where it will be located, what benefits it will provide, and what it will cost.

Smita Nakhooda and Athena R. Ballesteros

Investing in Sustainable Energy Futures: Multilateral Development Banks' Investments in Energy Policy

World Resources Institute - April 2010 - 50 pages

http://pdf.wri.org/investing_in_sustainable_energy_futures.pdf

This report reviews loans provided by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to developing countries for electricity policy from 2006–2008. It examines those policies, regulations, and institutional capacities in the electricity sector that will direct both public and private investment in sustainable energy options.