



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



Energy.data.gov is a new open government initiative to increase awareness of and deepen insights into our Nation's energy performance. Energy.data.gov brings together high-value datasets, tools, and applications to shed new light on energy use. These 330 free datasets and tools have been gathered from agencies across the Federal government with the goal of empowering all Americans to understand energy issues, including energy consumption within the Federal government.

<http://www.data.gov/energy>

Department of Energy Announces up to \$70 Million to Advance Technology and Reduce Cost of Geothermal Energy

U.S. Department of Energy

June 8, 2011

In support of President Obama's goal of generating 80 % of the country's electricity from clean energy sources by 2035, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the availability of up to \$70 million in new funding over three years for technology advancements in geothermal energy to accelerate development of this promising clean energy resource. Innovations in exploration technologies to locate geothermal energy resources and improvements in resource characterization, drilling, and reservoir engineering techniques will enable clean energy from geothermal sources to be a key contributor to the nation's renewable energy supply. By targeting funding to research and develop these innovative technologies, the Department aims to reduce the upfront cost of geothermal energy systems, expand their use, and enable the United States to tap the huge potential of this renewable energy resource.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=542

Advancing U.S.-Central American Energy Cooperation

U.S. Department of State

June 20, 2011

At the third Central American Renewable Energy Forum (CAREF) in New York City, New York, the U.S. Government announced progress on existing programs and new initiatives between the United States, Brazil, and Colombia, with Central American governments, in collaboration with the Organization of American States, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and World Bank, as part of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) and U.S.-Brazil Biofuels Cooperation.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2011/06/166540.htm>

Climate Change: Improvements Needed to Clarify National Priorities and Better Align Them with Federal Funding Decisions

U.S. Government Accountability Office

May 20, 2011

Climate change poses risks to many environmental and economic systems, including agriculture, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Federal law has periodically required the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to report on federal climate change funding. GAO was asked to examine (1) federal funding for climate change activities and how these activities are organized; (2) the extent to which methods for defining and reporting climate change funding are interpreted consistently across the federal government; (3) federal climate change strategic priorities, and the extent to which funding is aligned with these priorities; and (4) what options, if any, are available to better align federal climate change funding with strategic priorities. GAO analyzed OMB funding reports and responses to a Web-based questionnaire sent to federal officials, reviewed available literature, and interviewed stakeholders.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-317>

DOE Announces Energy-Saving Project at U.S. Forest Service Sites Leveraging Nearly \$2.5 Million in Private Investment

U.S. Department of Energy

June 22, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) project at more than 50 U.S. Forest Service sites. The project, awarded by the U.S. Forest Service to Honeywell International, will use avoided energy costs to leverage private-sector investment to help improve the energy efficiency of facilities in the Forest Service's Northern Region, which encompasses 25 million acres in 5 states. Administered by DOE, the Forest Service contracted with Honeywell to install energy-saving measures at sites in Montana and Idaho that will reduce annual energy consumption by 16 percent. The project will leverage almost \$2.5 million in private investment to install energy efficient and renewable energy technologies and will support the equivalent of 27 jobs for a year. The resulting improvements will save the Forest Service over \$267,000 in energy costs in the first year and approximately 14 billion British thermal units (Btu) per year—enough to power 147 homes annually.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=559

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Future of Low Carbon Growth

Center for Strategic & International Studies

June 15, 2011

In the wake of the economic crisis, the conversation about global cooperation to deal with climate change has shifted almost entirely to a discussion about the competitive economic advantage to be gained from leading in so-called clean energy technologies. What started among low carbon advocates as a shift in rhetoric and emphasis to reflect the prevailing global economic anxiety has now come to represent an important structural change in the movement toward low carbon energy.

http://csis.org/files/publication/110610_Ladislaw_GlobalForecast2011.pdf



Adapting for a Green Economy: Companies, Communities and Climate Change

World Resources Institute
June 2011

This report is a resource for companies with a national, regional or global reach that are interested in increasing their strategic focus on adaptation in developing countries where they have operations, supply chains, employees and current or potential customers.

http://pdf.wri.org/adapting_for_a_green_economy.pdf

International Climate Assistance

Pew Center on Global Climate Change
June 2011

The United States and other developed countries provide assistance to developing countries to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by protecting forests and deploying clean technologies, and to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. In FY 2010, Congress appropriated \$1.3 billion to support these bilateral and multilateral efforts (see “recent appropriations history” below). Maintaining or increasing this support in FY 2012 will provide critical assistance in the developing world while advancing U.S. security, economic and diplomatic interests.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/pew-center-brief-international-climate-assistance.pdf>

Snapshot: Saving Oceans — and the Planet

U.S. Department of State
June 2011

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2011/06/20110606132801nerual0.3234217.html?dlistid=ucs#axzz1OaGhfCej>

Good News, Bad News About Oceans

U.S. Department of State
June 2011

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2011/06/20110606104701enaj0.4732935.html?dlistid=ucs#axzz1OaGhfCej>

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