

Update

A monthly E-newsletter from Montana Green Power

The Montana Green Power E-newsletter is a monthly feature of the Montana Green Power website: www.montanagreenpower.com. Visit the website for details about all the stories below, plus lots of other green power news. The site is funded with Universal System Benefits charges paid by all NorthWestern Energy customers.

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"If we get the right kind of energy, there are endless amounts. I think we should be developing every kind of alternative fuel that is available to us. That includes hydrogen to soybeans, from solar to wind. Whatever we can find that is going to help us clean up the environment we should be working really hard on developing." — Actor Morgan Freeman

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Governor Schweitzer and Montana Ambassadors Bringing T. Boone Pickens to Montana



Governor Brian Schweitzer, in partnership with the Montana Ambassadors, has arranged for T. Boone Pickens to speak at the Ambassadors annual conference on February 27 at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena.

Pickens has received national and international attention for his campaign to reduce the United States' foreign oil dependence by at least 30% within ten years by developing domestic energy resources. In September, Governor Schweitzer signed the Pickens Pledge and reaffirmed Montana's commitment to developing our abundant energy resources, saying: "We must end our dependency on petro-dictators. We need American energy,

produced by American workers, made right here at home.”

Montana is particularly well-suited to Pickens' pledge being one of the nation's top ranking in wind power potential, oil and gas reserves and Governor Schweitzer's strong support for new energy development. “Governor Schweitzer is a national leader in energy, I am honored to have him joining me in the fight to make energy independence the top priority of the next administration,” said Pickens.

The Montana Ambassadors are a diverse group of private and public sector representatives charged with assisting the Governor in recruiting new businesses to Montana. Chapters are currently established in Seattle, Denver and San Francisco with plans to expand to additional cities in the West and Midwest.

Additional information about registration and fees is available on-line at:

www.montanaambassadors.com. More detailed information on the Pickens Pledge is also available at www.pickensplan.com.

Wind Turbine Plant Still Slated for Butte

Plans to construct a wind turbine plant in Butte are progressing, according to the Chafin/Fuhrlander partnership, which owns the wind turbine company. According to a recent report in *The Montana Standard*, the company's business plan and feasibility study are nearly complete. The \$25 million plant was expected to start construction last fall in Butte's industrial park but was delayed by a new plant opening in Germany. The plant is expected to create about 150 jobs, and an additional 600 jobs if the plant expands in the future to manufacture 150-foot blades for wind turbines. Read the full article at

www.mtstandard.com/articles/2009/01/18/area/hjjaiibjjejie.txt.

Home Energy Rater Training Scheduled for April

Interested in becoming a certified HERS Rater? Then don't miss the National Center for Appropriate Technology's (NCAT) Home Energy Trainer Workshop in Butte on April 13-17. This workshop is a comprehensive energy auditor training with an emphasis on new residential construction and the HERS rating process. This workshop will incorporate information about how the ENERGY STAR New Homes program is operated both nationally and in the four northwest states. The training is intended to prepare the participant to take the tests necessary to become a certified HERS Rater, an ENERGY STAR Homes Northwest Energy Star Verifier, and an Energy Star Homes Northwest Performance Tester. The National Rater Exam will be administered on the final day of the workshop. The training is the first step to becoming qualified to provide certification for the Federal Tax Credit for energy efficient new homes. NCAT is a RESNET-accredited HERS Rater Training Provider. For more information, visit

www.montanagreenpower.com/energy/docs/HERS_Training0409.pdf

U.S. Leads in Wind Installations

Global wind energy capacity grew by 28.8% last year, reaching total global installations of more than 120.8 gigawatts at the end of 2008. According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), more than 27 gigawatts of new wind power generation capacity came online in 2008, an increase of 36% over 2007. The global wind market for turbine installations in 2008 was worth about \$47.5 billion.

The leading markets in terms of new installed capacity in 2008 were the U.S. and China. New U.S. wind energy installations totaled 8,358 megawatts for a total installed capacity of 25,170 megawatts. The U.S. has now officially overtaken Germany (23,902 megawatts) as number one in wind power.



The massive growth in the U.S. wind market in 2008 increased the nation's total wind power generating capacity by 50%. The new wind projects completed in 2008 account for about 42% of the entire new power-producing capacity added in the U.S. last year, and created 35,000 new jobs, for a total of 85,000 employed in the sector in the U.S. Read the full AWEA press release at www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/us_and_china_race_to_top_of_wind_energy_02Fed09.html.

U.S. Petroleum Demand Shrinks to Lowest Level Since 2003



Total U.S. petroleum demand shrank to its lowest levels since 2003 due to the combined effects of higher prices early in the year and a weakening economy as the year progressed, according to API's *Monthly Statistical Report*, which reflects data from December as well as full-year 2008.

For the year, U.S. petroleum deliveries, a measure for demand, fell 6 percent – the most rapid rate decline since 1980 – to 19.4 million barrels per day, with declines observed for all major products. Gasoline deliveries dropped 3.3 percent to their lowest levels in five years. Deliveries of distillate fuel oil, which includes diesel fuel, fell 5.8 percent, while jet fuel deliveries slid 6.1 percent. Residual fuel oil deliveries dropped more than 14 percent.

"All told, the magnitude of the drop in U.S. petroleum demand, which totaled more than 1.2 million barrels per day, was enough to offset the continued demand gains in developing countries around the world," said API statistics manager Ron Planting. Read the full news release at www.api.org/Newsroom/us_oil_demand_dec08.cfm.

President Obama Issues Orders on Fuel Economy and GHG Regulations

President Barack Obama issued a pair of memoranda on January 26 to address the fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions of our nation's automobiles. The president directed the secretary of transportation to publish higher fuel economy standards for the model year 2011 cars and light trucks by the end of March and to reevaluate the proposed standards for future model years. Automakers will generally begin selling model year 2011 vehicles in the fall of 2010. President Obama also directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revisit a California waiver request that would allow that state to implement its own greenhouse gas (GHG) emission rules for vehicles. The federal Clean Air Act only allows California to set emission standards that deviate from federal rules, and any California standards require a waiver from the EPA. But once California enacts its own standards, the act allows other states to adopt the rules set in California. So even though the waiver request applies specifically to California, more than a dozen other states intend to implement the California GHG rules for vehicles if the waiver is granted.

"It will be the policy of my administration to reverse our dependence on foreign oil, while building a new energy economy that will create millions of jobs," said President Obama. "We hold no illusion about the task that lies ahead. I cannot promise a quick fix; no single technology or set of regulations will get the job done. But we will commit ourselves to steady, focused, pragmatic pursuit of an America that is free from our energy dependence and empowered by a new energy economy that puts millions of our citizens to work."

Regarding the new memoranda, President Obama noted that "our goal is not to further burden an already struggling industry," but rather "to help America's automakers prepare for the future." The president also touted the promise of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan that is now working its way through Congress. According to President Obama, the plan will double the U.S. capacity to generate renewable energy over the next three years and "will lay down 3,000 miles of transmission lines to deliver this energy to every corner of our country." The plan will also invest in energy efficiency, making 75% of federal buildings more energy efficient while weatherizing the homes of two million families. See the president's announcement at

www.whitehouse.gov/blog_post/Fromperiltoprogress/, the memoranda on fuel economy standards at www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential_Memorandum_fuel_economy/, and California GHG regulations at www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential_Memorandum_EPA_Waiver/.

President Obama Calls for Increase in Green Energy

President Barack Obama was sworn into office January 20, and his inaugural address called for the expanded use of renewable energy to meet the twin challenges of energy security and climate change. Noting that "each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet," President Obama looked to the near future, saying that as a nation, the United States will "harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories." Those were the first references ever to our nation's energy use, to renewable resources, and to climate change in an inauguration speech of a U.S. president. President Obama later circled back to the subject of climate change, proclaiming that "with old friends and former foes, we will work tirelessly to ... roll back the specter of a warming planet."

As the president was being sworn in, the newly revised White House website went live, and it prominently features President Obama's agenda for energy and the environment. The president's "New Energy for America " plan calls for a federal investment of \$150 billion over the next decade to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future. Specifically, the plan calls for renewable energy to supply 10% of the nation's electricity by 2012, rising to 25% by 2025. The plan also calls for deploying energy efficiency, including the weatherization of one million homes each year. It also calls for an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to achieve an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. And to help meet that goal, the plan sets a target of placing one million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015, along with a national standard to reduce the carbon emissions from our motor fuels. To help meet the plug-in hybrid goal, the plan calls for a new \$7,000 tax credit for those who purchase advanced vehicles. See the president's New Energy for America plan on the White House website at www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/energy_and_environment/.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Deployment in Indian Country

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is soliciting applications for the development or construction of renewable energy projects or the implementation of energy efficiency improvements in Indian Country. This effort is being undertaken under the provisions of Title V of the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) of 2005.

Under this announcement, DOE is soliciting applications from Indian Tribes, Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations or Tribal Consortiums for installation of efficiency improvements to existing Tribally-owned buildings, including: energy efficiency improvements; and/or renewable energy system installations for building heating or cooling; or development of renewable energy projects; or construction of renewable energy projects for power production.

Successful applications under building energy efficiency improvements must demonstrate the potential for a 30 percent reduction in energy usage and applications proposing the use of renewable energy systems for building heating and cooling must meet at least 30 percent of the building heating or cooling load. Applications for the development or construction of renewable energy projects less than 1 MW at the point of interconnection will not be considered.

Up to \$6 million is expected to be available, with up to 12 awards anticipated. Deadline for responses is April 1, 2009. See the full funding opportunity at <https://e->

center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/UNID/BD6B9E13038A34358525754B007FE312?OpenDocument.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q: Can I still get a tax credit for buying a hybrid vehicle?

A: Individuals and businesses that buy a new hybrid car or truck can get an income tax credit of \$250-\$3,400. If a tax-exempt organization buys such a vehicle, the retailer may take the credit.

What vehicles qualify? Hybrid vehicles that use less gasoline than the average vehicle of similar weight and that meet an emissions standard. "Lean-burn" diesel vehicles also qualify, but only a few diesel vehicles meet the emissions standard. There is a similar credit for plug-in hybrid or pure electric vehicles (which you can power by plugging them into a wall socket), alternative-fuel vehicles and fuel-cell vehicles, but these are not widely available. The vehicle must be in the United States.

How much is the credit? The tax credit amount could range from \$250 to \$3,400 depending on the fuel economy and the weight. If you buy more than one eligible vehicle, you can get a tax credit for each vehicle.



Saturn Vue Hybrid. Source: Saturn

See the list of qualifying hybrid vehicles and credit amounts on the Alliance to Save Energy website at www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2654#hybrid_vehicle.

CASE STUDY OF THE MONTH

The Camelina Company

Manufacturing and Marketing Biodiesel Produced From Camelina

Great Plains – The Camelina Company is in its third year of contracting for camelina acres in Montana, Wyoming and Washington State.

The Camelina Company's 2009 prices are \$10.50/bushel – 21 cents a pound if a bushel averages 50 pounds – for the first 200,000 pounds and 20 cents a pound thereafter. Farmers delivering camelina pay the freight for the first 60 miles from the farm gate to the delivery point, with the Company picking up the balance of shipping cost beyond that radius. The Camelina Company has delivery points in Jordan, Ledger, Harlowton and Culbertson.

The Company provides its contract growers with a production manual that outlines just about everything one needs to know to raise, harvest and properly store a camelina crop. But Alan Brownell, a Valier-area farmer and Montana agricultural sales director for the Company, is ready to share his insights. "So far, alfalfa growers seem to have the best luck raising camelina on the first try," Brownell said in a recent interview. "If you're a successful alfalfa producer, camelina won't be a hard crop to raise."

Many others are learning how to effectively raise camelina from their own experience and that of others. "The best way to get good stand establishment is to drill it in with close row spacing. However, if your ground is rough and uneven, broadcast seeding and rolling are probably a little better," Brownell said.

Brownell recommended fall burn-down of weeds, or very early spring spraying before seeding. Camelina can be seeded in late fall into mid March, but crop yields drop if one plants much past mid March in a "typical" Montana growing season, which 2008 definitely was not.

The Camelina Company produces and sells oil that is currently made into biodiesel -- to this point that's over 10 million road miles of biodiesel. The Company is paying about 50% more for camelina in 2009 than it did in 2007, so adding camelina to extended crop rotation may be more attractive to still more growers this next season.

For more details on working with the Camelina Company, contact Alan Brownell at: PO Box 561, Valier, MT; toll-free phone: 877-922-6645, cell: 406-949-8488, e-mail: abrownell@CamelinaCompany.com