

CLIMATE WISE NEWS
January 2002

This newsletter is distributed as a service of the Seattle and Northwest Region's Climate Wise partnership program. Please direct any questions or comments to:

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For further information you may also visit the Climate Wise Partners homepage:
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserve/business/climatewise/>

Other useful sites:

Seattle City Light's Global Warming homepage:

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserve/GlobalWarming/>

Seattle City Light's Energy Smart Services homepage:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/conserve/business/>

EVENTS

ICLEI'S CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION -- U. S.
NINTH NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP
Seattle, Washington
February 6 - 9 , 2002

ICLEI is the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. As an ICLEI member and participant in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, the City of Seattle is happy to co-sponsor and host this year's national training workshop at the Renaissance Madison Hotel in downtown Seattle. Co-sponsors include King County, the City of Olympia, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

The workshop provides a forum for proactive dialog and information exchange on climate protection issues for government, non-government and private sector participants.

Seattle City Light welcomes all Climate Wise program partners, allies and interested parties to actively participate in this year's workshop.

A letter of invitation, registration form and program agenda are attached.

FREE WORKSHOP:

SAVE MONEY AND REDUCE RISKS THROUGH ENERGY, WATER, AND WASTE REDUCTION

Information for manufacturing, processing, service, and other small- and medium-sized businesses – and those who work with them.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 6, 2002 – 8:30 - 11:00am

WHERE: Renton Technical College, Room H102
3000 NE Fourth Street, Renton, WA
Recommended parking lot: P2
Driving directions and campus map at
<http://www.renton-tc.ctc.edu/visitors/map.htm>

*RSVP by January 30 to Cathy Buller
Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)
206-352-2050, or cbuller@pprc.org*

ENERGY STAR PRESENTATIONS

The US Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star[®] invites you to participate in one or more presentations delivered via conference call and the Internet. You can view the slide presentation and participate individually using your own computer and office phone, or gather interested colleagues together around one phone and computer. During the presentation, you can discuss your questions with energy and financing expert consultants. There is no cost for your participation.

To view a calendar through January or to register visit
<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/estar/business.nsf/content/govt_resources_IP.htm>.
Once you register, your confirmation information will appear on the screen. Please wait for this screen to appear and print it out, as it will be needed to access the presentations. If you have any problems registering, please email
payne.melissa@epa.gov.

Below are descriptions of all the Internet presentations offered by Energy Star.

Money for Your Energy Upgrades

This one-hour presentation focuses on financing energy upgrades despite tight capital budgets. Topics include (1) cost savings from energy upgrades; (2) the costs of delaying such upgrades; (3) traditional and non-traditional financing methods; and (4) the financing scheme most appropriate for your institution. Target audience: financial decision makers/facility managers in state and local governments, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities.

The Five-Stage Approach to Building Upgrades

This 45-minute presentation covers the major steps in implementing energy upgrades in buildings: (1) planning, benchmarking, and developing an energy usage baseline; (2) the five-stage integrated approach to upgrades; and (3) communicating success. The Five-Stage Approach focuses on lighting, building tune-

ups, load reductions, distribution systems, and heating and cooling systems. Target audience: facility managers in K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and state and local governments.

One-2-Five^â Energy Management Diagnostic

This 45-minute presentation focuses on a CD-based software tool that helps senior managers assess their energy management practices in key organizational areas. These include purchasing, capital finance, resources, maintenance practices, and equipment operations. Through simple yes/no questions, the tool helps managers (1) identify energy management opportunities in their organizations; (2) assign priorities; (3) define an action plan; and (4) measure progress toward sustainable reductions in energy operating costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Target audience: facility managers and executive decision makers in state and local governments, K-12 schools, colleges, and universities.

Benchmarking Tool/Portfolio Manager

Portfolio Manager is a 45-minute presentation on a Web-based software that allows users to calculate the energy efficiency of their office or K-12 building from a national perspective. Participants view some of the key screens users encounter and learn how to enter data either through the Web or a downloadable template. Buildings that are among the top 25 percent nationwide in terms of energy performance and maintain an indoor environment that conforms to industry standards can qualify to receive the Energy Star label. Target audience: office building owners, facility and energy managers, and K-12 school officials.

Cost Savings through Energy Star Purchasing

Purchasing products with the Energy Star label can substantially reduce your organization's energy use and costs. Cost Savings through Energy Star Purchasing is a 30-minute presentation on the broad range of products carrying the Energy Star label. This presentation describes (1) the support EPA provides to aid purchasing of products with superior energy performance; (2) guidelines that define energy performance for numerous products; (3) drop-in procurement language for stipulating energy performance attributes to vendors; (4) lists of energy-efficient products; and (5) energy savings software that calculates the life cycle costs of Energy Star labeled products and their less efficient counterparts. Target audience: purchasing officials, energy and sustainability officers, and budget/financial officials.

Monitor Power Management

This 30-minute presentation describes a new Energy Star program that is helping organizations realize the enormous potential energy savings available from proper power management of computers and monitors. The program includes educational outreach material and an innovative software tool that enables monitor power management from a central location. Typical energy savings for an organization of 1,000 computers are 380,000 kWh/year. The target audience is upper management, IT managers, facility/energy managers at large PC-intensive organizations such as government, colleges and universities, and large corporations.

NEWS

Leading U.S. Homebuilder Commits to Solar Electric Power Technology

AstroPower News Release

<http://prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/01-08-2002/0001644089&EDATE=>>.

BALLARD POWER GETS FORD CONTRACT FOR FUEL CELLS FOR NEW VEHICLE LINE

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Article

< http://seattlep-i.nwsourc.com/business/49161_ballard04.shtml>

SEATTLE GREEN POWER

Seattle City Light now offers *Seattle Green Power*, inviting voluntary customer payments to build and acquire a wider range of new renewable energy sources.

<<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/green/greenpower/>>

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT NET METERING PROGRAM

City Light customers who generate their own electricity from renewable sources of 25 kilowatts or less can connect to the City electrical system and receive billing credits for any excess power generated during the billing period.

<<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/solar/>>

BC HYDRO

BC Hydro recently issued an international request for proposals for 5.5 million tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions offsets. The company said its request is part of a voluntary reduction of 50 percent of its GHG emissions through 2010. Company officials said the commitment is part of the company's long-term plan for becoming the leading sustainable energy company in North America.

Additionally, BC Hydro is seeking proposals for GHG offset projects located anywhere in the world, including, but not limited to, landfill gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency, fuel switching, industrial process improvements and agricultural waste management. The company is looking to acquire the offsets between 2002 and 2020.

To start the project selection process, proponents must submit a brief proposal to BC Hydro by May 1. The company said it will only consider projects with a minimum size of 100,000 tons of GHG emissions credits over the period of the contract. BC Hydro said it expects to initiate negotiations for the most promising proposals by late 2002 or early 2003.

Contact: Tim Lesiuk, BC Hydro, phone 604-623-4254, e-mail tim.lesiuk@bchydro.com, website <<http://www.bchydro.com>>

CLIMATE PROTECTION BEGINS AT HOME

Seattle PI opinion column by former Seattle Mayor Paul Schell

< http://seattlep-i.nwsourc.com/opinion/51284_schellop.shtml>

TRANSPORTATION AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

From the Victoria Transportation Policy Institute (VTPI) –

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Encyclopedia
Chapter on: Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction Strategies

This chapter identifies and evaluates more than two-dozen strategies to reduce vehicle energy consumption and pollution emissions. These include Transportation Demand Management strategies that affect travel behavior, incentives for more efficient and less polluting vehicles, alternative fuels, methods to identify and scrap high-emitting vehicles, regulations, pricing and information programs. It discusses the energy consumption and emission impacts of congestion, and concludes that congestion reduction strategies by themselves should not be considered to save energy or reduce emissions. It discusses the rebound effect: the tendency of strategies that increase fuel efficiency to cause increased vehicle mileage, and the implications. It discusses ways to evaluate and compare these strategies and recommends best practices.

<<http://www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm59.htm> >

The Victoria Transport Policy Institute is an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative solutions to transportation problems.

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From EREN Network News –

FUTURE U.S. ENERGY USE DEPENDS ON EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLES

U.S. energy demand is expected to increase 32 percent from 2000 to 2020, according to DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA), but the forecast could change with faster or slower penetration of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. That conclusion is part of the EIA's Annual Outlook 2002, released in late December.

Energy efficiency is measured at the national level by "energy intensity," that is, the amount of energy used per dollar of gross domestic product (GDP). The EIA reference case -- often referred to as the "business as usual" case -- already projects a steady decline in energy intensity of 1.5 percent per year through 2020 due to energy efficiency technologies. But a more rapid development and market penetration of these technologies could lower the U.S. energy demand in 2020 by 6 percent compared to the EIA reference case.

The EIA report also examined the effect of extending the production tax credit to the end of 2006. The tax credit expired last month (see first story above). The report also assumed the tax credit eligibility would be expanded -- it currently applies only to wind power and biomass facilities that draw on dedicated energy crops, but the EIA assumed it would be expanded to include all biomass and landfill gas facilities. That change would boost the production of electricity from renewable energy by nearly 50 percent by 2020 -- increasing from the reference case projection of 15,000 megawatts to a total of about 22,000 megawatts. See the EIA press release at:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press187.html>

HONDA UNVEILS THE HYBRID CIVIC IN JAPAN

Honda Motor Company, Ltd. started selling the hybrid electric version of its popular Civic sedan last week in Japan. Unlike the hybrid electric Honda Insight, the Hybrid Civic has a traditional appearance nearly equal to the standard Civic, but Honda claims that it achieves a whopping 69.4 miles per gallon (29.5 kilometers per liter). It features a continuously variable transmission. U.S. buyers will have to wait until next year, but you can get a preview on the Honda Web site at: <http://world.honda.com/news/2001/4011213.html>

Those bored by the plain-Jane appearance of the Hybrid Civic might check out Honda's RD-X concept vehicle, scheduled to debut at Detroit's North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) next month. It's interesting that this concept sport utility vehicle incorporates a hybrid electric system (what Honda calls an "Integrated Motor Assist"), but for this vehicle, at least, Honda touts its acceleration benefit rather than its fuel savings. We'll be hearing plenty more from the NAIAS next month, but in the meantime, see the

Honda press release at:

<http://world.honda.com/news/2001/c011213_2.html>

But let's not forget that other company that sells hybrids: Toyota Motor Corporation announced last week that it is boosting its U.S. allotment of Prius shipments to 17,000 in 2002, up more than 40 percent from its original allotment of 12,000 cars per year. Toyota is increasing the number of Prius sedans available to meet growing demand in the United States. See the Toyota press release at: <<http://www.toyota.com/html/about/news/index.jsp#environment>>

GALLUP POLL SHOWS U.S. SUPPORT FOR EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLES

A poll released by the Gallup Organization shows a continuing support among the American public for energy efficiency standards and renewable energy sources. In polls conducted in May and again this month, a full 91 percent of Americans polled by the organization favored the development of "new sources of energy, such as solar, wind, and fuel cells."

The May poll also found that 85 percent of Americans supported mandates that future cars be more energy efficient. In the latest poll, the percentage dropped slightly, to 77 percent. Gallup attributed the drop to decreasing prices for gasoline.

Gallup says the maximum error in the poll is plus or minus 5 percentage points. See the Gallup press release at: <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr011127.asp>>

CANADIAN COMPANIES BUY GHG EMISSION CREDITS

A group of Canadian energy companies will purchase 3.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction credits through an innovative deal with the Greenhouse Emissions Management Consortium (GEMCo).

The emission reduction credits will be generated by Teletrips, a Canadian company that is overseeing telecommuting pilot projects in a number of U.S. cities. The eCommute program monitors telecommuters who log their "non-trips" to work whenever they work at home or from a satellite office. Their employers gain mobile-source emission reduction as a result.

"Interest in telecommuting has soared since the tragedies of

September 11," said Teletrips CEO and founder Scott Fleming. "If the employees involved spend some of their work time in front of a computer or on the phone, chances are telecommuting makes sense. And that's before you add in the sweetener of emission reduction credits, which is what we will provide."

GEMCo will retain the option to purchase credits between 2002 and 2012. Consortium members will be able to apply the credits to their own emissions allowances, and ultimately help Canada satisfy its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

In addition to GEMCo, Teletrips is also negotiating emission reduction credit sales to energy companies in the U.S. Proceeds from the credit sales will be churned back into developing and expanding the eCommute program.

Contact: Scott Fleming, Teletrips, phone 403-225-0029.

For this and other recent additions to the EREN Web site, see <<http://www.eren.doe.gov/new/whats-new.html>>

From Environment News Network –

REPORT ON DISCOUNTING THE BENEFITS OF FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

From The Pew Center on Global Climate Change
<<http://www.enn.com/direct/display-release.asp?id=5863>>

WASHINGTON DC — How do we compare the costs of greenhouse gas reduction measures taken today with the future benefits of these actions? How do we calculate the value of investments when benefits will continue to accrue over centuries? These are important questions, because the way we value the benefits of greenhouse gas emission reductions will guide the development of cost-effective solutions to the threat of global climate change. A report released today by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change addresses these crucial questions.

The report, Discounting the Benefits of Future Climate Change Mitigation: How Much Do Uncertain Rates Increase Valuations?, by Richard Newell and William Pizer of the independent nonprofit research institute Resources for the Future, highlights an important variable that often goes unexamined in current climate change models—uncertainty in future interest rates. Climate models incorporate discount rates to compare costs and benefits over time—in essence, they tell us how high future benefits

need to be to justify spending a dollar today. Most climate models choose one rate and hold it constant over the time horizon of the model.

This study questions that conventional approach, arguing that future rates are uncertain. The authors demonstrate that acknowledging uncertainty about future interest rates leads to a higher valuation of the future benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions today—regardless of the initial rate one chooses. The authors conclude that, by ignoring uncertainty, current approaches used in economic modelling may be consistently undervaluing the future benefits of current climate change mitigation efforts. The report shows that including the effect of interest rate uncertainty in climate models could raise valuations of mitigation efforts by as much as 95 percent relative to conventional discounting at a constant rate.

“This report indicates that immediate action to address global climate change could yield significantly greater benefits in the long-run than conventional economic models have estimated,” said Eileen Claussen, President of the Pew Center. “This information will be especially useful for policymakers as they seek to balance near-term mitigation costs with long-term economic and environmental benefits.”

This report is the first to be published as a technical report in the Pew Center’s economics series. The results of this work—and additional ongoing Pew Center analyses—will be incorporated into a dynamic general equilibrium model in order to better capture the full complexity of the climate change issue.

A complete copy of this report and other Pew Center reports can be accessed from the Pew Center's site, <www.pewclimate.org>

BIKESTATIONS OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO AUTOMOBILE PARKING
<http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/01/01172002/s_46119.asp>

From Environment News Service -

2001 THE SECOND WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD
GENEVA, Switzerland, December 18, 2001 (ENS) - The year 2001 is projected to be the second warmest on record, the World Meteorological Organization said today. Record floods and record droughts across the globe accompanied this year's high temperatures.

For full text and graphics visit:
<<http://ens-news.com/ens/dec2001/2001L-12-18-01.html> >

CLIMATE CHANGE COULD COME QUICKLY, STUDY WARNS

<http://ens-news.com/ens/dec2001/2001L-12-12-07.html>>

From ConWEB –

To go straight to the December 2001 full version of Con.WEB, go to
<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html> >

Con.WEB In Brief...

NORTHWEST CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY COULD BLOSSOM WITH FAVORABLE PUBLIC POLICIES, STUDY SAYS

Clean energy is a \$1.4-billion industry in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. With supportive public policies it could expand nearly fourfold in 20 years and make the Northwest an international leader in this technology-based field, according to a new study.

"Poised for Profit: How Clean Energy Can Power the Next High-Tech Job Surge in the Northwest" focuses on market opportunities and policy strategies.

Fuel cells, advanced power systems and solar PV are identified as the most promising export-oriented economic forces for the Northwest, based on such factors as market status, regional conditions and potential synergies and leverage. Wind, energy efficiency and biomass also offer "very substantial economic development potential for the region," the report. But they all face a number of barriers as well.

Public policies supporting clean energy technology progress, commercialization and market development could enable the Northwest to create a \$6.3-billion annual clean energy industry and generate an estimated 32,000 jobs over the next 20 years.

"We have some of the pieces in place. We really have a lot of the intellectual assets and institutional assets here," said Rhys Roth of Climate Solutions, which commissioned the report with regional utility, government and foundation partners. "It's just a matter of getting onto the same page and getting some funding that really targets clean energy."

The report highlights the Northwest's strong technology base, noting, "Most clean energy businesses are as technology-oriented as their predecessors in the electronics, software, telecommunications, and biotechnology industries."

Political and energy leaders praised the report. "We're on the threshold of an energy efficiency revolution. If we're smart, as we've already

proved in our high-tech industry, we'll stay a step ahead of the market and provide the clean-energy decade with the tools it needs," said Washington Gov. Gary Locke in a press release.

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb72.html#cw72-8>

The full report is linked to the Climate Solutions home page at: <http://www.climatesolutions.org/>

From Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) –

December 2001 Interconnection Newsletter *Connecting to the Grid*

<http://www.irecusa.org/connect/enewsletter.html> >

Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE)

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

The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) has been updated and improved to make it more informative and user friendly. The new database provides a wealth of information on incentives, programs, proposed policies, and existing legislation that promote renewable energy. DSIRE, a project of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), is funded by DOE's Office of Power Technologies and managed by the North Carolina Solar Center.

REMINDERS

We welcome news or information that we could share in future mailings. If you would like to be added to or removed from this email distribution, let us know. The list currently numbers about 300.

Please be aware that although every URL is checked for accuracy prior to publication, URLs are, for various reasons, subject to change. Further, servers sometimes fail to connect to working URLs.
