

CLIMATE WISE NEWS

October 2001

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

Jack Brautigam
Climate Wise Program Manager
Seattle City Light
206-684-3954

jack.brautigam@ci.seattle.wa.us

For further information you may also visit the Climate Wise Partners homepage:

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserves/business/climatewise/>

Other useful sites:

Seattle City Light's Global Warming homepage:

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

Seattle City Light's Energy Smart Services homepage:

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

EVENTS

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION INVENTORIES:

WHAT, WHY AND HOW

- A brown bag lunch meeting sponsored by the Puget Sound Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, Envirometrics and EPA Region X

WHEN: October 11, 2001, 11:45 a.m.

WHERE: Seattle City Light Board Room

700 Fifth Avenue, Key Tower, 32nd Floor

For updates and additional information, see

www.pnwis.org

<http://www.pnwis.org/techmeet/October%2011%20Techmeeting.html>

NORTHWEST SOLAR SUMMIT

Western S.U.N. - The Solar Utility Network "Solar Electricity at Cost"

Announces: Northwest Solar Summit #4 "Educating Kids, Customers and Ourselves"

at Sun Mountain Lodge - Winthrop, WA. October 15 - 19, 2001

Public power utility representatives and interested parties are invited to the forth annual PV technical conference. See the conference webpage for further information and to register.

<http://www.westernsun.org/aaaSolar%20Summit%204.html>

PUBLIC SECTOR ENERGY STAR WORKING SESSIONS

Do you search for money to install energy efficiency equipment? Would you like to explore ways to finance upgrades today that do not tap into your capital budgets? How do you quantify the costs of delaying the installation of your energy efficiency projects and its impact on your operating and capital budgets?

You are invited to join your peers at an energy efficiency financing group working session sponsored by US EPA ENERGY STAR®, Puget Sound Energy, Snohomish County PUD, and Seattle City Light. Financing energy savings, rather than technical and equipment issues, will drive the discussions.

The payoff is reducing energy use and improving financial performance. Energy efficiency contributes to a better working and learning environment, demonstrates public agency fiscal responsibility and benefits our environment.

So, please join us at one of two sessions offered.

WHO'S INVITED?

The November 7 session in Everett is targeted to Local government decision-makers (City/County Managers, CFOs, and Energy Managers) - the November 8 session in Bellevue is targeted to K12 and higher education decision-makers (Superintendents, CFOs, and Energy Managers) - but all are invited to attend either of the two sessions.

WHEN and WHERE:

Wednesday, November 7, 2001 - 8:30AM to 3:30PM

Snohomish County PUD Main Building, Commission Meeting Room

2320 California Street, Everett, WA 98201

Or,

Thursday, November 8, 2001 - 8:30AM to 3:30PM

Puget Sound Energy, General Office Auditorium

10608 NE 4th Street, Bellevue, WA 98004

TO REGISTER:

To register for the finance group working sessions, e-mail Tammy Morgan at tmorgan@cadmusgroup.com with your name, title, organization, address, city, zip code, phone number, and e-mail address or contact your local utility sponsor:

- Puget Sound Energy - Mary Smith (425) 424-6631
 - Snohomish County PUD - Ray Burton (425) 783-8654
 - Seattle City Light - Jack Brautigam (206)684-3954, jack.brautigam@ci.seattle.wa.us
- Preparation Needed?

To prepare for this in-depth working session, it is recommended that you participate in one of the pre-scheduled, one-hour interactive presentations, Money For Your Energy Upgrades. These sessions are delivered to your desk, simultaneously using your phone and computer, via telephone conference call and the Internet.

The presentations will be offered on:
Tuesdays, October 23 & October 30, either session at 9:30 AM PD/ST
Thursdays, October 25 & November 1, either session at 1:30 PM PD/ST
To register for one of the dates, email Tammy Morgan at:

tmorgan@cadmusgroup.com

**From the Business & Industry Resource Venture --
UPCOMING SUSTAINABLE BUILDING EVENTS**

The next two months are full of classes, seminars and conferences to learn more about sustainable building. Visit the Resource Venture's Events Calendar at <http://www.resourceventure.org/calendar.htm>

LIGHTING DESIGN LAB FALL CLASS SCHEDULE

The Lighting Design Lab has standardized its class offerings into a new, comprehensive curriculum with the very latest reference textbook, and is issuing a certificate to those students who complete the entire 9 course series.

Class topic and registration information is available on LDL's website at www.lightingdesignlab.com

For further information, please contact:

Randal Smith
Librarian & Webmaster
Lighting Design Lab
V 206-325-9711 X29

NEWS

From Environment News Service -

NIKE VOWS REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Washington, DC, October 3, 2001 (ENS) - Nike Inc., an international sporting goods company, pledged Tuesday to slash greenhouse gas emissions across its operations worldwide. Nike also will measure greenhouse gas emissions from contracted manufacturing and shipping operations with the intent to ultimately reduce those emissions as well.

For full text and graphics visit:
<http://ens-news.com/ens/oct2001/2001L-10-03-06.html>

SUMMER 2001 SAW RECORD HEAT

Asheville, North Carolina, September 27, 2001 (ENS) - The summer of 2001 was the fifth warmest on record in the contiguous United States, scientists at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville said Wednesday.

Using the world's largest weather database, NCDC scientists, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, calculated conditions for the meteorological summer, June through August.

The nation's preliminary average temperature was 73.6 F (23.1 C), which was 1.5 F (0.8 C) above the long term average. June through August temperatures have been above average in 11 of the past 15 years.

Temperatures were above normal across much of the nation. However, cooler temperatures than average were seen in much of the Southeast.

The summer's most notable heat wave, in late July and early August, began in the southern Plains and stretched into the upper Midwest, with higher than normal temperatures extending into the northeastern U.S. by the second week of August. Daily high temperatures in the 90s and 100s, combined with high humidity, led to dangerous heat stress levels and numerous heat related deaths.

August 2001 ranked as the fourth warmest in written records. The nation's average temperature was 74.9 F (23.8 C), which was 2.1 F (1.2 C) above the long term mean. Coastal California was cooler than average with slightly below average temperatures widespread across parts of the South from Louisiana to Alabama.

Much of the nation was warmer than normal, with monthly spikes of greater than 5 F in parts of the Northeast and West.

Precipitation in the West did little to ease long term drought conditions, which worsened in many parts of the Northwest. By the end of August, moderate to extreme drought conditions covered much of that region, as well as western Wyoming and Montana. The extended period of drier than normal conditions, which affected some of the same areas in the summer of 2000, was a contributing factor to wildfires that burned more than one million acres in the West. However, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, on a national basis in 2001, the number of acres burned through the end of August was less than the 10 year average of 3.4 million acres and much less than the almost 6.9 million acres burned by wildfire in 2000.

National and global data for the summer and for August are online at:

<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2001/aug/aug01.html>

Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)

September INTERCONNECTION NEWSLETTER

http://www.irecusa.org/articles/static/1/1000711224_1001624656.html The Interstate Renewable Energy Council's mission is to accelerate the sustainable utilization of renewable energy sources and technologies in and through state and local government and community activities.

Link to September 28 issue of ConWEB -

Pacific Northwest Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Newsletter

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html>

Of note:

BPA Acting Administrator Steve Wright remarks at Portland conference

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html#cw69-2>

Seattle City Light wind power purchase announced

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html#cw69-3>

Survey of Northwest Green Power programs

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html#cw69-4>

Industrial case studies, including Boeing and Birmingham Steel

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html#cw69-7>

From EREN Network News -

New Hybrid System to Power Honda Civic in 2002

A hybrid electric version of the Honda Civic will be available in the United States in 2002, and it will use a new, improved hybrid gasoline-electric system as its power source. The new system combines Honda Motor Company's newest lean-burn 4-cylinder engine with a more powerful motor, a more efficient battery, and a smaller power control unit than are used in the Honda Insight. The system also shuts down three of the four cylinders when decelerating, cutting the engine's compressive braking in half and allowing more energy to be captured via regenerative braking, which charges the battery. The result of all these features is a gas mileage of about 68 miles per gallon, according to Honda. The company expects to mass produce the new Hybrid Civic, which will seat five. Although the vehicle will be available in Japan in fall of this year, it won't be sold in the United States until spring 2002. See the Honda press release at:

<<http://world.honda.com/news/2001/4010904.html>>.

Honda also debuted its latest fuel-cell-powered car, the FCX-V4, early this month. This latest experimental model has a top speed of 87 miles per hour and, thanks to a high-pressure hydrogen storage tank, can travel 186 miles between fill-ups. Honda worked to make this model more of a "real" vehicle by including luggage space and safety features and even designing a user-friendly display for monitoring the fuel cell and energy storage system. The company still maintains that its goal is to introduce a production fuel cell vehicle in 2003. See the Honda press release at:

<http://world.honda.com/news/2001/c010904_1.html>.

Home Depot Starts Selling Residential Solar Power Systems

Some energy experts have said that the solar energy industry won't be truly successful until the average consumer can walk into The Home Depot and buy a solar power system. Well, that day has arrived -- in San Diego, California, at least. AstroPower, Inc. announced in early September that three of The Home Depot's stores in the San Diego area are now offering the systems. The Home Depot is providing a full-service program that includes financing, installation, and service of the solar power systems. See the AstroPower press release at:

<http://www.astropower.com/homedepot_release.htm>.

Combined with last month's announcement about residential solar energy systems from Green Mountain Energy Company (GMEC), the AstroPower announcement suggests that solar energy may finally be achieving mainstream acceptance in the United States. See the GMEC announcement in the September 5th issue of EREN Network News at:

<http://www.eren.doe.gov/newsletter/archives/2001/sept05_01.html>.

Emission Reductions Linked to Energy Trade

A recent report released by the Manitoba Task Force on Climate Change suggests that measures to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through renewable energy use and emission credits should be a condition of expanded energy trade between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The task force, led by former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy, called for climate change issues to be a key part of any continental policy and said that Canadian lawmakers should ratify the Kyoto Protocol on reducing GHG emissions.

"All we're saying is let's make sure we balance the supply issue with the emissions issue," said Axworthy. "Furthermore, it's a way -- an opportunity actually -- to engage, especially in the United States, in this question of how we live in a North American community or environmental footprint."

Canada is the largest exporter of energy to the United States and much emphasis in industry and political circles has been placed on development of new oil and natural gas supplies.

The task force said demand for the province's hydroelectric power would likely jump if a market-based emission trading system was developed in conjunction with the United States. The task force's other recommendations include a Manitoba provincial policy encouraging renewable and alternative energy sources, expanded grants and interest rate incentives by government-owned Manitoba Hydro to encourage energy efficiency, and an initiative to address northern issues such as how climate change will affect the grain shipping season at the port of Churchill on Hudson Bay.

(REUTERS: 9/17)

EPA Issues Grant to USGBC

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced it has awarded a \$99,974 to the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to develop a green rating system for existing buildings that will improve and promote optimal building performance and efficiency.

EPA said that the USGBC will develop, test and promote a comprehensive "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Rating System for Building Operations and Retrofit" that will provide standards and guides for achieving "exceptional environmental performance." The system will address all aspects of a building's environmental impact.

USGBC said the system will help business managers assess and improve their buildings' overall performance.

Washington, D.C.-based USGBC is a non-profit organization involved in setting standards for sustainability and promoting green building practices and technologies.
Contact: Dave Ryan, EPA, phone 202-564-7827.
(U.S. NEWSWIRE: 10/1)

Energy Awareness Month Announced by DOE
The Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced it is hosting the 22nd annual energy awareness campaign this month. The goal of Energy Awareness Month is to promote a greater public understanding and awareness of energy sources, how they can be used wisely and effectively, and the importance of energy to the future of the United States.

"We observe Energy Awareness Month because meeting our nation's energy needs is a task of immense proportions and utmost importance -- now and in the future," said DOE secretary Spencer Abraham. The Energy Awareness Month will feature several exhibits demonstrating DOE's programs. The exhibits will be displayed in the lobby of the headquarters building.

Included in the exhibit are the Clean Cities initiative, which supports public-private partnerships that deploy alternative fuel vehicles; fuel cell technology for automotive applications; advanced natural gas and petroleum production technology; the Energy Star government and industry partnerships that "make it easy for businesses and consumers to save money and protect the environment"; and, the Federal Energy Management Program which aims to reduce the cost of the federal government by advancing energy efficiency.
Contact: Tom Welch, DOE, phone 202-586-5806.
(DOE RELEASE: 10/1)

POLLUTION PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE

* Reminder: P2 Northwest Newsletter Went 'Electronic' *
PPRC's newsletter, Pollution Prevention Northwest, has moved to an *electronic-only* subscription. If you haven't yet received the Summer 2001 newsletter on P2 and energy and water conservation, you'll need to let us know your e-mail address! Log on to <http://www.pprc.org/newsform.cfm> and input your name and address, your e-mail address, and your preferred format (PDF or text-only).

TIDBITS

At last month's RENEWABLE DIESEL WORKSHOP in Seattle, a presentation by the National Renewable Energy Lab summarized a joint U.S. DOE/DOA study that indicated a 78% reduction in (life cycle) CO2 emissions, as well as reductions in conventional air pollutants, from using biodiesel in place of petroleum diesel.
For more information about the U. S. Dept of Energy's Renewable Diesel Program, contact:
Nohemi Zerbi, 202-586-1480
<http://www.ott.doe.gov/biofuels>

For more information on local efforts:
Linda J. Graham, Coordinator
Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition
Seattle, Washington
(206) 684-0935
(206) 684-0656 fax
linda.graham@ci.seattle.wa.us
<http://cityofseattle.net/cleancities/>

EPA GLOBAL WARMING WEBSITE "CALCULATORS"

<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/tools/calculators.html>

These interactive calculators help estimate the greenhouse gas emissions of human activities and identify and compare emissions

reduction options. The calculators vary greatly in complexity, scope, and intent. A brief description of each is provided to help you choose one or more that best meets your needs.

From last month...

LEED™ PILOT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

What is LEED?

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a building rating program of the U.S. Green Building Council, supported by the City of Seattle.

Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities are now offering financial assistance to building owners and developers to incorporate sustainable building goals early in building programming and design decisions - and to achieve LEED certification.

For more information, contact:

Peter Dobrovolny, Sustainable Building Coordinator

Seattle City Light

206-615-1094

peter.dobrovolny@ci.seattle.wa.us

and/or visit the SCL LEED website at

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/conservesustainability/leed/>

REMINDERS

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