

## Arkansas Renewable Energy News September/October 2007

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Welcome to the Arkansas Renewable Energy e-newsletter! This newsletter is a bi-monthly feature of the Arkansas Renewable Energy website. Visit the website at [www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org](http://www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org) for more information on solar, wind, biomass and other renewable energy resources!

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"Some of our businesses use more energy than others, but our strategy everywhere is the same...first, reduce our use of energy as much as possible. Then, switch to renewable sources of power where it makes economic sense. And, over time, as a last resort, offset the emissions we can't avoid." — **Rupert Murdoch**, Chairman of News Corporation

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### News

#### Grant Will Fund University of Arkansas Biodiesel Study

A team that includes the University of Arkansas (UA) Division of Agriculture, UA Facilities Management, and the City of Fayetteville has received an \$18,000 grant from the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board to research biodiesel efficiency and emissions. According to this report on *The Arkansas Traveler Online Edition*, the study will involve monitoring of 17 Kubota RTV 900 diesel utility-vehicles used by the campus grounds crew in order to determine the differences in fuel efficiency and emissions between biodiesel and petroleum. Eight of the study vehicles use petroleum diesel and nine use B20, a blend of 20-percent biodiesel and 80-percent petroleum diesel. [More...](#)

### **Arkansas Solar Tour Coming October 6-7**

Little Rock and Rogers will host tours of solar installations next month as part of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) national solar tour. On October 6, the Arkansas Renewable Energy Association will host two open houses of solar and a tour and seminar at the Clinton Presidential Library. On October 6-7, Stitt

Energy Systems, Inc. will host a tour of a passive solar, grid-connected home constructed entirely of insulated concrete forms and located in an energy planned community near Rogers. The home received the Energy Value Housing Award in 1999 and has been featured in several publications. [More...](#)



### **LM Glasfiber Announces New Blade Plant in Little Rock**

LM Glasfiber today announced plans to open a new facility in Little Rock, Arkansas. The plant, which will manufacture blades for wind turbines, is scheduled to begin operations in first quarter 2008 and will employ over 1,000 people within five years.

“We are very pleased to announce our new facility in Little Rock. The Little Rock plant is key to enabling us to serve our growing portfolio of customers in North America,” says LM Glasfiber CEO Roland M. Sundén. “The facility will help secure our customers’ long term blade supply thereby enabling their ambitious growth strategies while also increasing the robustness and visibility of LM Glasfiber’s North American sales.” [More...](#)

### **UALR Slated for Solar Research Funding Under New Energy Bill**

An energy bill passed by the House would provide \$1.2 million for solar energy research at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), reports the Associated Press. The funds are intended for UALR’s Nanotechnology Center of Excellence, where the research would take place. [More...](#)



### **Arkansas Working to Develop Solid Alternative Fuels Industry**

A bevy of groups in Arkansas are focused on creating a long-term alternative fuels industry in the state. According to this report from the Arkansas News Bureau, Arkansas is looking not just at alternative fuels produced from soybeans and corn, but also at ethanol produced from biomass resources such as switchgrass and forestry byproducts. Researchers also are considering the possibility of fuels produced from the state’s large lignite reserves, according to Chris Benson, director of the Arkansas Energy Office. Arkansas currently has two biodiesel plants operating—Patriot BioFuels in Stuttgart and FutureFuel Chemical Co. in Batesville—which could collectively produce 27 million gallons of biodiesel each year. And, while officials call the state’s progress slow, work is being done to address obstacles and strengthen the industry. For example, the Legislature created new laws requiring that state-owned diesel vehicles use a biodiesel blend and provided a tax credit to alternative fuel producers. The Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Program, rules for which are currently being drafted, will make some \$20 million in grants available to plants that produce alternative fuel and stations that sell it. Additionally, researchers are continually working to identify the best alternative fuel crops to grow in Arkansas and the most efficient means of harvesting cellulose. [More...](#)



### **GBI Provides Complimentary Use of Green Globes to University of Arkansas**

The Green Building Initiative (GBI) has formally recognized the University of Arkansas as the first educational institution to encourage the use of Green Globes in its design and construction policies by providing the school with complimentary use of the tool for one year. The Green Globes system is equivalent to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating.

Through its *Design and Construction Guide for Buildings and Landscapes*, which stipulates that amongst other things, any new campus facility or full-building renovation of more than \$1 million must achieve a two globes rating using the Green Globes system, the University of Arkansas promotes sustainable design of campus facilities in order to reduce both cost of ownership and environmental impacts.

To support the University's pioneering efforts, the GBI is offering the school free use of the Green Globes tool for one year, allowing members of its Facilities Management (FAMA) group access not only to an assessment protocol and rating system, but also a guide for integrating environmentally-friendly design into commercial buildings. Read the full [press release](#).

### **ASU to Receive \$1.5 Million for Biofuels Research**

Arkansas Congressman Marion Berry has announced that Arkansas State University's (ASU) Biofuels Research Program is slated to receive \$1.5 million in funding to develop enzymes that will advance cellulosic ethanol technology and reduce the cost of ethanol production. [More...](#)



### **Honda Hybrids Still Qualify for Tax Credit**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced that purchasers of qualified Honda hybrid vehicles may continue to claim the Alternative Motor Vehicle Credit. [The announcement](#) comes after the IRS concluded its quarterly review of the number of hybrid vehicles sold. The credit amounts for each make and model of qualified vehicles sold are:

- Honda Accord Hybrid, Model Year 2005: \$650
- Honda Accord Hybrid, Model Year 2007: \$1,300
- Honda Accord Hybrid Navi, Model Year 2007: \$1,300
- Honda Civic Hybrid, Model Year 2007: \$2,100

### **Federal Renewable Fuel Standard in Place**

The federal Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) went into effect on September 1, setting new reporting, registration and compliance requirements for major refiners, fuel blenders and fuel importers. Authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the RFS requires that 4.2% of the fuel sold or dispensed to U.S. motorists in 2007 must come from renewable resources, an amount equal to about 4.7 billion gallons. That minimum volume will increase each year until it reaches 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel in 2012. [More...](#)



### **Report Calls for Energy Diversity to Meet Future Needs**

A new 422-page report from the National Petroleum Council calls for an integrated national strategy that includes energy efficiency and the exploitation of diverse energy sources, reports DOE's *EERE*

*Network News.* The report concludes that the U.S. should incorporate energy policy into most of its foreign policy decisions and should create long-term opportunities for research and development in all phases of the energy supply and demand system.

"The study demonstrates that energy efficiency is a very near-term energy resource, and tapping it is essential to national energy strategy," says Daniel Yergin, Vice Chair of the study and Chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates. "The challenge is that it involves thousands and thousands of decisions, not a few big decisions. But there is a focus on efficiency in the United States and around the world at a level never seen before. The study helps point the way." [More...](#)



### **2006 Saw 7 Percent Increase in Renewable Energy Consumption**

A new report from DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA) concludes that the use of renewable energy in the United States increased nearly 7% in 2006.

According to the report, wind power topped the list, increasing by 45% in 2006, followed by biofuels, which increased 27.6%. In 2006, ethanol provided 4% of the volume of finished gasoline produced in the United States while consuming 14% of the nation's corn crop. Hydropower production also increased by 6.9% in 2006, reaching its highest level since 2003. See the [EIA report](#).

### **Supply Constraints Impacting Wind Energy Industry**

The U.S. wind energy industry is on track to add well over 3,000 megawatts (MW) to the nation's power generating capacity in 2007, surpassing last year's record of 2,454 MW, says the American Wind Energy Association. The bullish performance by the industry is tempered, however, by supply chain shortages and policy uncertainty—two barriers that are related. Wind power developers report that turbine availability is a limiting factor—in other words, there is demand for even more wind energy but companies can not build more projects because there are not enough new wind turbines for sale. This supply shortage is due to a lack of manufacturing facilities for turbines and turbine parts in the country, which stems from the U.S. government's intermittent policy toward renewables has discouraged companies from investing in manufacturing facilities. Read the full [press release](#).



### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **Development of Saccharifying Enzymes for Commercial Use**

DOE has announced a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that will make available up to \$33.8 million to support the development of commercially viable enzymes—a key step to enabling bio-based production of clean, renewable biofuels such as cellulosic ethanol. As part of the President's [Twenty in Ten Plan](#), DOE is pursuing a long-term strategy to support increased availability and cost-effective use of renewable and alternative fuels. Twenty in Ten seeks to displace 20 percent of U.S. gasoline usage by 2017 through diversification of clean energy sources and increased vehicle efficiency. Projects are expected to begin in Fiscal Year 2008 and continue through Fiscal Year 2011. Completed applications are due October 30, 2007. View the [complete FOA](#).



## Website Spotlight American Solar Energy Society

If you're interested in learning more about solar energy, check out the ASES website. The American Solar Energy Society is a national organization dedicated to advancing the use of solar energy for the benefit of U.S. citizens and the global environment. Its website includes a wide range of useful resources, such as information on solar technologies, a Renewable Resources Directory and much more. [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org)

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### Mark Your Calendars!

Here's a sample of the many upcoming events focusing on energy issues. For a more complete list, see our [Events Calendar!](#)

#### [Photovoltaic System Design for Engineers & Designers: A 4-Day Course on Producing PV Design Documents](#)

October 1-4, 2007  
Tiburon, CA

This is an intensive solar workshop for design professionals on the specific skills needed to produce high quality feasibility reports, drawings and specifications that are currently in high demand by architectural design teams, engineering firms, developers, and discerning property owners. This class will refine your skills and help you confidently negotiate through design development, stringent building departments and reviews, the bidding process and construction administration. This is not a hands-on class for installers or homeowners.

#### [Arkansas Solar Tour](#)

October 6, 2007, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Little Rock, AR

Presented by the Arkansas Renewable Energy Association, this tour will consist of two open houses and a tour and seminar at the Clinton Presidential Library. Cost is \$7 for admission to the Clinton Library. Location: #21 Overlook Drive and #29 Overlook Drive. Seminars will be at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Clinton Library. For more information, contact William Ball, 501-225-0700, [bill@stellarsun.com](mailto:bill@stellarsun.com).

#### [Northwest Arkansas Solar Home Tour](#)

October 6-7, 2007, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Rogers, AR

Stitt Energy Systems, Inc. will host a tour of a passive solar, grid-connected home constructed entirely of insulated concrete forms located in an energy planned community near Rogers, Arkansas. The home received the EnergyValue Housing Award in 1999 and has been featured in several publications. The tour is free. Driving directions: from Second and Locust Streets in downtown Rogers, take Locust (Hwy 12 east) 2 miles to Old Prairie Creek Road. Turn left on Old Prairie Creek Road and go two miles to the entrance of South Sun Estates. Turn right into the development, take the first left. The home is on the left. For more information, contact Laura Redford, 800-367-7374, [info@StittEnergy.com](mailto:info@StittEnergy.com).

## Platts Cellulosic Ethanol and 2nd Generation Biofuels Conference

October 16-18, 2007

Chicago, IL

Cellulosic ethanol and other 2nd generation biofuels could open vast new horizons for fuels produced from biomass, including dedicated energy crops, forest products and agricultural waste. This annual conference from Platts focuses on commercial viability—the business outlook for bringing these advanced biofuels into industrial-scale production.

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### Tip of the Month

#### Consider a Solar Water Heater

If you heat water with electricity, have high electric rates and have an unshaded, south-facing location (such as a roof) on your property, consider installing a solar water heater. These systems are environmentally friendly and can be installed on your roof to blend with the architecture of your house. More than 1.5 million homes and businesses in the United States have invested in solar water heating systems, and surveys indicate over 94% of these customers consider the systems a good investment.

Fayetteville's Station No. 4 fire house is among the solar water-heating applications in Arkansas. The station received the system through a grant from the Arkansas Energy Office, which is working to gather information on how well solar water-heating systems perform in Arkansas, how cost-effective they are and how much they will reduce hot water needs from the conventional systems.

In addition to saving money, solar water-heating systems are good for the environment because they avoid the harmful greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production. During a 20-year period, one solar water heater can avoid over 50 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. When shopping for a solar water heater, look for systems certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation or the Florida Solar Energy Center.

For more information, visit these links:

- EERE Consumer's Guide: Solar Water Heaters  
[www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=12850](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=12850)
  - ToolBase: Solar Water Heaters  
[www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Plumbing/solar-water-heater](http://www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Plumbing/solar-water-heater)
  - Solar Hot Water, Florida Solar Energy Center  
[www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/consumer/solar\\_hot\\_water/index.htm](http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/consumer/solar_hot_water/index.htm)
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