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New York Solar Energy Society

Monthly Digest for November 2014

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Upcoming Events
New York Solar Energy Society
SOLAR AND CONSERVATION
Tuesday, December 2, 2014
Sustainable Westchester
23 Depot Street, Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:00
Tarrytown, NY 10591
join us for networking and discussion of solar, conservation, and renewable energy
Speakers:
Dr. Rosalind Bresler, President, Sustainable Westchester
Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, Director, Tarrytown Municipal Electric
Bruce Bentley, High Point Solar, Solar Consult
Jim Ryan, Ryan Solar, Solar Installer
Moderator: Congressman Paul Tonko, Retired Congressman
Agriculture? - Heat Pump Expert? - Or Charging?

LINK TO: - for upcoming energy and environmental events, please post events for celebration

- NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
- NEW YORK
- GREENHOUSE ENVIRONMENT
- ENERGY
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- GREEN
- ENERGY STORAGE
- FUEL & OTHER FUELS
- NUCLEAR
- NORTHEAST
- OHIO
- OF INTEREST - Research and Development
- FEDERAL
- FOR SALE/RENT
- OTHER
- **ABOUT NYSES**

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Selected Headlines
At COP 20 in Peru, country nations committed to providing $100 billion per year by 2020 to support developing nations to adapt cleaner energy and ease with the effects of climate change. While the agreement was hailed as a step forward, critics noted that it does not force industrialized nations to cut emissions or developing nations to pick up the pace of emissions reductions. Nations are to submit their plans for emissions cuts next year, with the goal of a binding global agreement to be signed at the Paris conference.

Chinese economy has significant sway over global finance and is an important player in the fight to contain climate change. Beijing's pledge to curb its carbon emissions by 2030 is important, but it is not nearly strong enough, a lengthy assessment. He is widely expected to resign as the country's negotiator in Beijing and has been criticized for being too soft on China. Yet he has also been lauded for his efforts to get a deal done in the Chinese capital and for his personal charm. The New York Times

The international agreement goal to keep the world's temperature rise below 1.8C is now "beyond reach," a scientist who helped negotiate the deal said. Yesterday's pledges are not enough. Reuters

Major companies, including Walmart and pension funds from Calpers, Calstrs, ExxonMobil and BP, have joined a coalition to encourage the adoption of fossil fuels as a clean, safe, secure energy source. Wall Street Journal

Waiting and Anticipating

Trying repeatedly promised writers that he would call energy and environmental reporters when he had something to say. Yesterday, he made good on his promise to call reporters from his home in Manhattan. Interestingly enough, he spoke about his time in Congress, where he was a leader on climate and energy issues. Politico

Trying to transition from two proposed executive orders and precedentiales an embargoing from the Paris conference, President Obama is considering the use of a new executive order. Washington Post

Trying is expected to weeks into his long-awaited four years of the Biden administration's aggressive environmental agenda, including a crackdown on methane, a rule to cut greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and limits on pesticides that kill bees. The administration is also expected to begin the process of implementation of various environmental laws, along with policies limits for heavy-duty trucks. Politico

Trying Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott to convince his counterparts at the Group of Twenty nations to adopt a climate change goal. Yesterday, the Group of Twenty nations agreed to a deal that would have a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to "sufficiently low" levels to avoid dangerous climate change. The deal was hailed as a major breakthrough, but it was watered down from an earlier version that had set a goal of cutting emissions by 40 to 70 percent by 2050. The concessions of the country's negotiators were criticized. Politico and Reuters

Trying Obama administration **South Dakota Gov. Dave Mangum** (R) to endorse renewable energy standards. Mangum said he would be willing to do so if the state's Republican-controlled legislature would pass a bill that would provide incentives for renewable energy. Associated Press

Trying polls to lead the Defense Department, Pete Hegseth, shares the president-elect's disdain for climate activism. Trump has said that the science of climate change is a hoax and Republican lawmakers have been blocking climate-related reform of the air of the cattle ranch owner.

Trying to ease the burden of the Trump administration's efforts to roll back environmental protections, Democratic state officials are trying to identify national security threats, plan for more extreme storms and prepare for harsher weather. Washington Post - Wall Street Journal

Trying

The Response
"This is not the end of our fight for a cleaner, safer planet. Facts and reality. Science is still science. The laws of physics are still the laws of physics. Climate change is still a threat." - Bill McKibben

"This is a sad and unintelligent act of nihilism. It will not stop the transition to clean energy. It will only make the world to contain climate change is going to continue in the United States with environment and science and belief and Federal, U.S., and state governments will be at war with the rest of the world." - Bill McKibben

A second term of Donald Trump's presidency will be a "setback" for climate protection and the clean energy economy, but it will not be the end of the world, experts say. Washington Post

Environmental advocates are the most worried about Trump's pick for Interior, Ryan Zinke, a Montana congressman who has a lifetime rating of 8 percent from the League of Conservation Voters. Zinke has called climate change "real" and has voted against a bill to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Zinke has also called for more drilling on federal lands and has said he would like to see more coal mining. Washington Post

Trump's pick to lead the Defense Department, Pete Hegseth, shares the president-elect's disdain for climate activism. Trump has said that the science of climate change is a hoax and Republican lawmakers have been blocking climate-related reform of the air of the cattle ranch owner.

Trump's transition team is preparing executive orders and proclamations on withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement and ending the use of coal, natural gas and oil on federal lands. Washington Post

Trump is expected to weeks into long-term strategy for the future of the Biden administration's aggressive environmental agenda, including a crackdown on methane, a rule to cut greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and limits on pesticides that kill bees. The administration is also expected to begin the process of implementation of various environmental laws, along with policies limits for heavy-duty trucks. Politico

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Trump is expected

License: CCO Public Domain

Natural sequestration happens when plants pull carbon from the air and hold it until the plant dies, however long it takes. However, a single forest fire, they point out, can release tons of CO_2 back into the air.

Forced sequestration may involve forcefully injecting CO_2 into underground rock formations or covering blocks of it with metal and dropping them into the ocean. Such methods are expected to prevent carbon from reentering the atmosphere for at least a thousand years. The forced sequestrationsare the only ones recommended by the science team. *Phys.Org*

Related: Scientific models trust the land to soak up lots of CO_2—the reality is a lot more messy

Nuclear Fusion

Divertor. Source: https://www.iter.org/machine/divertor

The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in southern France will rely on tungsten as its plasma-facing material element for the fusion reactor divertor (a kind of reactor exhaust port). However, a study is exploring the efficiency of 21 other candidates for this role is on the way. *Popular Mechanics* == *Iter.org*

Companies that caught our attention

Arevon Energy, headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona, owns and operates more than 4,000 MW of utility-scale solar, energy storage, and solar-plus-storage projects and distributed generation assets in 17 states.

BlueWave, is a solar developer and owner in the Northeast U.S., with five projects in Massachusetts. The projects incorporate the company's dual-use solar design and operate under the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program. The projects add 19.8 MWDC of generation and 29.7 MWh of storage to the power grid, the equivalent of 13,000 tons of carbon emissions avoided annually, according to the company.

MN8 Energy, with locations in New York City, Boca Raton and Madrid, the company develops, owns, and operates renewable energy generation and storage facilities, and electric vehicle charging stations in service to its enterprise customers.

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THE READS

Image: Nature Climate Change, Nature Green Publishing

Trump 2.0: This Time the Stakes for Climate Are Even Higher. *By Michael B. Gerrard, professor at Columbia Law School and founder and faculty director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law*

Donald Trump has promised to halt federal climate action and repeal the Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act, which provides unprecedented spending for clean energy. The market momentum for renewables and efforts by states and cities may be the only hope for U.S. climate progress. *Yale Environment360*

OPINION

Image: Pixabay

Welcome to the American Petrostate. By Michael E. Mann, *presidential distinguished professor and director of the Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media at The University of Pennsylvania.*

The oligarchs who control the Republican party do not intend to waste valuable time—as they did during Trump's first term—in implementing their fossil fuel-driven agenda. They already have a blueprint—Project 2025—ready to go on day one, which will gut government agencies and programs focused on renewable energy and climate action and double down on fossil fuel infrastructure and production. *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*

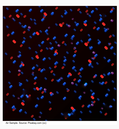
Image: Nature Publishing Group

Science Is Neither Red nor Blue. By Marcia McNutt, *President of the National Academy of Sciences*

"Long before the 5 November US presidential election, I had become ever more concerned that science has fallen victim to the same political divisiveness tearing at the seams of American society. This is a tragedy because science is the best—arguably the only—approach humankind has developed to peer into the future, to project the outcomes of various possible decisions using the known laws of the natural world." *Science*

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New York Solar Energy Society (NYSES)

a Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES)

prepares consumer knowledge handouts about energy conservation and renewable energy, and distributes Green Energy Times, a resource publication, to the public throughout eastern New York State. NYSES analyses legislation and state programs and visits with the staff of legislators in New York City, New York State, and Washington, DC. NYSES is a volunteer, grassroots, membership organization serving the children, families, engineers, architects, and teachers of New York State since 2007.

Our Mission:

To encourage the understanding and use of solar energy technologies through public outreach, to be a source of sound technical knowledge, and to provide a forum to address critical regional and state issues relating to solar energy solutions. We address the energy usage of all segments of society by increasing awareness of the benefits of renewables: solar, wind, biomass, geothermal ground source, tidal/wave energy, and energy efficiency.

For more information, please contact:

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www.nyses.org
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Join and Support NYSES -- http://nyses.org/Main/Join

By renewing your membership and/or making one-time or periodic donations, you can help to sustain and expand the efforts and activities of the New York Solar Energy Society.

Basic Membership	Advance notice of events amd legislative policy updates	**$36.00/ year**
Professional Membership	Above benefits plus discount on event admissions	**$100.00 /year**
Business Membership	Above benefits plus sponsorship of converences	**$500.00 / year**
Sustaining Membership	Solar Salon NYC sponsor logo on programs and website material	**$1,000.00 /year**

Contribute online via the NYSES website www.nyses.org
or mail check to the address above

Thank you!

Please send your comments/suggestions via Contact-Us

The Board of Directors of the New York Solar Energy Society meets on the fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months via teleconference. Please contact us **if you wish to attend.**

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Monthly Update is compiled & edited by Yuri Kalina

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