Center for Climate Action Newsletter May 2009

Advancing Climate *Action* in the West

Upcoming Center for Climate Action Webinars

June 25: Policy Conference Call
10:00 am - 11:30 am PDT
Since his election, President Obama has stated that the road to economic recovery is paved with green jobs and the transformation of energy production in the US. Congress has responded with a stimulus package that offers billions of dollars intended to support the President's vision for a clean energy future. It includes provisions for renewable energy, public transit, energy efficiency and weatherization of homes. It also includes provisions for nuclear power and liquid coal, leading some to ask, "How green is the stimulus package?" In this policy conference call, speakers will provide an overview of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, discuss provisions that may generate controversy among stakeholders and discuss if the stimulus is enough to get us to where we need to be. Register here.

Energy Incentives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - 3rd week in June, exact date TBD
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 offers financial incentives - including tax credits and bonds - to spur activities that conserve energy or produce it from clean, renewable sources. This upcoming call will discuss some of the Recovery Act's more notable provisions of interest to those in the energy and environment field, including: Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds, Extension Production Tax Credit, and Investment Tax Credit. Join notable speakers as they outline the stimulus provisions for the development of clean energy, overview the application process, and provide case studies of projects that use renewable energy incentives.

Climate Policy Updates: The Month in Review

STATE

The US Department of Energy Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) State Activities and Partnerships gives us the following updates on state-level climate policy developments:

Colorado passes "Solar Ready Homes" initiative:
The governor of Colorado has signed a bill requiring home builders to offer buyers pre-wiring and pre-plumbing for solar systems. In addition to saving homeowners money at a crucial point in the building process, the bill is expected to create jobs for solar system designers and installers.

Washington creates sustainable energy trust fund:
The governor of Washington signed a bill allowing the state to issue bonds to create a fund that will finance energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy projects. The legislation aims to accelerate deployment of such projects by making financing easier.

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Upcoming Climate Discussions

Please participate in upcoming climate seminars and workshops pertaining to the West, including:

May 28: Western Climate Initiative Cap Setting and Allowance Distribution Workshop

June 10: California Air Resources Board Chair's Seminar on Tackling Air Pollution and Climate Change

California adopts a low carbon fuel standard:
Each gallon of fuel sold in California in 2020 will have to result in the emission of 10% less greenhouse gases than each gallon sold today, according to the state's new Low-Carbon Fuel Standard. The standard will also take credit for non-liquid fuels like electricity, hydrogen, biogas, and natural gas.

California Air Resources Board issues final scoping plan:
In December 2008, the California Air Resources Board approved the California Climate Change Scoping Plan, which lays out a long term vision for achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

WESTERN REGION

The Western Climate Initiative released its Response to Stakeholder Comments and Final Draft Essential Requirements of Mandatory Reporting. This document includes revisions to previously released requirements and new requirements for some source categories. WCI will host a stakeholder conference call to discuss the new revisions and additions on May 19, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm PDT.

FEDERAL

House Energy and Commerce Committee Passes Waxman-Markey Bill

On May 21, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved HR 2454, "The American Clean Energy and Security Act," by a vote of 33 to 25. The Waxman-Markey bill aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. The bill requires utilities to generate 15 percent of their electricity supplies by 2020 from renewable energy sources and sets new efficiency standards for buildings, lighting and industrial facilities. The centerpiece of the bill is a cap-and-trade plan that requires power plants, oil refineries, and many types of manufacturers to obtain permits for the pollution they emit. Up to 85 percent of the permits would initially be issued for free by the government. A full House vote is expected in August. Read more about the Waxman-Markey bill on the House Energy and Commerce website.

Interior Department sets rules for offshore renewable energy projects:
EERE News reports that President Barack Obama announced on Earth Day that the US Department of the Interior has finalized a framework for renewable energy production on the US Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The framework establishes a program to grant leases, easements, and rights-of-way for orderly, safe, and environmentally responsible renewable energy development activities on the OCS, including the siting and construction of offshore wind power facilities. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 granted the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) the authority to regulate renewable energy development on the OCS. Read the press release.

Please take a minute to complete our brief survey

The Center for Climate Action aims to meet our Partners' needs on climate issues. To better serve you, we'd like to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Please take a minute to complete our brief survey.

Help us develop an online interactive climate toolbox

One of the core services of the Center for Climate Action is to create an online community of professionals that are acting to safeguard our changing climate. We are working to achieve this through our website, which will be the go-to resource to track climate events and policy updates as well as interact with a group of like-minded leaders in business, NGO, government and academia.

We are developing the following suite of services as a start: interactive climate calendar, regular policy updates, online book club, policy forums, awards database, funding database, jobs bulletin board, and showcase of innovative projects.

We welcome feedback and suggestions for other useful tools, content, links and resources. Please email us your ideas.

Apply for Outstanding Environmental Awards

The Champion of Energy Efficiency Award

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recognizes leadership and accomplishment in the energy efficiency field with the Champion of Energy Efficiency Awards. Winners will be selected based on demonstrated excellence in the following categories:

- Research and Development (R&D): Excellence in research and development including baseline or background research, as well as R&D of products and practices.
- Energy Policy: Excellence in energy policy including writing, educating, promoting, or supporting energy efficiency at the federal, state, or local level.
- Implementation and Deployment: Effective design and implementation, including achievement of significant impacts on energy use.
- Leadership: Exceptional personal leadership demonstrated in the development, implementation, or growth of energy efficiency initiatives.

Please visit ACEEE's website to apply

Apply for the Green Power Leadership Award

The US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Energy and Center for Resource Solutions sponsor the Green Power Leadership Award to recognize individuals and organizations that are significantly advancing the development of renewable energy through green power markets in the US. Award nominations are due Friday, May 29 by 5:00pm PDT.

Please visit US EPA's website to apply

The Center for Climate Action is a new, solutions-oriented program of the Climate Action Reserve. It brings together government, business and environmental experts to advance climate action in the West. Benefits include workshops, trainings, access to issue briefs and analysis, awards and webinars. In 2009, the Center for Climate Action will focus on four areas of study:

- Western regional issues, including AB 32, SB 375 and the Western Climate Initiative
- Federal action
- Road to Copenhagen (COP 15)
- Mitigation and adaptation

For more information, please visit www.centerforclimateaction.org.

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