Center for Climate Action Newsletter June 2009

Advancing Climate *Action* in the West

Upcoming Center for Climate Action Webinars

Energy Incentives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Tuesday, June 16, 2009
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm PDT
Register here

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 offers financial incentives to spur activities that conserve energy or produce clean, renewable energy. 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, Production Tax Credit, and Investment Tax Credit. Join 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.

How Green is the Stimulus Package?

Thursday, June 25, 2009
10:00 am - 11:30 am PDT
Register here

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.

Free Parking? Not So.

Wednesday, July 22, 2009
11:00 am - 12:00 noon PDT
Register here

Free parking may be truly free in the game of Monopoly, but according to Mike Manville, Post-Doctoral Researcher at UCLA's Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, free parking in real life has significant social, economic and environmental costs. He argues that "free" parking results in higher prices for goods and services; higher costs of land development and housing; increased vehicle trips, resulting in more traffic, pollution and GHG

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Read the Highlights of the Waxman-Markey Climate Bill

Grist staff writer Kate Shepphard combed through the hefty American Clean Energy and Security Act (the Waxman-Markey climate bill) to bring you just the facts. The breakdown summarizes emission cuts, emissions permits, how permit revenue would be spent, offsets, investments in energy technology, the renewable electricity standard, and much more. Read the highlights on Grist.

emissions; and a landscape that increases the distances between destinations traveled and reduces the viability of other transportation modes like public transit, biking or walking.

Join Mike to explore the potential costs of free parking and how it contributes to climate change through increased GHG emissions. He will discuss sound policy options local governments can take to remedy the free parking problem and provide case studies of cities that have successfully implemented these policies.

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:

Carbon Positive Urban Project Slated for California

The Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) and US Green Building Council (USGBC) launched a new Climate Positive Development Program that will develop large scale urban projects that are climate positive, meaning the on-site GHG emissions are less than zero. The Treasure Island Redevelopment project is slated to turn 450 acres of a former naval station on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island into a new, mixed-use community.

A Carbon Label for California

California Assemblyman Ira Ruskin once again introduced a bill (AB 19: the Carbon Labeling Act of 2009) directing manufacturers to label consumer products with carbon data. The Assembly narrowly rejected the bill in 2008 because of budget shortfalls, but this year the bill has been voted out of Assembly and is currently being considered in the Senate. If passed, the California Air Resources Board would run the voluntary program. An advocacy organization called A Carbon Label for California drafted the bill.

WESTERN REGION

Department of Interior to Open Renewable Energy Offices in Four Western States

Arizona, California, Nevada and Wyoming will soon be home to new renewable energy offices that will speed the production of renewable energy on public lands while protecting land, water and wildlife. Smaller renewable energy teams will also have a presence in Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is providing $41 million in funding for the projects.

The Center for Climate Action welcomes Eric Yurkovich, Climate Policy Intern

Eric Yurkovich joined the Center for Climate Action team on June 3, 2009. Eric is working with the Center full-time during the summer to develop the resources offered to Partners through the website and research emerging issues in climate policy. Eric is pursuing his Master's degree in urban planning at UCLA and has an interest in building and fostering online community. Welcome Eric!

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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