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News. March, 2014. Issue #24. 24,000 ESB video views.

Hope is not what we find in evidence - it is what we become in action.
- Frances Moore Lappe. Author of Diet for a Small Planet.

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Electricity

Wind & Solar Significantly Reduce Electricity Prices During Australian Heat Wave
More good news for electricity consumers (but bad for fossil & nuclear electricity generators). Australia suffered massive heat waves last summer. *Several studies ... show that solar had a big impact on reducing the level of demand, and prices... wind contributed to 6 per cent of overall supply by volume ... and that reduced average prices ... by more than 40 per cent*. (G)
http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/wind-energy-may-cut-electricity-prices-40-heatwaves-29622

Five Reasons Solar's Win Over Gas in Minnesota is Just the Beginning
A judge in Minnesota said that distributed solar arrays were a more cost-effective resource than natural gas to meet Xcel Energy's peak power needs... If solar trumps gas for peaking power in Minnesota, there's little reason to be building new natural gas peaking capacity anywhere in the country. Ever again. (G)
http://www.ilsr.org/solars-win-gas-minnesota-beginning/

Active Power? Reactive Power?
What the heck are they? Well, both are needed on the electric grid. And renewables can produce both. That value is recognized in other countries but is only beginning to be recognized in the

US. This article attempts to explain the concept of active & reactive power. While this is one of the clearest explanations I've seen, it still doesn't seem all that clear to me.

Please contact me if you have seen a simple explanation of active & reactive power in writing or video that is better than this one. And let me know if you like this explanation. (article: PG).
http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/2014/03/meet-solars-imaginary-friend-reactive-power?cmpid=WNL-Wednesday-March19-2014

Contact Ken at:
http://energyshouldbe.org/contact.html

Transportation

Super EV Concept Using Flow Battery Shown
Zero to 60 in a blistering 2.8 seconds. Top speed 236 mph. 640 horsepower. All-wheel drive. Range of 250+ miles between charges. Interestingly, the car will use a Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRB) to store the power. (Article. Glossy commercial (complete with mermaids and the car turning into a flock of birds!) & a very good 3-minute video describing how VRBs work (but no mermaids). All G-rated). Is it likely to become a real car? Hard to tell.
http://www.autoblog.com/2014/03/05/quant-e-sportlimousine-video-geneva-2014/
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqLpqR0SPnQ
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Uk0GQNgtqg

Energy Storage, Etcetera

Japan & Germany Spur Manufacturing Growth & Cost-Reductions in Electricity Storage.
Both are providing significant incentives for distributed electricity storage. *"As such we expect 6 GW of storage to be installed in 2017, with ... over 2 GW in behind-the-meter systems, many of which will also include PV systems," he said. That growth will lead to energy storage cost reductions on the order of 30 percent by 2017, "allowing them to become economically viable solutions in several markets and applications,"*

At the same time we have huge sales growth in electric vehicles. Just Tesla, if sales projections hold, will sell 3 GWh of energy storage in its cars in 2014, never mind 2017. All this growth in manufacturing will accelerate the move to higher quality batteries at lower costs. (G)
http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/03/spurred-by-japan-steady-growth-predicted-energy-storage-market

France Power Generation Interactive Data Display
Real time & historical data. Complex information presented clearly and flexibly. Worth trying out the different choices (menu bar on the left) and the *configure* option (lower right of the data display window). Also try rolling over the different technologies (towards the bottom of the data window) and hiding & showing each technology (the eyeball icon when your cursor is over a particular tech (e.g., wind)). (PG)
http://www.rte-france.com/en/sustainable-development/eco2mix/national-data/power-generation-by-energy-source