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News. February, 2013. Issue #12. 2,200 ESB [video views](#).

New stories are necessary to change the world.

Thom Hartmann. Author: The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight

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News About Us

Another Milestone: We've Passed 2,000 Views of Our Videos

With more than 300 Views in February alone.

Our Most Watched Video in February

Once again To Allow Lots of Renewables, Baseload Coal & Nuclear Must Go wins! (G)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deWtgpheDJM>

Electricity

In Australia, New Wind Electricity is Now Much Cheaper Than New Coal, Natural Gas

Declining costs of wind combined with a carbon fee imposed last year makes wind the best deal in Australia by a lot. *Electricity can be supplied from a new wind farm in Australia at a cost of A\$80 (\$84) per megawatt hour, compared with A\$143 a megawatt hour from a new coal-fired power plant or A\$116 from a new station powered by natural gas...* (Article: G)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-02-06/australia-wind-energy-cheaper-than-coal-natural-gas-bnef-says>

Inflation Can Be Good: Flexible Solar Collectors to Offer Lower Cost

Concentrating solar collector test installation. Soft like a kiddie swimming pool until you inflate it. Then lightweight and low-cost. (Website: G)

<http://www.coolearthsolar.com/technology.php>

Why US Residential Solar PV is Much More Expensive Than German Solar

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory updated & expanded an earlier study. The conclusion remains the same: it's not the cost of the panels & inverter, but the "soft" costs that differ - customer acquisition costs, permitting, and legal paperwork all cost more in the US.

(Article: PG. Study: PG)

<http://cleantechnica.com/2013/02/17/why-german-solar-is-so-much-cheaper-than-u-s-solar-updated-study/>

<http://emp.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/german-us-pv-price-ppt.pdf>

Transportation

The Best Police Motorcycle for Urban & Park Work? Electric!

Stealthy & very quiet, quick, and the 120 mile range is plenty for many kinds of police work.

(Article & Website both G)

<http://green.autoblog.com/2013/02/17/juice-flows-to-new-2013-zero-motorcycles-police-model>

<http://www.zeromotorcycles.com/fleet/police/>

UPS Puts 100 Electric Trucks Into Service in California

Quick, clean, and EVs have very low fuel & maintenance costs when compared to diesel trucks. And since UPS knows the delivery route in advance, the 75 mile range is no problem for UPS and many other fleet vehicle owners. If they have a route that needs more than 75 miles they just send one of the old diesels. (G)

<http://green.autoblog.com/2013/02/08/ups-puts-100-electric-trucks-into-service-in-central-california/>

US Families Spend \$3000 on Transportation Fuel. Plug-Ins Could Save 1/2 or More

... this is the highest percentage of household income spent on fuel in almost 30 years

Though not a part of this study, common plug-ins charge at about 1/4 the cost of historically (fossil) fueled vehicles. With that kind of savings on fuel combined with EVs being quick, fun-to-drive, and lower-maintenance costs, may point to rapid growth for plug-in vehicles. (G)

<http://www.autoblog.com/2013/02/05/us-families-spent-an-average-of-nearly-3-000-on-fuel-last-year/>

Solving the EV Range Issue: Wireless Charging at High Efficiency

Researchers in Utah are developing ways to wirelessly transfer electricity to busses & cars across a 10" air gap, with high efficiency, and up to 6" of misalignment. They believe they can transfer up to 50 kilowatts of power. (G)

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/11/20/utah-state-university-moves-forward-with-wireless-electric-aggi/>

Misc.

Lighting the World: Gravity Light

A crowd-funded company in the UK is developing a light to replace kerosene lamps. To power it simply lift a bag of dirt every 20 - 30 minutes. Their goals: deliver GravityLights to end-users at \$10 each in a few months. \$10 is less than the cost of 3 months of kerosene.

(website & video, G)

<http://deciwatt.org/>

Audi SolarFuel: Excess Wind Electricity Conversion to Methane

In Germany, at night there is often very cheap excess electricity on the grid from wind & too much baseload generation. Audi is developing a factory to take that electricity and convert it to methane - storing the energy for later use. The process is expected to be 40% efficient at the start, with increases to as much as 60% efficiency in the future. Although this is inefficient in comparison to electricity stored in a battery, the cost of electricity late at night can be very low.

In fact, baseload generators in Europe sometimes end up paying others to take their excess.

(Articles both G).

www.technologyreview.com/news/510066/audi-to-make-fuel-using-solar-power

<http://green.autoblog.com/2013/01/31/audi-to-produce-e-gas-synthetic-fuel-wind-solar-co2/>

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