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*Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.  
- Dr. Martin Luther King*

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## **News About Us**

**New Video: 2012 First Year Results. 2013 Goals.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K22rT1i2m38>

**January Most Watched: To Allow Lots of Renewables, Baseload Coal & Nuclear Must Go**

This relatively new, moderately technical (PG) video retains a very surprising 70% of viewers all the way through its 3 minute length. If you haven't already, you might want to give it a view.

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

## **Electricity**

**Tame Twisters May Generate Electricity**

If it can be scaled up... If it can be shown to be safe... If it cost-effectively generates electricity... Many "ifs" to answer but it is an interesting idea and should be quite impressive to look at.

Article (G), company website (PG).

<http://rt.com/news/tornado-power-plant-project-931/>

<http://vortexengine.ca/english.shtml>

### **WWF: 100% Solar With Less Than 1% of Land - “Solar Power in Harmony With Nature”**

The World Wildlife Fund studied 7 regions around the world and estimated how much land would be needed to meet 100% of electricity use in 2010 & 2050 using just PV... *no country or region must choose between solar PV and space for humans and nature.* Article (G). Study (PG)

<http://cleantechnica.com/2013/01/17/wwf-report-finds-solar-land-use-doesnt-conflict-with-conservation-goals/>  
[http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/solar\\_atlas\\_low\\_res\\_final\\_8\\_jan\\_2013\\_1.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/solar_atlas_low_res_final_8_jan_2013_1.pdf)

### **3 New Studies Confirm Net Metering Benefits All Customers**

Like all electric utility rates, a “net metering” rate is a reasonable estimate intended to provide fair value to owners of distributed solar/wind systems and all other customers. Many electric utilities oppose net metering claiming that it is unfair to customers without renewables - that net metered customers get an unfair subsidy. Here are 3 new studies that show that there is significant value or at least a square deal for all electric customers from net metered renewable systems.

Net Metering Benefit is \$92 Million Per Year in California.

Article, Study, & Infographic (G PG & G)

<http://votesolar.org/resources-impacts-of-net-metering-in-california/>

<http://votesolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Crossborder-Energy-CA-Net-Metering-Cost-Benefit-Jan-2013-final.pdf>

<http://votesolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/VSI-CA-Net-Metering-fact-sheet-Jan-2013.pdf>

In Vermont (VG).

[http://publicservicedept.vermont.gov/sites/psd/files/Topics/Renewable\\_Energy/Net\\_Metering/Act%20125%20Study%2020130115%20Final.pdf](http://publicservicedept.vermont.gov/sites/psd/files/Topics/Renewable_Energy/Net_Metering/Act%20125%20Study%2020130115%20Final.pdf)

And New York State. ... *solar electric installations deliver between 15 to 40 cents per kWh to ratepayers and taxpayers.* (PG).

<http://www.asrc.cestm.albany.edu/perez/2011/solval.pdf>

### **Belgium 3 kilometer Man-Made Island Reservoir in North Sea to Store Electricity**

Create a man-made island in the sea with a big lake in the middle. Pump water out when there is excess electricity. Let it flow back to generate electricity when needed. It is also expected to be a hit with seabirds, and possibly tourists. This is part of Belgium’s plan to shift from nuclear power to renewables. (G)

<http://rt.com/news/belgium-battery-island-renewable-319/>

## **Transportation**

### **All-Electric Car Ferry On Order in Norway**

Electric ferries make a great deal of sense where crossings are relatively short. They can charge up while vehicles unload & load, and you save lots of money on fuel and maintenance, and significantly reduce pollution. (G)

<http://www.gizmag.com/norway-electric-car-ferry/25756>

### **Via Motors Extended Range Electric Trucks & Vans**

Take the concept of a Volt - great performance, low-cost, clean electric drive most of the time, extended range from gasoline when you run out of battery - and apply it to trucks. These may be perfect for commercial truck fleets as many fleet vehicles rarely travel beyond the 40 mile electric range of these trucks. Big maintenance savings for commercial users. And for many contractors, the built-in generator option may be perfect to provide power to a remote site. Article (G), Via Motors Website has an interesting commercial savings calculator (PG) in addition to lots more information, and a testosterone driven video (2 minutes, G).

<http://green.autoblog.com/2013/01/15/bob-lutz-approved-via-x-truck-offers-800-hp-100-mpge>  
<http://www.viamotors.com/vtrux/life-cycle-savings-calculator/#calculate>  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=AShB6aeyWek](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AShB6aeyWek)

### **Nissan Drops Leaf Price by \$6400**

After the price drop, federal tax credits, and in some cases state credits, the all-electric Leaf costs less than \$20,000. Price drop in part because Leafs will now be made in Tennessee. (G)

<http://www.autoblog.com/2013/01/14/nissan-leaf-becomes-least-expensive-5-seat-ev-with-massive-price/>

### **Proposal: Gondolas for Public Transit in Austin**

Ski lifts move lots of people safely, efficiently, and with relatively low capital and right-of-way costs. Can this concept work in an urban setting? Article (G).

<http://green.autoblog.com/2013/01/01/new-year-new-idea-gondolas-as-public-transport-in-megacities/>

## **Misc.**

### **Chicago Suburb Tests Fully Integrated Renewably Driven Smart Grid**

*A... thoroughly digitized, completely transformed system that is tied into a network of renewable sources like wind and solar, and is capable of “self-healing” during storms and outages.... with the help of customer-sited battery systems.* (G)

<http://grist.org/cities/oak-park-test-drives-a-blackout-proof-solar-powered-smart-grid/>

### **Solar Powered Lighting For Places the Grid Does Not Reach**

Watch the slideshow for images of some lighting solutions for the large part of the planet that the grid does not reach. (G)

<http://news.discovery.com/tech/alternative-power-sources/solar-powered-bulbs-brighten-off-grid-homes-130117.htm>

### **Our mailing address is:**

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