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News. November, 2012. Issue #9. 1400 ESB [video views](#).

*You never change things by fighting the existing reality.
To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.*

- R. Buckminster Fuller

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Electricity

Butterfly Wing Material to Make PV & Buildings More Beautiful & Efficient?

A research update. *Created primarily through the use of lasers, the 'wafer' can mimic the iridescent colors of butterfly's wings, and is also water-proof.* (G)

<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/10/18/synthetic-butterfly-wing-material-to-cover-buildings-improve-solar-panels/>

Tidal Power in Maine

Tidal power turbine now generating power off the coast of Maine at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Newspaper article and short animation (G).

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/ORPC-turbine-off-Eastport-is-the-first-to-do-so-in-North-America.html>

Deep Ocean Current Generator

A prototype 1 MW in size. Deep ocean currents turn out to be very steady and stable. The company is considering a spot a few miles off the coast of Florida for their first installation. (G)

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/energy/renewables/a-new-idea-for-green-energy-deep-ocean-current-power>

Georgia Power Voluntary Solar Program

The Georgia Power Advanced Solar Initiative (GPASI) is the largest voluntarily developed solar portfolio from an investor-owned utility in the United States. They plan to add 210 MW of rooftop and utility-scale PV over 3 years. What makes this newsworthy is that a large utility voluntarily adopted a large solar program. (G)

<http://www.renewablesbiz.com/article/12/09/georgia-power-volunteers-largest-solar-goals>

California Sets New Record for Residential Solar Installation for Q3 2012

11,000 homes for 66 MW of home solar. (G)

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/Q3/prweb10072836.htm>

Study: Solar Panels in Snowy Areas Work Just Fine

Snow slides off fairly quickly (presumably off of panels installed at an angle, not flat) and reflection from the snow increases output. (PG)

<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/10/26/solar-panels-well-worth-the-investment-even-in-snowy-regions-research-shows/>

Unusual Locations for Solar Panels

Roof no good for solar? No good location for a ground mounted system? How about a solar carport or floating island in your pond? (G)

<http://www.getsolar.com/News/Solar-Energy-Facts/General/Unusual-Locations-for-Solar-Energy-Installations-800893125>

Study: The More Home PV Systems You See, the More Likely You Are to Install PV

For zip codes with 10 percent more PV installations over the "installed base," the number of new PV power systems increased 54 percent...The biggest proponents of solar energy were Caucasian men between the ages of 45 and 65 who had a 30-minute commute to work and a house that needed repairs. In general, the larger the house owned and the longer the commute, the more likely a California homeowner was to adopt solar energy... The report's authors theorized that longer commutes provided additional exposure to houses with solar panel installations, which served as inspiration for opting for a PV power system. (G)

<http://www.getsolar.com/News/Solar-Energy-Facts/General/Inspire-the-Neighbors-with-a-Solar-Energy-Installation-800896279>

Transportation

Is Copenhagen the Best City in the World for Bicycles?

As I zip along the beautifully maintained bike lanes, it strikes me that I've never had a city biking experience quite like this. Not only do I feel totally safe and secure, but I'm able to get to my destination faster and at a fraction of the difficulty and cost than if I were driving a car...Bicycles have displaced more than one-third of all transportation fossil fuel use in Copenhagen.

More than 20% of the road budget is spent on bicycles. Many bike paths are slightly elevated above the road greatly increasing a bike-rider's perception of safety. Clear solid blue lanes for bicycles. Wave timing for bicycle traffic signals (20 km/h) so bikes can go 14 traffic signals without stopping. Article & Video (G) & (G)

http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/the_efficient_planet/2012/11/green_wave_can_the_u_s_embrace_biking_like_denmark_has.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyrTx9SXkVI>

Automakers Reducing or Eliminating Rare Earth Metals From Electric Vehicles

China dominates the mining and production of rare earths (e.g., used in video displays and in some EV motors). Large price increases for rare earths used in the permanent magnets of EV motors has EV manufacturers looking at alternatives. Tesla and Nissan currently manufacture their motors without rare earths. Ford, Chevy and others are finding ways to reduce rare earth use in their motors. (G)

<http://analysis.evupdate.com/batteries-power-trains/rare-earth-are-ev-makers-moving-re-free-world>

Misc.

Glass Solar Roof Tiles Cover Either PV or Solar Heating

Picture traditional wavy red clay roof tiles but made out of glass. Almost a fairytale castle look. Solar heating or electricity go under the glass roof. (G)

<http://soltechenergy.com/our-installations/>

<http://blog.cleantechies.com/2012/10/17/soltech-energy-captures-solar-energy-with-stylish-glass-roof-tiles/>

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