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News. June, 2012. Issue #4. 750 ESB [video views](#).

When you have light, you have courage.

- National Geographic photographer Lynn Johnson on using solar powered lighting in Africa to scare hyenas away from livestock at night.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/06/visions-now-next#/next/2>

Please subscribe at

<http://energysouldbe.org/subscribe-news-archive.html>

Ratings for articles and videos: (G = General Audience, PG = Pretty Geeky, VG = Very Geeky).

Electricity

Solar Transforms Lives in Bangladesh

Small PV systems (enough for a light or two and a cell phone charger) being installed at the rate of 40,000 per month.

The combination of competitively-priced solar PV panels and a well-designed financing scheme is now delivering life-changing—and zero-carbon—electricity to bottom-of-the-pyramid families on a scale that was inconceivable only a few years ago... “My business is booming and my family lives much more comfortably with our increased income,” she said. “But most importantly, I now have electricity at home and my children can study at night. They are doing much better at school.” (G)

<http://go.worldbank.org/HR1ZMJ0J30>

3.5 minute video (G)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=wGKQ-RsbtWo

Wind Concept: Out With Turbines, In With Stalks?

Flexible stalks and piezoelectric material to generate electricity - picture a giant field of wheat swaying in the wind. More conceptual art project than prototype... for now anyway. (G)

<http://atelierdna.com/?p=144>

Jigar Shah: Small PV Companies Can Compete

Write-up of a talk by Jigar Shah (CarbonWarRoom.com). Directed at small and medium sized PV companies. (PG)

<http://blog.heatspring.com/jigar-shahs-call-to-arms-for-small-solar-companies-everywhere>

Transportation

The Best Car in the World? - Tesla Model S Released

The revelation of what Tesla has accomplished sunk in when I returned to a gas-powered vehicle ... after driving the Model S, suddenly you notice the lag between accelerator and power, the exhaust noise, all the energy necessary to keep those parts hurtling forward. It makes a fossil ... car seem to be working so much harder than necessary.

Check out the video as well. (2 minutes) (G)

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/lookout/tesla-model-first-drive-electric-sedan-change-world-220709669.html>

So what's it like to drive the Model S? In a word: amazing. (G)

<http://www.engadget.com/2012/06/22/tesla-model-s-first-drive-the-sports-sedan-goes-electric/>

More:

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/06/25/tesla-model-s-reviews/>

Figuring Out How to Sell EVs

With 7 new ads featuring “the happiest drivers on the planet” Chevy is figuring out how to sell the Volt. (40 seconds to 3 minutes, G)

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/06/14/new-chevy-volt-ads-emphasize-the-happiest-drivers-on-the-planet>

Nissan is finding its own path to selling Leafs. For example, attempting a world speed record in a stock Leaf.... in reverse. Apparently the Leaf can go just as fast backwards as forward. (G).

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/06/27/nissan-leaf-aims-to-take-world-record-in-reverse-at-goodwood/>

Although reverse races are not new (G) (first 30 seconds).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7ipFAPsFec>

Action: Who: Anyone interested in our energy future. If you haven't already, even if there is no chance you will buy one soon, take the time to test drive a Volt and a Leaf (and take a friend, too). It is not the same to just talk about EVs... it is worth your time to test-drive the future.

Electric Bikes - Basic Through Advanced

These videos are fun and informative to watch.

There are 125 million electric bikes in use in the world. (11 min, G)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=K8xKw_ShvzM

Same folk present a very fancy electric motorcycle. (5 min, G)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Xi7EhYgHPX4

Finding a Place to Plug-In

4500 public and private locations in N. America to charge-up your EV. "Private" residences are people's home charging spot that they are allowing people to charge-up - often for free

Electricity is cheap. (G)

<http://www.plugshare.com/>

Which Car Colors Attract the Most Bird Poop

OK, little to do with energy except maybe saving carwash water, but it is fun. Red = most. Green = least. Who knew? (G)

<http://www.autoblog.com/2012/06/21/these-car-colors-attract-the-most-bird-poop/>

Buildings

Seattle Office Building - Better Than LEED Platinum

Comfort, value, health - covered! Exceptionally low energy use and "You'll be surprised at how normal this is." Biggest change from the occupants view may be the flush twice composting toilets (before & after using). (G)

<http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2012/06/20/silver-bullitt/>

Misc.

New Groundsource Heat Pumps Hit 40 SEER and 5 COP

Remarkable increases in efficiency for cooling (SEER) and heating (COP). And one other advantage of space-heating heat pumps is they can be made to provide essentially free hot water when in cooling mode. Many commercial buildings spend much of the year cooling - even in the heating season. (other than the abbreviations this article is a (G)).

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/tomkonrad/2012/05/25/geothermal-heat-pumps-the-next-generation/>

US Poll - Energy Issues: How the Public Understands & Acts

The U.S. public accepts some responsibility for the country's energy problems, but most place responsibility with the energy industry and want the government involved in finding a solution.

<http://www.apnorc.org/Common/pdfs/AP-NORC-Energy-Report.pdf>

Three Year Review of First US Carbon Trading Program - It Works

The news is pretty good for anyone who cares about reducing carbon emissions; it's inconvenient for anyone hell-bent on preventing America from implementing a carbon pricing plan... the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) — a nine-state cap-and-trade market established in the Northeast in 2008 — average annual CO2 emissions have fallen by 23 percent ... added \$1.6 billion in value to the economies of participating states, setting up ratepayers for more than \$1.1 billion in savings through improved efficiency and ... renewable energy ... created 16,000 jobs... (PG)

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2012/06/rggi-states-cut-co2-by-23-percent-in-first-three-years>

Consumer Reports Rare 99 for Magnetic Induction Cooktop

We've been saying that magnetic induction cooktops are the best (faster, cleaner, more responsive, more efficient) for some time now (ESB video, G, 3 minutes).

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtEoine69E

July's [Consumer Reports](#) gave the very unusual score of 99 (of 100) to a magnetic induction cooktop - essentially perfect in every way. You must be a subscriber to see the article,

Sustainable Energy - Without the Hot Air

An excellent online book! Very common sense description backed, where possible, by good analysis and numbers. Can the UK run with just renewables?

First part is mostly G rated with occasional PG & VG sections. Next parts are pretty geeky.

Covers mythconceptions - "Better to drive than to walk" P 79.

Other things you might want to know (e.g., embodied energy of a meat chicken P 79)

<http://www.withouthotair.com/Contents.html>

Energy News Source

Fairly complete. Covers energy sustainability amongst all other energy issues. Not completely unbiased but perhaps that is my bias showing ;-) At least one editor is a strong proponent of nuclear energy. I particularly like the 3 new "charticles" per week (scroll down the home page). (mostly G)

<http://realclearenergy.org/>

For example the chart from James Conca of Forbes (PG):

http://www.realclearenergy.org/charticles/2012/07/02/electricity_costs_from_different_sources.html

It ignores "external costs" such as climate change from the fossils, proliferation of nuclear bombs from nuclear power, the inability of coal and nuclear baseload power plants to backup intermittent renewables, and uses 15 years for a wind farm life when in fact most wind farms are contracted to last 20 years. Even so, renewables look pretty good... and nuclear and coal prices are increasing while renewables upfront costs are decreasing. Considering the source, this is progress.

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