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## News

May, 2012. Issue #3. 640 ESB [video views](#).

*Or maybe when we grow up, we'll finally learn how to throw totally righteous parties with crazy costumes and Jaeger ice luges that don't screw future generations out of their option to also throw a good party.*

- Garrett Brennan, Executive Director. [FocusTheNation.org](#)

Please subscribe at <http://energysshouldbe.org/subscribe-news-archive.html>

### **New ESB Video and Spreadsheet**

Do-it-yourself renewable electricity modeling and impact of baseload power. 13 minute instructional video and spreadsheet to download. (VG = Very Geeky).

<http://energysshouldbe.org/delve.html>

## **Electricity**

### **Germany Hits 50% Solar**

22 GW of solar power generation works out to about half of Germany's daytime capacity.

*The record-breaking amount of solar power shows one of the world's leading industrial nations was able to meet a third of its electricity needs on a work day, Friday, and nearly half on Saturday when factories and offices were closed. (G)*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/26/us-climate-germany-solar-idUSBRE84P0FI20120526>

### **Map By US State of Renewable Penetration 2001 - 2011**

We've come a long way in a decade. We believe the next decade will move us further & faster!  
(PG)

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=5750>

## **Solar Commercials**

Much of solar marketing has been directed at early adopters and advocates. [SunRun's](#) fun commercials are directed at homeowners that want to save money. (30 seconds each - G)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HtC03VztyQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HtC03VztyQ)

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

## **Transportation**

### **Tesla Model S Deliveries to Start Early**

10,000 pre-sold. 5,000 to be made in 2012. Five star crash rating. Range better-than-expected.

(G)

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/05/22/tesla-model-s-deliveries-will-start-june-22-regen-brake-level-n/>

Regeneration, suspension, and steering can all be personalized so that the Model S drives exactly as you want it to.

*We can't wait to make every new owner smile as they jump behind the wheel of the most personalized and fun driving experience they've ever had.* (G)

<http://www.teslamotors.com/node/18774>

### **Electric Vehicles (EVs) Get Lower Insurance**

5 to 15% less from many companies.

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/05/24/plug-in-vehicle-drivers-often-get-lower-insurance-rates/>

### **Dealers Figuring Out How to Sell EVs**

(G)

<http://green.autoblog.com/2012/04/30/michigan-dealer-sells-about-a-volt-a-day/>

### **A Unique Solution...**

EVs make so little sound at low speeds that EV-makers have had to create sounds to warn pedestrians. Domino's Pizza in the Netherlands has an, uh, *interesting* solution for their electric delivery scooter. (1 min, G)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=n17B\\_uFF4cA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=n17B_uFF4cA)

## **Understanding EV Energy Use, Efficiency, & Range**

Two good blog posts with graphics from Tesla. (PG)

<http://www.teslamotors.com/blog/roadster-efficiency-and-range>

<http://www.teslamotors.com/blog/model-s-efficiency-and-range>

This graph breaks down where the energy goes (Tires, Drivetrain, Air Resistance, etc) at any given speed. Air resistance is minimal at low speeds, but dominates above about 50 MPH (air resistance goes up as the square of the velocity).

[http://webarchive.teslamotors.com/display\\_data.php?data\\_name=range\\_blog4](http://webarchive.teslamotors.com/display_data.php?data_name=range_blog4)

## **Municipalizing**

### **RUS Loan to Jefferson County, WA for Municipalizing**

Jefferson County voted to municipalize in 2009. They are set to “flip the switch” in 2013. They negotiated all of the costs of municipalizing with their current investor owned utility shortly after the election. The Rural Utility Service (RUS) was setup to provide low interest loans to rural communities for electricity. Combined with previous agreements to get low-cost hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration, there is an excellent chance that they will flip the switch to immediately lower rates and much higher renewables. (G)

<http://www.ptleader.com/main.asp?SectionID=36&SubSectionID=55&ArticleID=31251>

### **Minneapolis Considers “Keeping (Energy) Options Open”**

Another large city opens the door to municipalization and other clean energy options. (G)

<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentaries/153296235.html>

## **Misc.**

### **Plan B: Mobilizing to Save Civilization**

A documentary adaptation of Lester Brown’s book (G)

[http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/plan\\_b/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/plan_b/index.html)

Show times on your PBS station:

<http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/airdates.html>

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

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