

# The Green Courant

*For the Ecologically-Minded Individual*

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## Smart Grid to be Stimulated

*Reuters*

President Barack Obama will announce the largest investment of economic stimulus funds in clean energy during a visit to Florida, an Obama administration official said on Monday.

The announcement will involve the smart grid, which will help bring energy from clean domestic sources to consumers in 49 states and help build a strong and more reliable electricity grid, the official said. The total amount is likely to be in excess of 3 billion.

The president will offer details on funding for the "smart grid" during an appearance at a solar plant in Arcadia, Fla. White House of-

ficials said the projects would create tens of thousands of jobs in the near term and lay the groundwork for changing how Americans use and pay for energy.

The spending is aimed at improving the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. power supply, and helping to create markets for wind and solar power, officials said. They also said it would create "smart meters" to help consumers use electricity when demand is low and when rates are cheaper -- for example, by running dishwashers and other energy-thirsty appliances in the middle of the night.

Obama is to travel to Arcadia, Florida, on Tuesday to make the speech and take a tour of the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center.

**...help build a strong and more reliable electricity grid.**

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## Obama Visits MIT, Encourages Clean Energy Innovation Across America

By Auditi Guha

**Cambridge** — Windows that generate electricity by directing light to solar cells, lightweight high-power batteries that are not built but grown via engineering, and more efficient lighting systems that rely on nanotechnology are some of the “extraordinary research” President Barack Obama encountered during his brief visit to MIT today.

“You just get excited being here and seeing these extraordinary young people and the extraordinary leadership,” he said. “It’s a reminder that all of you are heirs to a legacy of innovation, not just here but across America that has improved our health and well-being and helped us achieve unparalleled prosperity.” Giving a shout out to the students and faculty at MIT for their cutting edge research, Obama challenged Americans to lead the global economy in green energy.

Hundreds of visitors crowded the MIT campus to hear the president talk about American leadership in clean energy as Congress gears up for clean energy legislation hearings and as world leaders prepare for the U.N. climate talks in Copenhagen in December. Walking into resounding applause at Kresge Auditorium minutes after a tour of MIT labs doing cutting-edge research, President Obama reiterated the urgency to immediately address the biggest challenge of our times – clean energy.

Obama said the work being done at MIT is just one example of the pioneering spirit that characterizes America and will help ensure a brighter and cleaner future for coming generations.

About 20 percent of MIT’s faculty is involved in energy research

and the student led MIT Energy Club has more than 1700 members, said MIT president Susan Hockfield.

“We share President Obama’s view that clean energy is the defining challenge of this era to meet the doubling of global energy demands by 2050, drive new patents, new products, industries, jobs and to mitigate climate change clean energy is the only avenue,” she said.

## U.S. Senate Introduces Historic Comprehensive Clean Energy and Climate Legislation

*Repower America*

On September 30, Senators John Kerry and Barbara Boxer introduced the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, a new piece of comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation that will support America’s transition to a 21st century clean energy economy and create millions of clean energy jobs.

The legislation includes aggressive greenhouse gas pollution reductions of 20% by 2020 and 83% by 2050, which are the long term requirements consistent with the reductions recommended by scientists to avert the worst impacts of climate change. It includes funding for programs to train workers for the new clean energy economy through green jobs training programs, and provides a framework of rebates to protect consumers from potential energy price increases.

The legislation also helps put America back in control of its national security by reducing foreign oil consumption through numerous programs to increase transportation efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas pollution, including: public transit incentives and upgrades, incentives for truckers to upgrade to more efficient vehicles, and pollution standards for various transportation vehicles. The bill also preserves the Environmental Protection Agency’s authority to regulate harmful greenhouse gas pollution and protect the public’s health and welfare.

As Alliance for Climate Protection President and CEO Maggie Fox remarked upon introduction of the legislation, “Right now, we have the opportunity to fundamentally transform how we generate and use energy in this country, to put ourselves back in control of our economy and national security and to assert global leadership in a new 21st century clean energy economy.”



## U.S. Wind Energy Industry Installs Over 1,600 MW in Third Quarter

By Julia Hess

**Washington D.C.** — The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) reported today in its third quarter (Q3) market report that the U.S. wind energy industry installed 1,649 megawatts (MW) of new power generating capacity in the third quarter—an amount higher than either the 2nd quarter of 2009 or the 3rd quarter of 2008—bringing the total capacity added this year to date to over 5,800 MW. AWEA also reported that wind turbine manufacturing still lags below 2008 levels, in both production and new announcements.

"Wind power installations are up, and that is good news for America's economy, environment, and energy security," said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. "But manufacturing, which has the potential to employ many more Americans in good, clean energy jobs, remains uncertain. A firm, long-term national commitment to renewable energy is still needed for the U.S. to become a wind turbine man-

ufacturing powerhouse and create hundreds of thousands of jobs."

Since the early July announcement of rules to implement the stimulus bill, the wind industry has seen over 1,600 MW (enough to serve the equivalent of 480,000 average households) of completed projects, and over 1,700 MW of construction starts. These projects equate to about \$6.5 billion in new investment. AWEA does not expect the fourth quarter of 2009 to be as strong as the fourth quarter of 2008 since the 5,000 MW now under construction is nearly 38% lower than the over 8,000 MW under construction at this time last year.

***"Wind power installations are up, and that is good news for America's economy, environment, and energy security,"***

The total wind power capacity now operating in the U.S. is over 31,000 MW, generating enough electricity to power the equivalent of nearly 9 million homes, avoiding the emissions of 57 million tons of carbon annually and reducing expected carbon emissions from the electricity sector by 2.5%.

The state posting the fastest growth rate in the third quarter was Arizona, which installed its first utility-scale project. Pennsylvania ranked 2nd in growth with 29%, followed by Illinois with 22%, Wyoming with 21%, and New Mexico with 20%.

Additional report highlights:

The top five states in additions for new capacity added in the third quarter are:

- Texas - 436 MW
- Oregon - 251 MW
- Illinois - 201 MW
- Colorado - 174 MW
- Wyoming - 170 MW

The top five states in total operating wind capacity are:

- Texas - 8,797 MW
- Iowa - 3,053 MW
- California - 2,787 MW
- Minnesota - 1,805 MW
- Oregon - 1,659 MW

# U.S. Public Still Unconvinced on Climate Change

By Ben Block

Fewer U.S. citizens consider climate change to be a "serious threat" compared to two years ago, even as scientific evidence demonstrates that the problem has become increasingly severe, according to a recent nationwide public opinion poll.

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press survey suggests that climate change campaigns are not adequately explaining the latest science to an audience that needs to reduce emissions substantially in order for the world to avoid the most damaging effects of global warming.

The survey, conducted between September 30 and October 4 among a sample of 1,500 telephone respondents, suggests that 65 percent of the U.S. public considers climate change to be a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem. The results mark a decline in public concern from January 2007, when 77 percent of participants told a Pew survey that they were seriously concerned about climate change.

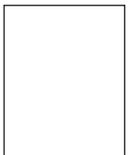


The difference could be a matter of statistics. However, U.S. residents have been subjected to many confusing messages this year from conservative media, fossil fuel-dependent industries, and politicians who question the scientific certainty of climate change. The rise in contrarian voices coincides with the passage of a cap-and-trade bill by the U.S. House of Representatives and consideration of similar legislation by the Senate.

Intense political debate, coupled with colder weather in recent months, may have led to the increased doubt about the climate science, said Riley Dunlap, an environmental sociologist at Oklahoma State University. "We're starting to see the effect of this constant barrage of [climate change] denial penetrating society," Dunlap said. "There is a constant belittling of climate change."

The latest peer-reviewed science, meanwhile, indicates that many dangers associated with climate change are occurring more rapidly than previous studies predicted. Glacial retreat, ice sheet melt, and sea-level rise are intensifying, according to a recent U.N. Environment Programme report.

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