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Energy & Clean Tech Connections

February 2011

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In the February edition of *Energy & Clean Tech Connections*, we've gathered recent information from a wide variety of sources in an effort to keep you abreast of what's new in the world of clean energy. We draw your attention to the latest industry developments, news from local governments to Capitol Hill, grant opportunities, and upcoming events.

This month, the Energy & Clean Technology Practice Group would like to congratulate Mintz Levin clients INEOS Bio and Enerkem, both of whom were [chosen to receive loan guarantees as part of the United States Department of Agriculture's \(USDA\) Biorefinery Assistance Program](#). The USDA selected INEOS Bio to receive a \$75 million loan guarantee to construct a biorefinery capable of producing eight million gallons per year of cellulosic ethanol and having a gross electricity production capacity of six megawatts. The USDA also selected Enerkem to receive an \$80 million loan guarantee to build and operate a biorefinery capable of producing 10 million gallons of advanced biofuel per year.

In U.S. news, President Barack Obama unveiled his fiscal year (FY) 2012 [\\$29.5 billion budget request for the Department of Energy](#) this month.

Highlights of the budget include the following: \$3.2 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs; \$300 million in credit subsidies to support \$3 to \$4 billion in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects; \$550 million for Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) to continue supporting early-stage research projects; \$36 billion in loan guarantee authority to help jump-start the domestic nuclear industry; and \$146 million to support three existing Energy Innovation Hubs and to establish three new hubs in the areas of batteries and energy storage, smart grid technologies and systems, and critical materials. The budget also includes proposed repeals and reductions to several programs—most notably repealing a number of subsidies and tax preferences available for fossil fuels.

On Capitol Hill, government funding has been the central focus this month with the House voting (235–189) to cut \$61 billion from FY 2010 spending levels (approximately \$100 billion below what the President requested for FY 2011). No Democrats voted for the continuing resolution (H.R. 1), which will now go to the Senate for consideration.

The resolution would eliminate any unobligated economic stimulus funds approved in the Recovery Act, saving an estimated \$2 billion. The energy and water budget would be reduced by 11% from the 2010 enacted level to \$29.2 billion. The interior and environment budgets would be reduced 14% from the 2010 enacted level to \$27.8 billion. The Environmental Protection Agency's budget would be cut by \$3 billion to 29% below the FY2010 enacted level. Additionally, the measure, as passed by the House, includes an amendment from Representatives John Carter (R-TX), Ted Poe (R-TX), and Joe Barton (R-TX) that prevents the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing regulations that limit greenhouse gas emissions. Congressional Republicans will face an uphill

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battle on the continuing resolution as it must go through the Democratic-controlled Senate and a potential presidential veto.

We hope that you enjoy this month's edition of the newsletter. For the most up-to-date information on federal legislation and programs, [read the most recent ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update](#). In addition, [read our weekly California Energy and Environment Update](#), which provides reporting on energy- and environment-related legislative, regulatory, and legal issues in California.

Mintz Levin's Monthly Incubator Profile: abi Innovation Hub

The abi Innovation Hub is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, and is all about ideas, innovation, and impact. Originally formed as a collaboration between Southern New Hampshire University and the City of Manchester, New Hampshire, this 14-year-old incubator is home to over 30 of New England's most innovative companies. Abi's mission is to nurture high growth start-ups and create an environment where entrepreneurs have access to the resources, connections, experience, and capital to support the journey of putting ideas into action.

"These are exciting times for people with big ideas and the new abi will literally be a hub for all things start-up," says Jamie Coughlin, vice president of strategic initiatives and entrepreneur in residence. While abi is a mixed-use incubator, one of its standout residents is Green Power Technology (GPT), a growing company that focuses on the solar electric system market and is dedicated to bringing renewable energy to "green conscious" home owners by reducing the costs of green energy systems and revealing the truth about how home-based solar energy systems can be affordably installed.

Its residents come from diverse backgrounds and age groups and that is what makes its environment so unique. By fostering a clean, open, and vibrant workspace, where a spirit of open-source entrepreneurship is encouraged, GPT is a great example of how a start-up in the green tech industry can be in the best position to grow, hire new people, and move on up!

For more information, please contact the abi at +1-603-629-9511, visit www.abihub.org, e-mail hello@abihub.org, follow abi on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/abihub>, or like abi on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/abiinnovationhub>.

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In the News: United States

MiaSole Raises \$106 Million for CIGS Thin Film

Greentech Media—February 18, 2011

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Lighting Cluster Helping Massachusetts Meet Energy Efficiency Goals

Mass High Tech—February 18, 2011

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Green Plains Renewable Energy to Acquire Ethanol Plant from Otter Tail Ag Enterprises

Green Plains—February 17, 2011

[More info...](#)

Solar City Snaps Up Residential Arm of groSolar

Reuters—February 17, 2011

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Clean Diesel Technologies Secures \$7.5 Million Financing

New Energy World Network—February 17, 2011

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Tessera Sells Off Second Big California Solar Project

Reuters—February 16, 2011

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Trojan Battery Secures \$100 Million to Expand into Renewable Energy

New Energy World Network—February 16, 2011

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U.S. Wind Start-Up Boulder Wind Power Raises \$8 Million in Venture Capital

New Energy World Network—February 15, 2011

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GE Acquires Tall Turbine Tech from Wind Tower Systems

TechCrunch—February 11, 2011

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New Geothermal Firm, L Vestus Energy, Secures \$750 Million

Clean Edge—February 14, 2011

[More info...](#)

Khosla-backed Gevo Raises \$107 Million in Biofuels IPO

VentureBeat—February 9, 2011

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GE Capital, NRG Energy, ConocoPhillips form Joint

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Venture to Accelerate Emerging Energy Technology

GE—January 27, 2011

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In the News: Europe and Asia

BMW Launches Venture Capital Fund with \$100 Million Investment as It Targets Sustainable Vehicle Market

New Energy World Network—February 22, 2011

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Amtech Systems Closes Chinese Ion Implant Solar Acquisition

New Energy World Network—February 22, 2011

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Albion Ventures Triples Green Investment Allocation

New Energy World Network—February 21, 2011

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LDK Solar Issues \$183 Million of Debt

New Energy World Network—February 21, 2011

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Accsys Technologies Carries Out Successful Share Placement

New Energy World Network—February 21, 2011

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Conergy Unit Plans \$2.7 Billion Australian Wind Farms

Bloomberg—February 18, 2011

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Suzlon Energy Plans \$392 Million Australian Wind Farm in New South Wales

Bloomberg—February 14, 2011

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Swiss-Asia Launches China-Focused Energy Fund with Target Size of €500 Million

New Energy World Network—February 8, 2011

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Government Financial Assistance

Grants

Renewable Energy Incentives for Homes & Businesses

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U.S. Department of Treasury—Renewable Energy Grants

Application Deadline: January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

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Tax Incentives and Rebates

Federal Business Energy Investment Tax Credit

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Federal Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit

[More info...](#)

Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency

[More info...](#)

Federal Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction

Application Deadline: January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2013

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Federal Renewable Energy Production Incentive

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California Self-Generation Incentive Program

[More info...](#)

California Property Tax Exclusion for Solar Energy Systems

Expiration Date: December 31, 2016

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Massachusetts Incentives/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency

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Massachusetts Clean Energy Center:
Commonwealth Wind Incentive Program – Micro

Wind

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Massachusetts Clean Energy Center:
Commonwealth Solar II

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Energy Efficiency Programs Offered by
Massachusetts Utilities

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Massachusetts RPS Solar Carve-Out

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Privately Sourced Financial Grants

New Generation Energy Grants, Loans &
Microloans

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GE Ecolmagination Challenge: Powering the Grid

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The Energy Foundation Grants

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The Renewable Fuels Foundation Grants for
Ethanol Production

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The Carbon Trust: Entrepreneurs Fast Track

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Federal and State Happenings

Maryland Clean Tech Innovators Secure Grants

New Energy World Network—February 21, 2011

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SoloPower Receives Offer of Conditional
Commitment for a \$197 Million Loan Guarantee
from U.S. DOE to Build Thin Film Photovoltaic
Module Factory

PR Newswire—February 17, 2011

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DOE Announces Up to \$5 Million to Support the Next Generation of Advanced Automotive Designers and Engineers

DOE—February 16, 2011

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DOE Requests \$3.2 Billion for Renewable Energy, Efficiency in FY 2012

Renewable Energy World—February 16, 2011

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DOE Finalizes \$343 Million Loan Guarantee for Transmission Project to Deliver Renewable Energy to Southwest

DOE—February 15, 2011

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President's Energy Budget Invests in Innovation, Clean Energy, and National Security Priorities

DOE—February 14, 2011

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Salazar, Chu Announce Major Offshore Wind Initiatives

DOE—February 7, 2011

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Three Massachusetts Solar Technology Firms Net \$12.6 Million from DOE

Mass High Tech—February 7, 2011

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DOE Pursues SunShot Initiative to Achieve Cost Competitive Solar Energy by 2020

DOE—February 4, 2011

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Six ARPA-E Projects Illustrate Private Investors Excited About Clean Energy Innovation

DOE—February 3, 2011

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Legal News

The Renewable IPO, Part 2: What to Expect After the Decision Has Been Made

Renewable Energy World—February 16, 2011

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Four Compensation Mistakes Made by Start-ups

Law360 article by David Lagasse, Mintz Levin—February 7, 2011

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Court: Tax Equity Partnerships Promote
Congressional Intent

Energy & Clean Technology Alert, Mintz Levin—January 31, 2011

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ML Strategies' Outlook for the 112th Congress

ML Strategies Publication—January 18, 2011

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Green Building Newsletter

Mintz Levin and ML Strategies Publication—January 2011

[More info...](#)

Congress Recharges Tax Incentives for the Clean
Energy Sector

Energy & Clean Technology Alert, Mintz Levin—December 17, 2010

[More info...](#)

Renewable Energy Project Finance in the U.S.: An
Overview and Midterm Outlook

Energy & Clean Technology Report, Mintz Levin—November 2010

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Events

February

Great Energy Efficiency Day 2011

February 16, 2011

Washington, D.C.

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ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit

February 28–March 2, 2011

Washington, D.C.

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March

Energy SIG Breakfast: Transforming the Grid with Technology

March 2, 2010
Cambridge, MA

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MIT Energy Conference

March 4–5, 2011
Boston, MA

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NESEA BuildingEnergy Conference

March 8–10, 2011
Boston, MA

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Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo North America

March 8–10, 2011
Tampa, FL

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Batteries Are Included: Energy Storage Issues in the U.S. & U.K.

March 16, 2011
Cambridge, MA

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May

U.S. DOE's 12th Annual Small Business Conference & Expo

May 10–12, 2011
Kansas City, MO

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