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Energy & Clean Tech Connections

March 2012

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In the March 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 new developments 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, [Bridgelux Inc.](#), a leading developer and manufacturer of LED lighting technologies and solutions, received a \$25 million investment from Kaistar Lighting Xiamen Co., a joint venture of two Chinese manufacturers. We would like to congratulate our clients [VantagePoint Capital Partners](#) and [DCM](#) for their role as existing investors in the financing. The funding will be used to further accelerate research, development, and production of LED chip and packaging technology for general illumination applications. With a technology that makes LEDs more cost-effective for consumers, Bridgelux hopes to capture a big share of the solid-state lighting industry.

On Capitol Hill, Congress has a busy week, with hearings on energy and environmental protection as well as consideration of several large energy bills before both Houses leave for the two-week Easter recess on Friday. On March 21, President Obama continued his energy policy tour with visits to New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, and Oklahoma. On March 22, he renewed his commitment to a clean energy economy and announced an executive order to expedite federal reviews and approvals for major infrastructure projects and announced a \$14.2 million Department of Energy effort to accelerate the deployment and development of stronger and lighter materials for advanced vehicles that will help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil and limit carbon emissions. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) filed a motion on March 22 to limit debate and begin floor action on the Repeal Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act ([S. 2204](#)). The legislation, introduced on March 19 by Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), would extend expired and expiring tax incentives for clean and renewable industries while repealing tax breaks for major oil producers.

In upcoming events, we hope to see you at the [Cleantech Open Northeast Region 2012 Kick-off Party](#) today, March 28 in Boston. Join us as we connect with Boston's top innovators, supporters, and thought leaders in the cleantech space and listen to past competitors as they share their experience with Cleantech Open. For our readers involved in the waste-to-energy business, we would encourage you to attend the [4th Annual Waste to Energy Development and Finance Summit](#), taking place in Chicago today and tomorrow, March 28-29. Our very own Audrey Louison will be participating on two panels at this event: one addressing commercial and industrial waste generator perspectives on waste energy products, and the other, oft-takers' perspectives on acquiring energy from waste to energy. [Navigating the American Carbon World](#), taking place in San Francisco from April 10-12, will also be an important event this spring. The world will be watching California as it launches the first economy-wide cap-and-trade program, which will be the second largest carbon market in the world. With the depth and diversity of its delegates, this event promises to be a great networking opportunity for companies that are taking actions to reduce the

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impact of their emissions or prepare for compliance.

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 & Environment Update](#) and check back for weekly updates.

Mintz Levin's Monthly Incubator Profile

[Greenstart](#), a San Francisco-based startup that focuses on helping entrepreneurs build companies at the intersection of cleantech and IT, announced on March 5 that it is increasing the amount of funding its companies will receive. In addition to the \$15,000 in seed funding the incubator provides, startups now also have an opportunity to receive a \$100,000 convertible note. The notes are being drawn from a \$6 million fund, which comes from a growing group of leading angel investors, family offices, and venture capital firms, and will cover the next 60 companies participating in the program — meaning, the next 6 class of startups over the next three years. Previously, Greenstart offered \$25,000 in seed funding, but lowered that to \$15,000 now that companies have the extra \$100k option. They've also lowered the equity stake to 6% from 5%.

Greenstart provides mentoring, office space, and access to investors. It also recently launched an in-house design practice, and is the first accelerator to do so, led by new COO David Merkoski, the former Executive Creative Director of [frog design](#). Greenstart just opened up applications to its 12-week fall 2012 program on March 5; the deadline for submission is April 11.

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Space and Green Technology Converge at the Cleantech Open

Reuters – March 25, 2012

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Top 10 Women of Biofuels

Greentech Media – March 22, 2012

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Americans Hold 3.1 Million Green Jobs

Bloomberg Businessweek – March 22, 2012

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NYC Announces Plans for Solar, Wind Power

WSJ – March 20, 2012

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US Biofuels Set to Outshine Geothermal, Say Financiers

Environmental Finance – March 20, 2012

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Energkem Seeking up to \$137.8 Million in Initial Public Offering

Bloomberg – March 19, 2012

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Grid Operator's Report Details Energy Market Shift to Clean Energy

CleanTechnica – March 19, 2012

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Is the Window for Greentech IPOs Opening Up?

GigaOM – March 19, 2012

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Kleiner Perkins Raising New Fund

WSJ – March 16, 2012

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Renewables Learning Curve Seen as Keeping Tax Equity Market Short

SNL – March 15, 2012

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United Technologies Seeks Sale of Clipper Windpower Turbine Unit

Bloomberg – March 15, 2012

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US Retrofits Could Yield \$1 Trillion of Energy Savings, According to New Report

Clean Edge – March 14, 2012

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In Search of Capital, San Diego Taking Startups on Roadshows to VCs

Xconomy – March 14, 2012

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Clean Energy Trends 2012 Report Released

CleanTechnica – March 13, 2012

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Solar, Wind, and Biofuels Markets Rise 31 Percent to \$246.1 Billion

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Clean Edge – March 13, 2012

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Citi Leads Investment in SJF's New Fund

WSJ – March 7, 2012

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EnerVault Raises \$15.5 Million for Grid-Size Energy Storage Systems

Clean Edge – March 7, 2012

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FERC Approves Plans for New 300-KW Ocean Power Plant

Renewable Energy World – March 5, 2012

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Buffett Plans More Solar Bonds After Oversubscribed Deal

Bloomberg Businessweek – March 1, 2012

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Asia Report: India's Wind Potential 30 Times Greater Than Believed?

Renewable Energy World – March 26, 2012

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Ofgem Outlines Energy Price Controls, Pumps Fresh Funds into Green Infrastructure

BusinessGreen – March 21, 2012

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Germany's \$263 Billion Renewables Shift Biggest Since War

Bloomberg – March 19, 2012

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Japan's Marubeni to Buy U.K. Wind-Farm Firm

WSJ – March 19, 2012

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Alstom Wind Chief Sees Turbine Growth in Brazil, Europe

Bloomberg – March 19, 2012

[More info...](#)

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Winds of Change Blow Through China as Spending on Renewable Energy Soars

The Guardian – March 19, 2012

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UK Opposes a 2030 Renewable Energy Target

The Guardian – March 19, 2012

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Belgian VC to Target Energy Efficiency in New Fund

Reuters – March 15, 2012

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Asia Continues to Dominate Solar Module Output

Renewable Energy World – March 14, 2012

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A Year Later: Fukushima and the Japan Cleantech Opportunity

GigaOM – March 13, 2012

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China's Solar Markets Also Catch Chill

Renewable Energy World – March 2, 2012

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Smith Electric Vehicles Announces \$25M Investment and \$75M Joint Venture

Clean Edge – March 1, 2012

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A123 Systems Inks Supply Deal with India's Tata Motors

Xconomy – March 1, 2012

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Denmark Tops the Global Cleantech Innovation Index

Clean Edge – February 27, 2012

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BSE Launches India's First Carbon-Efficient Live Index Called Greenex

Economic Times – February 26, 2012

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Tax Incentives and Rebates

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Federal Business Energy Investment Tax Credit

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Federal Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit

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Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency

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Federal Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction

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

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State

California Self-Generation Incentive Program

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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 – MicroWind

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The Carbon Trust: Entrepreneurs Fast Track

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DOE – March 22, 2012

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Obama Administration Announces New Funding for Biomass Research and Development Initiative

DOE – March 22, 2012

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Mass. Committee Advances Bill on Clean Energy

The Boston Globe – March 20, 2012

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U.S. to Impose Tariffs on Solar Panels from China

Los Angeles Times – March 20, 2012

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Senate Passes 2-Year Transportation Bill

New York Times – March 14, 2012

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US Army Seeks Comments on RFP for \$7 Billion in Renewable Energy Contracts

Clean Edge – March 7, 2012

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President Obama Launches EV-Everywhere Challenge as Part of Energy Department's Clean Energy Grand Challenges

DOE – March 7, 2012

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State Department Energy Bureau Chief Outlines Renewable Energy Agenda

Renewable Energy World – March 5, 2012

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ARPA-E Issues Open Call for Transformational Energy Technologies

DOE – March 2, 2012

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Energy Department Announces \$180 Million for Ambitious New Initiative to Deploy U.S. Offshore Wind Projects

DOE – March 1, 2012

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Factsheet: Third Annual ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit

DOE – March 1, 2012

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President Obama Announces Funding for Breakthroughs in Natural Gas and Biofuels as Alternative Fuels for Vehicles

DOE – February 23, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

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EPA Seeks Comment on Minor Reinterpretation of Rules on PCBs in Building Materials

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Events

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Cleantech Forum San Francisco

San Francisco, CA
March 26–28, 2012

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Biofuels Beltway March

Washington, DC
March 27-28, 2012

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Cleantech Open Northeast Region 2012 Kick-off Party

Boston, MA
March 28, 2012

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Wind Energy Update's 3rd Wind Turbine Supply Chain USA Conference Chicago, IL

March 28–29, 2012

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April

Global Trade Summit

Brandeis University; Waltham, MA
April 3, 2012

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The Networked Grid 2012

Research Triangle Area, NC

April 4-5, 2012

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Global New Energy Summit

Colorado Springs, CO

April 9, 2012

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Navigating the American Carbon World – 10 Year Anniversary

San Francisco, CA

April 10, 2012

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8th Annual Berkeley Stanford Cleantech Conference

Stanford University; Palo Alto, CA

April 12, 2012

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Utility Solar Conference

Tucson, AZ

April 16, 2012

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International Biomass Conference and Expo

Denver, CO

April 16-19, 2012

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Cleantech Forum Munich

Munich, Germany

April 16-18, 2012

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Distributed Solar East

Somerset, NJ

April 16–18, 2012

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Fortune Brainstorm Green 2012

Laguna Niguel, CA

April 16-18, 2012

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Photovoltaics Summit 2012

San Diego, CA

April 17-18, 2012

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Investors' Circle Spring Venture Fair

San Francisco, CA

April 22, 2012

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Wind Energy Operations & Maintenance Summit USA

Dallas, TX

April 25-27, 2012

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May

Solar Summit 2012

Phoenix, AZ

May 1-2, 2012

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The 6th Annual ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum

Boston, MA

May 7-8, 2012

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Reznick Group Renewable Energy Conference

Dana Point, CA

May 7-9, 2012

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World Renewable Energy Forum

Denver, CO

May 13-17, 2012

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2012 Alternative Clean Transportation Expo

Long Beach, CA

May 15-17, 2012

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June

AWEA Wind Power Conference and Exhibition

Atlanta, GA

June 3, 2012

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Renewable Energy World Conference and Expo Europe

Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany

June 12-14, 2012

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6th Concentrated Solar Thermal Power Conference and Exhibition

Las Vegas, NV

June 27-28, 2012

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