

## Energy & Clean Tech Connections

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Energy & Clean Tech Connections

February 2012

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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 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, we would like to congratulate our client [RockPort Capital Partners](#) for leading a [\\$10 million Series A investment in FirstFuel Software, Inc. First Fuel](#), based in Lexington, Mass., applies deep analytics to building energy consumption data, hourly local weather data, and GIS building data to produce complete building analysis and energy savings. The result – an interactive Remote Building Assessment – provides a benchmark for building end-use energy performance, customized operational and retrofit recommendations, and monitoring and verification of energy savings over time.

On Capitol Hill, the administration promoted energy-related matters in the third week of February while Congress was in recess for the Presidents' Day holiday. [While speaking to college students in Miami February 23](#), President Obama criticized the pro-drilling approach of Republicans and the reluctance of the oil and gas industry to relinquish its rights to \$4 billion a year in tax breaks, which the President has called for zeroing out in his fiscal year 2013 budget request. Separately, the administration acknowledged that gas prices are rising faster and earlier this year than ever before and is using this issue to remind Americans that developing clean, alternative energy sources is critical. Also, after two years of speculation, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner last week unveiled the administration's [proposal for tax reform](#). Among other provisions, including reductions in the corporate and manufacturing tax rates, the proposal would make the tax credit for the production of renewable electricity permanent.

We are excited to support the New England Clean Energy Council in its inaugural [Clean Energy Day at the Massachusetts State House](#) scheduled for March 13. Clean Energy Day is a unique opportunity for Massachusetts businesses to highlight innovative technologies, connect with industry colleagues, and meet with their representatives and other important energy policy makers during a critical time of year for energy policy. Also, 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 from March 27-29. 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, offtakers' perspectives on acquiring energy from waste to energy. We are also looking forward to attending [CERA Week](#) in Houston from March 5-9 and the [MIT Clean Energy Conference](#) from March 16-17.

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.

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## Mintz Levin's Monthly Incubator Profile

The second class of companies to enter [Greenstart's](#) accelerator program may be indicative of a broader trend in the energy startup business, [Xconomy reports](#). Though we used this space last month to announce the graduation of the San Francisco-based accelerator's first class of companies, it's worth taking a closer look at its picks for this second round. The five companies selected focus on arranging shared transportation ([RidePal](#)); auditing the energy usage of commercial buildings ([KWhOURS](#)); software and services for managing urban commuting ([Scoot Networks](#)); automated demand-response software for small and midsized companies ([Smart Grid Billing](#)); and controlling the flow of energy in smart-grid environments ([Growing Energy Labs](#)).

There is a noticeable lack of energy generation technology prospects in this group and it appears Greenstart is betting entirely on software startups. Indeed, co-founder Mitch Lowe confirms that the accelerator has narrowed its focus to startups working at "the intersection of cleantech and IT." Lowe says "it's less about the development of energy and more about distribution and efficiency," and defines the four big areas of opportunity as the smart grid, buildings, transportation, and consumer services.

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## In the News: United States

### NanoSolar Secures \$20 Million in New Funds

*Clean Edge* – February 28, 2012

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### Comcast to Offer Smart Thermostat Service via EcoFactor

*GigaOM* – February 28, 2012

[More info...](#)

### Beyond Cap and Trade, A New Path to Clean Energy

*Yale Environment 360* – February 27, 2012

[More info...](#)

### On The Road to IPO, Enphase Energy Doubles Sales

*GigaOM* – February 24, 2012

[More info...](#)

### BioAmber Closes \$30 Million Financing with Lanxess and Existing Investors

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Clean Edge – February 23, 2012

[More info...](#)

NextView Ventures Closes on First Micro-VC Fund

*Mass High Tech* – February 21, 2012

[More info...](#)

California Leads the Nation in Green-Tech Venture Funding

*The Los Angeles Times* – February 21, 2012

[More info...](#)

Report: Global Biofuels Market Could Double to \$185.3 Billion by 2012

*CleanTechnica* – February 20, 2012

[More info...](#)

U.S. Defense Contractors Are Hidden Investment Plays in Renewable Energy Initiatives

*Forbes* – February 19, 2012

[More info...](#)

There is No Cleantech Venture Bust, Sorry Wired

*BostInno* – February 14, 2012

[More info...](#)

Amyris Ditches Biofuels, Stock Falls Almost 30%

*GigaOM* – February 10, 2012

[More info...](#)

PG&E Announces Record Solicitation for Renewable Energy

*PG&E* – February 9, 2012

[More info...](#)

Why Green Is Not Enough: Lessons from a Cleantech CEO

*Xconomy* – February 9, 2012

[More info...](#)

Clean Power Finance Moves Big Numbers into PV with Vivint Solar Deal

*Greentech Media* – February 7, 2012

[More info...](#)

What's Driving North America's Solar PV Market in 2012?

*Renewable Energy World* – February 7, 2012

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US Bancorp Plans to Invest \$440M in Solar, Wind

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## Projects in 2012

*The Wall Street Journal* – February 2, 2012

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## In the News: Europe and Asia

Yingli Solar and GRID Alternatives Renew Partnership to Provide Solar Energy to 800 Low-Income Families

*Greentech Media* – February 28, 2012

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China Tightens Energy Targets

*The Wall Street Journal* – February 28, 2012

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Spain Exits Renewables Top 10 After Curbing Subsidies, E&Y Says

*Bloomberg* – February 27, 2012

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Germany's New Solar Containment Policy

*Renewable Energy World* – February 27, 2012

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Denmark Tops the Global Cleantech Innovation Index

*Clean Edge* – February 27, 2012

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China Launches Renewable Energy Think Tank

*Renewable Energy World* – February 27, 2012

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China Solar Silicon Production Curbed 30% to Lift Prices

*Bloomberg* – February 16, 2012

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For Bridgelux, LED Opportunities Lie in China

*GigaOM* – February 13, 2012

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Will Austerity Derail Europe's Clean Energy Movement?

*Time* – February 10, 2012

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Installed Wind Power Capacity Up 21 Percent in 2011

*CleanTechnica* – February 8, 2012

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## Government Financial Assistance

### **Grants**

Renewable Energy Incentives for Homes & Businesses

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### **Tax Incentives and Rebates**

#### **Federal**

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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Federal Renewable Energy Production Incentive

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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 – 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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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 Carbon Trust: Entrepreneurs Fast Track

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## Federal and State Happenings

BOEM Identifies Wind Energy Area Offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts

*BOEM* – February 24, 2012

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President Obama Highlights Energy Department Efficiency Training Centers That Save U.S. Manufacturers \$5.6 Billion

*DOE* – February 23, 2012

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Bingaman Calls Hearing on Loan Guarantee Program Report

U.S. Senate – February 22, 2012

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Secretary Chu Highlights All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy in Senate Budget Testimony

DOE – February 16, 2012

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NSTAR-NU Merger Agreement to Meet MA Clean Energy Goals

MA DOER – February 15, 2012

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Is the California Solar Gold Rush Destined to Fail?

Greentech Media – February 8, 2012

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Energy Department to Launch New Energy Innovation Hub Focused on Advanced Batteries and Energy Storage

DOE – February 7, 2012

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ESTCP Issues Installation Energy Solicitation

Environmental Security Technology Certification Program – February 2, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – February 26, 2012

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Environmental Alert: New Requirements on Construction Site Stormwater

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Mergers and Acquisitions Alert: What You Need to Get Done Now if You Want to Sell Your Company in 2012

Mintz Levin – February 22, 2012

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ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – February 19, 2012

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## Venture Capital and Emerging Companies Alert: Should You Consider Becoming a Benefit Corporation?

*Mintz Levin* – February 13, 2012

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## ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

*ML Strategies* – February 12, 2012

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## Green Building Alert: Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Update: Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on PACE Financing; Public Comment Sought

*Mintz Levin* – February 23, 2012

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## ML Strategies Energy and Environment Update

*ML Strategies* – February 5, 2012

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## Venture Capital and Emerging Companies Alert: New Small Offering Exception Receiving Support

*Mintz Levin* – February 2, 2012

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## ML Strategies Outlook for 2012

*ML Strategies* – January 19, 2012

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## Renewable Energy Project Finance in the U.S.: 2012- 2013 Overview and Future Outlook

*Mintz Levin* – January 2012

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## Events

### **March**

#### Building Energy 12

Boston, MA

March 6–8, 2012

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#### 7th Annual Military Energy Alternatives

Washington, DC  
March 6–8, 2012

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### Clean Energy Day at the Massachusetts State House

Boston, MA  
March 13, 2012

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### Bio-Based Chemicals

Rotterdam, Netherlands  
March 13–14, 2012

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### 8th International Biopower Generation Congress and Exhibition

Rotterdam, Netherlands  
March 13–14, 2012

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### 2012 MIT Energy Conference

Boston, MA  
March 16–17, 2012

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### Leading Clean Energy Ventures Networking Reception

TBD  
March 20, 2012

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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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### 4th Annual Waste to Energy Finance and Development Summit

Chicago, IL  
March 27–29, 2012

[More info...](#)

### 3rd Wind Turbine Supply Chain Conference

Chicago, IL  
March 28–29, 2012

[More info...](#)

**April**

## Global Trade Summit

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

April 3, 2012

[More info...](#)

## The Networked Grid 2012

Research Triangle Area, NC

April 4–5, 2012

[More info...](#)

## 8th Annual Berkeley Stanford Cleantech Conference

Stanford University; Palo Alto, CA

April 12, 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 26–27, 2012

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## **May**

### Solar Summit 2012

Phoenix, AZ

May 1–2, 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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