

Energy & Clean Tech Connections: Your Law Firm Link to Industry News

MAY 2012

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In the May 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 and Clean Technology Practice Group would like to congratulate Mintz Levin's client [GreatPoint Energy, Inc.](#) on the [closing of its investment and partnership agreement with China Wanxiang Holdings](#). GreatPoint Energy's Bluegas™ hydromethanation technology directly converts coal into pipeline quality natural gas, operating at the highest efficiency with the least environmental impact to produce natural gas at the lowest cost in the industry. As part of the transaction, GreatPoint Energy raised equity investment and secured project funding of \$1.25 billion from Wanxiang to finance and construct the first phase of a one trillion cubic feet per year coal to natural gas production facility to be located in the Xinjiang Region of western China. China Petroleum and Chemical Corp. (Sinopec), China's largest company by revenue, has agreed to purchase the natural gas produced from the facility and construct infrastructure to transport it from Xinjiang to eastern regions of China. A hearty congratulations to GreatPoint on this important step towards meeting China's rapid growth in demand for natural gas with American technology and engineering.

On Capitol Hill, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) said May 15 that staff for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) met May 7 to discuss floor time for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2011 (S. 1000), legislation she cosponsored with Senator Rob Portman (R-OH). Also known as the Shaheen-Portman Bill, this bipartisan legislation would authorize \$1 billion for energy efficiency financing programs, national building codes, and energy policy.

The bill is considered the most likely possibility for significant movement on energy policy this Congress and was the subject of a May 21 letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) urging its swift passage and sponsored by a broad coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, and public interest and faith based groups. [A study released this week](#) by the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy calculates that the Shaheen-Portman Bill could save consumers \$60 billion by 2030, help businesses add 159,000 jobs to the economy, and cut CO2 emissions by the equivalent of taking 21 million cars off the road.

In other news on Capitol Hill, the House and Senate continue to examine fiscal year 2013 authorization proposals for Department of Defense. The House

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recently approved its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4320), which included a controversial biofuels amendment that would limit the military's ability to purchase advanced biofuels as well as a provision that would allow DOD to buy transportation fuel from unconventional sources. The Senate began marking up its version of the funding bill May 22.

In upcoming events, Sa Surmeli, Co-Chair of our Energy and Clean Technology Practice, will moderate a panel titled "[Where Will the Next Energy Revolution Come From?](#)" at the [TiECON East](#) event taking place May 31 through June 1, 2012 in Waltham, Massachusetts. We are also excited to attend the [9th Annual Renewable Energy Finance Forum](#) in New York on June 19.

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](#).

Mintz Levin's Monthly Innovator Profile

For this month's Innovator Profile, we would like to congratulate [Radiator Labs](#), grand prize winner of the 2012 [MIT Clean Energy Prize](#). Radiator Labs has developed low-cost, easily installed radiator retrofits that convert old one-zone systems into multi-zoned, highly controllable heating systems. The team will now go on to compete on a national stage, as six regional Clean Energy Business Plan Competitions come together in Washington DC this summer.

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In the News: United States

Lighting Science Completes \$140 Million Equity Raise
Clean Edge – May 29, 2012
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Solar Energy Industry is Flourishing in MA
The Boston Globe – May 27, 2012
[More Info »](#)

New Clean-Tech Firm Inerjys Hires Industry Veterans Shah, Pullan
Wall Street Journal – May 25, 2012
[More Info »](#)

Climate Bond Market Slowed by Cheaper Bank Financing
Environmental Finance – May 25, 2012
[More Info »](#)

10 Trends for Smarter Buildings
GigaOM – May 24, 2012
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MIT Liquid Metal Battery Startup Adds \$15M and Khosla Ventures as Investor

Greentech Media – May 24, 2012

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Cleantech Startups Join NYC Accelerator Scheme

New Energy World Network – May 24, 2012

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Clean Line Energy Gets FERC Nod for Iowa-to-Illinois Line

Utility Products – May 24, 2012

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US Solar Financing on the Brink of a Transformation

MarketWatch – May 24, 2012

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Goldman Sets \$40 Billion Clean Energy Investment Plan

Reuters – May 23, 2012

[More Info »](#)

SunRun's \$60M Round Leads a Small Streak of Solar VC Funding

Greentech Media – May 23, 2012

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Comverge and H.I.G. Capital Announce Merger

Clean Edge – May 23, 2012

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A Gust of Wind Industry Mergers

Forbes – May 23, 2012

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Clean Tech Portfolio Could Need Lots more Cash from Kleiner Perkins

The Wall Street Journal – May 23, 2012

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Saving Money, Gaining Energy Independence: ESPCs with the U.S. Government

Renewable Energy World – May 22, 2012

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Can Hertz Shake Up Car Sharing?

GigaOM – May 22, 2012

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Offshore Wind Transmission Project (AWC) Reaches Milestone with DOI Action

Clean Edge – May 17, 2012

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Solexel Raises \$25M for Silicon Gas-Based Solar Panels

Bloomberg BusinessWeek – May 17, 2012

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Kleiner Perkins Closes New Early-Stage Fund

The Wall Street Journal – May 17, 2012

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Skyline Innovations Enters California Solar Market with \$30 Million Project Finance Fund

PV Magazine – May 15, 2012

[More Info »](#)

Interview: Taking Green Chemistry Out of the Lab and into Products

Yale Environment 360 – May 16, 2012

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Research Paper Shines Light on the Competitiveness of Solar PV Power

Bloomberg New Energy Finance – May 16, 2012

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Morgan Stanley Backs \$300M Residential Solar Lease Facility

Clean Edge – May 7, 2012

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Q1 2012 Clean Energy Market and Policy Briefing

Bloomberg New Energy Finance – May 2, 2012

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SolarCity Plans IPO

San Francisco Chronicle – May 1, 2012

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In the News: Europe and Asia

China to Invest \$316 Billion in Promoting Energy-Saving and Low-Carbon Projects

China Daily – May 29, 2012

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Asian Demand Spurs U.S. Net Exports of Petroleum Coke to Higher Levels in Early 2012

US EIA – May 25, 2012

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EU to Verify Clean-Tech Performance Claims

Environmental Finance – May 25, 2012

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Covanta and GMB to Join Forces for Waste-to-Energy Plant in UK

New Energy World Network – May 24, 2012

[More Info »](#)

French Green Bond Oversubscribed in Half Hour

Sustainable Business – May 23, 2012

[More Info »](#)

Could Taiwan Be the Next Big Solar Manufacturing Hub?

Renewable Energy World – May 23, 2012

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Europe's Largest Renewable Energy Fund Will Only Invest in Wind and Small Hydro

Oil Price – May 22, 2012

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Will Chinese Solar Module Tariffs Restore Balance to Industry?

Renewable Energy World – May 18, 2012

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A Journey Through a Water Cleaning Plant in Brazil

GigaOM – May 18, 2012

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China Rejects US Solar Dumping Ruling

Washington Post – May 18, 2012

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ADB Sells \$339 Million Clean Energy Bonds to Fuel Asian Demand

Bloomberg – May 16, 2012

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Saudi Arabia Launches Massive Renewable Energy Program with FITs

Renewable Energy World – May 15, 2012

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Saudi Arabia Plans \$109 Billion Boost for Solar Power

Bloomberg – May 11, 2012

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Government Financial Assistance

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 – 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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BIRD Energy: U.S.-Israel Joint Renewable Energy Grants

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New Generation Energy Grants, Loans & Microloans

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GE Ecomagination 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

President Pushes Congress to Extend Production Tax Credit for Wind Energy

The Examiner – May 26, 2012

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California PUC Rules in Favor of Net Metering

Renewable Energy World – May 24, 2012

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Wind Energy Leaders Call to Extend Wind PTC Before

Summer Recess

Clean Edge – May 24, 2012

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Obama Steps Up Call for Clean Energy Tax Credits

Los Angeles Times – May 24, 2012

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DOE Deputy Secretary Poneman Announces New Steps to Support Clean Energy Small Businesses

DOE – May 23, 2012

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Army, Air Force Mount Renewable Energy Push

US Department of Defense – May 23, 2012

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State Considers Noise Regulations for Wind Turbines

The Boston Globe – May 21, 2012

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US Slaps Tariffs on Chinese Panels. Is this the End of Cheap Solar?

Washington Post – May 17, 2012

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Massachusetts Average Monthly Household Electric Bill at Six Year Low

MA EEA – May 17, 2012

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New EE Standards for Residential Clothes Washers and Dishwashers to Save Consumers Billions

DOE – May 16, 2012

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Mass. DOER Explains Woody Biomass Fuel Regulation Changes

Biomass Magazine – May 16, 2012

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Walmart to Install Solar Panels in Massachusetts

Bloomberg BusinessWeek – May 15, 2012

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Policies for Compensating Behind-the-Meter Generation Vary by State

US EIA – May 9, 2012

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Student Teams from MA and CA Win Energy Department's 22nd National Science Bowl

DOE – April 30, 2012

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Legal News

Green Building Newsletter

Mintz Levin – May 2012

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Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – May 27, 2012

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Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – May 20, 2012

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Recent SEC Guidance on Crowdfunding

Mintz Levin – May 16, 2012

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Financial Services Regulatory Reform Update

ML Strategies – May 14, 2012

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Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – May 13, 2012

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Energy and Environment Update

ML Strategies – May 6, 2012

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U.S. EPA Targets Third Company in Biodiesel Fraud Case

Bloomberg BusinessWeek – May 1, 2012

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Events

May

Lazard Capital Markets Alternative Energy Conference

New York, NY
May 30-31, 2012

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2012 Silicon Valley Energy Storage Symposium

Mountain View, CA
May 30, 2012

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TIECON East

Waltham, MA
May 31 – June 1, 2012

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June

AWEA Wind Power Conference and Exhibition

Atlanta, GA

June 3, 2012

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International Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Expo

Minneapolis, MN

June 4, 2012

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The Small Wind Conference

June 11-13, 2012

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Renewable Energy World Conference and Expo Europe

Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany

June 12-14, 2012

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High Performance Buildings Summit

San Francisco, CA

June 18-20, 2012

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Cleantech Conference and Showcase 2012

Santa Clara, CA

June 18-21, 2012

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Biogas USA East and Midwest

Chicago, IL

June 19, 2012

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9th Annual Renewable Energy Finance Forum Wall Street

New York, NY

June 19, 2012

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Cleantech Open National Conference

San Jose, CA

June 21, 2012

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6th Concentrated Solar Thermal Power Conference and Exhibition

Las Vegas, NV

June 27-28, 2012

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July

Intersolar Exhibition and Conference

San Francisco, CA

July 9-12, 2012

[More Info »](#)

September

Solar Power 2012

Orlando, FL

September 10-13, 2012

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Renewable Energy Markets 2012

September 23-25, 2012

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Algae Biomass Summit

Denver, CO

September 24-27, 2012

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