



Green Newsletter
March 2008

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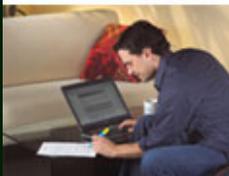
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Energy Bills in Senate

H.R. 5351 - Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008

Introduced by Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), this legislation would create new tax credits and extend others for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

The bill would: extend a 35 percent production tax credit for wind farms and other renewable energy sources through 2011; extend tax credits for efficiency improvements to homes through 2009; extend the energy efficient tax deduction for commercial buildings through 2013; create a new tax credit of 50 cents a gallon for cellulosic ethanol; remove \$18 billion in tax incentives from big oil companies and divert the money to incentives for renewable energy.

"The energy efficiency tax credits included in H.R. 5351 were one of the key missing elements in the landmark Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 enacted into law last December," said Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) President Kateri Callahan in a press release. "With today's action by the House, the Senate now has an opportunity to take care of this important unfinished business which will help consumers and businesses across the country suffering under the burdens of both spiraling energy costs and an economic downturn."

Opponents claim the bill targets tax increases on U.S. energy producers, which will only lead to higher energy costs to U.S. consumers and business.

The bill has passed the House by a 236 to 182 vote. The legislation still needs approval by the Senate, but President Bush has already threatened a veto.

H.R. 5373 - Consumer and Manufacturer Energy Efficient Tax Credit Extension Act of 2008

Introduced by Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-Iowa), this legislation extends the energy efficient appliance credit and the non-business energy property credit.

The tax credit for appliances (dishwashers, refrigerators, etc.) applies to manufacturers that build to Energy Star criteria, and to consumers who purchase energy efficient appliances for the home.

"We must do all we can to encourage consumers to buy energy efficient appliances," Boswell said. "It's a win-win situation for the environment and the pocketbook. And it's important to extend the credits to American manufacturers."

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DOE Challenges Homebuilders

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a challenge to homebuilders: build 220,000 high-performance homes by 2012. A high-energy home would use at least 30



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"Water For Life"

percent less energy than a typical new home built to meet the criteria of the 2006 International Energy Code.

The program, called the Builders Challenge, is voluntary, but 38 homebuilders have already pledged to build an estimated total of 6,000 high-performance homes.

"The Department of Energy's Builders Challenge aims to redefine the way homes across this nation produce and use energy," Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman said at the International Builders Show. "The Challenge expands public-private sector cooperation to propel the market toward building and selling homes that produce at least as much energy as they consume, and furthers the President's call to change how we power our homes and businesses by utilizing cutting-edge technologies that increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions."

[Builders Challenge Program]
[DOE Press Release]

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World's Largest Solar Plant Planned for Arizona Desert



Arizona Public Service, the state's largest utility, has commissioned Abengoa Solar Inc. to build the world's largest solar power plant. The 280-megawatt solar-thermal plant will cover three square miles in the desert southwest of Phoenix, and produce enough energy to power 70,000 homes.

Solar-thermal plants use parabolic mirrors that track the sun's path and focus its energy to heat a liquid to over 700 degrees Fahrenheit.

The steam from the liquid is used to spin turbines, which in turn produces electricity.

Abengoa is expected to receive \$4 billion over 30 years for the energy produced. The plant will help the utility reach the state requirement of 15 percent electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

The project faces a few hurdles - Abengoa Solar will only build the plant if the U.S. solar tax incentive is renewed. If renewed, the plant is expected to be completed by 2011.

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8th World Plumbing Conference - Canada Hosts the World

Canada is getting ready for the 8th World Plumbing Conference, to be held Sept. 24-27. The Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta (MCAA), the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC) and the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) will introduce the members of the World Plumbing Council to the wonder and diversity of Calgary, Alberta, as the host city for the 8th World Plumbing Conference.

The 2008 World Plumbing Conference, which will also serve as the annual national conference of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada, will include extensive business and trade programs combined with social and recreational events. The theme chosen for the conference is "**Water - Our Life; Our Business; Our Responsibility.**"

For the most current information on the conference visit
www.worldplumbing.org/2008.html

For Calgary and Alberta information, visit www.tourismcalgary.com and
www.travelalberta.com.

In conjunction with the 2008 World Plumbing Conference, Western Canada's largest plumbing, cooling, piping and heating show, CIPHEX WEST, will take place Sept. 25-26, providing an added highlight to the delegates of the conference (see www.ciphexwest.ca).

The mission of the World Plumbing Council is to unite the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations, for the benefit of all.

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Boulder County Includes BuildSmart into Building Code

Boulder County, Colo., has voted to incorporate one of the nation's most stringent green building programs. Called BuildSmart, the program applies to all new residential construction requiring a building permit.

The program calls for homes to be energy efficient, conserve water, and for larger homes, to install renewable energy systems. The program is broken into five sections:

- **Deconstruction Plan** - all materials from an existing structure must be salvaged for recycling, resale or reuse as an alternative to sending materials to the landfill.
- **Reuse and Recycling** - if an existing structure is deconstructed, the square footage of that residential structure will apply to the necessary BuildSmart standards for the new construction project. (If a 2,000 square foot home is removed and a 3,000 square foot new home built, the new construction will have to meet the standards for a 5,000 square foot home.) Onsite construction materials must also be recycled.
- **Energy Conservation/Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Carbon Emissions** - homes must meet the Home Energy Rating System (HERS). A HERS index of 100 is equal to the International Energy Conservation Code (ICES) building code standard.

Square Footage Thresholds	Required HERS Index for new Structures including additions or renovations resulting in a structure totaling more than 3000 square feet
1000-3000	60
3001-4000	40
4001-5000	25
over 5000	10

- **Renewable Energy Offsets for Homes exceeding 3,000 Square Feet** - Homes 3,001 square feet and greater must include offsetting renewable energy systems such as geothermal and photovoltaic. Increased energy use by exterior pools, spas, and heated drives and patios must be offset by renewable energy generation equivalent to the energy used by those exterior uses.
- **Water Conservation** - decreased water use through incorporations such as low-flow (1.3 gallons per flush) or dual flush toilets, low flow showerheads (2 gallons per minute or less), flow reducing faucets (2 gallons per minute or less), and water efficient appliances.

Optional elements include framing techniques that use less lumber and waste in construction, environmentally preferred materials, meets the Energy Star Indoor Air Package and exterior water conservation though reduced turf areas, low-flow demand or

xeriscape plants, and high efficiency and drip irrigation for landscape.

In addition to the BuildSmart Program, the county is seeking to pass the "Expanded Transfer of Development Rights", or TDR program. This program seeks to limit the square footage of new houses built in Boulder County. The average house size in the county is 6,290 square feet, as opposed to the 2,237 square foot national average.

The Planning Commission's current draft of the program limits houses in the plains and suburban foothills area to 5,500 square feet. Homes in the mountain areas will be limited to 3,500 square feet. Those seeking to build bigger homes must buy development rights from smaller houses or vacant lots.

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Caroma Helps Green Los Angeles Schools

Caroma USA is donating 25 H2Zero's to the Global Green's Green Schools initiative. The waterless urinals will be installed in Animo Justice and Animo Ralph Bunche, two new public schools set to open in South Los Angeles later this year.

The donation is in conjunction with Coroma's sponsorship of the Global Green's Pre-Oscar® party, which was held a few days before the Oscars®. The pre-party marked its fifth year bringing awareness to sustainable building practices and renewable energy, and drew celebrities such as Salma Hayek and Adrian Grenier.

"Global Green's annual Oscar® Party shines a spotlight on the need for sustainable building practices that will have a long-term benefit in our communities. We are proud to align with Global Green in this cause," said Derek Kirkpatrick, North American manager, Caroma USA, in a press release.

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Dow Water Solutions for Olympic Games

Dow Water Solutions is installing its FILMTECH™ reverse osmosis membranes to help manage water resources for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. They will be installed in three wastewater reclamation facilities and help treat an estimated 45,000 cubic meters of water per day.

The installation will bring the wastewater reuse rate in Beijing to 50 percent, compared with the current rate of 15 percent, as reported by the Beijing Drainage Group.

[DOW Press Release]

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A Greener King County

King County, Wash., is taking steps to extend its green building program. Executive Ron Sims has proposed a new ordinance that will require all buildings, renovations and remodel projects to seek LEED Gold certification for qualified buildings.

"We are a nationally recognized leader in establishing sustainable building standards since 1999 when we built the King Street Center, one of the first green office buildings in Seattle," Sims said in a press release. "This updated ordinance ensures that we continue this environmentally sound and economically sensible effort into the future."

King County has 16 buildings in design, under construction or completed that have been registered with LEED. The Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station is expected to be the next to join the completed list, and become the first LEED-Gold building of its kind. The building incorporates a rainwater collection system, use of natural light and recycled content construction.

To read more: [\[Press Release\]](#)

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Lake Mead Dry by 2021?



A pair of researchers at San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography are warning that there is a 50 percent chance that Lake Mead, located on the border of Nevada and Arizona, will run dry by 2021, and a 10 percent chance that it will run out of reusable water by 2014. The researchers, Barnett and Pierce, have submitted their report, "When will Lake Mead go dry?" for publication in the peer reviewed journal *Water Resources Research*.

Lake Mead, as well as its neighbor Lake Powell, is currently half full. Both lakes supply water for more than 25 million people, including residents in Nevada and Southern California. If Lake Mead drops below 1,000 feet, Nevada would lose all of its river allocations. Arizona would lose much of the water flowing through the Central Arizona Project Canal. The report also states that there is a 50 percent chance that reservoir levels will drop too low to allow hydroelectric power generation by 2017.

The report blames human demand, natural forces like evaporation and human-induced climate changes for the low levels. The Lake depends mostly on snowmelt from the Western Colorado Rockies.

"We were stunned at the magnitude of the problem and how fast it was coming at us," said Barnett in a Scripps press release. "Make no mistake, this water problem is not a scientific abstraction, but rather one that will impact each and every one of us that live in the Southwest."

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World Water Day - 2008

Help bring attention to the critical lack of clean, safe drinking water worldwide. More than 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water, and 2.6 billion lack access to adequate sanitation facilities.

Celebrate World Water Day March 22! Find out more at www.worldwater.org.

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Go Green! Register online for IAPMO's 79th Annual Education and Business conference at www.iapmo.org

Events Calendar:

The Midwest Builders Show and Conference
March 12-13, 2008
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, IL
www.midwestbuildersshow.com

CMX-CIPHEX National Trade Show
March 27-29, 2008
Metro Toronto Convention Center
www.cmxciphexshow.com

Kitchen and Bath Industry Show and Conference
April 10-13, 2008
McCormick Place
Chicago, IL
www.kbis.com

IAPMO Technical Committee Meeting 2008
May 5-9, 2008
The Adams Mark Hotel
Denver, CO
www.iapmo.org

63rd National Hardware Show
May 6-8, 2008
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
www.nationalhardwareshow.com

Green West Expo 2008
May 20-22, 2008
LA Convention Center
Los Angeles, CA
www.greenwestexpo.com

Commercial Construction Expo
June 3-5, 2008
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL
www.cc-show.net

PCBC 2008
June 24-27, 2008
Moscone Center
San Francisco, CA
www.pcbc2008.com

IAPMO Emerging Technology Symposium
August 19-20, 2008
O'Hare Marriott
Chicago, IL
www.iapmo.org

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