



# renewable energy Long Island

November 2011 e-News

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## LI Home of Largest Solar Electric System in Eastern U.S.

Imagine seeing laid out before you vast rows of large solar panels, stilted several feet off the ground, sitting side by side for what looks like miles. "This is what environmentalists dream about," said Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment on November 18<sup>th</sup>, when some 100 people gathered to inaugurate the Long Island Solar Farm (LISF), owned by BP Solar International and MetLife. Representation from local government, LIPA, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), and BP Solar, as well as environmental leaders including Ms. Esposito and our very own Gordian

Raacke, gathered on that crisp sunny day to celebrate what is now the largest photovoltaic system in the eastern U.S.



Gordian so happily exclaimed "this is huge!" when he approached the podium to commend the efforts of all who were involved. What a feat and what an advantage for Long Island to host a solar-powered plant which will feed the electrical grid at relatively little extra cost; at about \$0.60 per month for a typical residential customer.

The Department of Energy's BNL hosts the site and will

conduct the research to test the viability of a solar farm of this scale on Long Island where the seasons and weather are variable. "Understanding these local microclimate effects will help us reliably integrate power from intermittent sources like solar and wind into the electric grid, and advance state and national renewable energy goals," said Doon



## Save Money this Winter!

Outside temperatures are dropping quickly and now is the time to take the necessary steps to reducing heat loss and enhance the heating envelope of our homes.

The [Long Island Green Homes](http://www.LongIslandGreenHomes.org) program is designed to help Long Island homeowners improve the energy efficiency of

their homes and cut down on heating costs. Better insulation, air sealing, upgrades to heating and hot water systems, and replacement of skylights and storm doors could save close to \$1,000 annually on your heating and electricity bills. These measures also improve the air we breathe, stimulate the local economy, and help reduce our nation's dependence on fossil fuels. Visit [www.LongIslandGreenHomes.org](http://www.LongIslandGreenHomes.org) and get started!

You can also apply [here](#) to see if you are eligible for a free home energy audit which will provide you with a report that will indicate where your home's energy efficiency can be improved and at a reasonable cost. Sponsored by the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority \(NYSERDA\)](http://www.NYSERDA.org).

## Phase II of Renewable Energy in America National Policy Forum

December 6-7, 2011

Capitol Hill | Washington, DC



### ACORE Phase II of Renewable Energy in America National Policy Forum

December 6-7, 2011 on Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

ACORE's annual [Phase II Policy Forum](#) has never been more important. With an industry whose growth and economic potential is being called into question, Phase II will be a critical meeting geared to formulate an over-arching strategy for the continued success and support of the industry. The forum will explore issues of national and energy security, economic development, capital raising, and jobs for the many under and unemployed Americans. The thought leaders from the global stage will join leaders from the national and state level to assess the status of renewable energy policy today, the range of policy options available, and help to advise on a best case policy framework for 2012 and beyond. Your attendance is critical to formulating a well-rounded energy policy for America's future. [Register Here](#)



Gibbs, BNL's deputy director for science and technology. The goal of NY State is to produce 30% of our electricity



from renewable sources by 2015 with an added 15% in efficiency, and there is no doubt that Long Island is breaking new ground to make this vision a reality.

The 164,312 solar panels produce up to 32-megawatts of energy, enough to power 4,500



homes, and have the smallest carbon footprint of any solar array of its size and output. In an added effort to ensure the

smallest environmental impact possible, LIPA will contribute \$2 million for preservation in the Central Pine Barrens Region and BNL will add an extra 51 acres to the already preserved 500 plus acres protected land. Furthermore, BP Solar will provide \$75,000 in funds for the restoration and maintenance of the surrounding ecological habitat.

We at reLI are very proud to see that LIPA's solar program has made such progress and that it continues to provide incentives for municipalities and homeowners to switch to renewable

energy. The LISF is another large stride in the right direction, "this is a major milestone in Long Island's energy history: for the first time, Long

Island has a power plant which will generate reliable and clean electricity for decades to come, using our abundant sunshine instead of polluting fossil fuels," said Gordian. He also noted that "instead of sending our hard earned money to fuel-producing regions of the country or the world to pay for that fuel, we're keeping that money here in the local economy — employing local men and women, local labor, to make this happen." A power plant that can produce clean energy *and* strengthen our local economy is a major achievement for Long Island.



## Renewable Energy Future Cheaper Than Fossil & Nuclear

Scientists are confident that global warming is happening due to human activity and that investing in a future where renewable energy replaces fossil fuels is imperative to the healthy future of our planet and its inhabitants. What was not clear up to now was whether or not a renewable energy future was financially viable in the US. A recently released report now shows that shifting our energy economy to renewables does not only have environmental and health benefits but will in fact save us a lot of money.

reLI joined the think-tank Civil Society Institute (CSI) in releasing the national report which challenges the business as usual (BAU) energy model where carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions are projected to rise 28% by 2050. The report, prepared by Synapse Energy Economics, titled "Toward a Sustainable Future for the U.S. Power Sector: Beyond Business as Usual 2011," outlines how a 25% reduction in power sector carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions below 2010 levels by 2020, and a 81% reduction below 2010 levels by 2050, is possible. These reductions would not only decrease emissions

and the effects of climate change, they would also help reduce pollution-caused diseases and premature deaths, conserve water that is currently being wasted and polluted in coal, natural gas and nuclear power production and extraction, and stimulate the local economy by providing hundreds of thousands of new jobs in and around the renewable energy sector. Most surprisingly, all of these benefits could be achieved while realizing net savings of \$83 billion dollars over the next 40 years.

In this "Transition Scenario", wind and solar energy grow dramatically while coal, natural gas and nuclear energy production is greatly reduced. Despite a conservative approach when projecting costs, the results are very encouraging. By 2050, coal-fired generation would be completely eliminated and replaced by greater energy efficiency and renewables. Wind energy would increase to 611 Terawatt-hours (TWh) including 60 TWh of offshore wind, instead of only reaching 189 TWh under BAU. Solar (photovoltaic) generation would increase to 842 TWh, instead of only 24 TWh under



[Click Here to read the full report](#)

decade of this effort.

This report comes at a crucial time amidst climate change talks in Durban, a surge in the news on having reached threatening levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and the events at Fukushima's nuclear power plant. It has become abundantly clear that waiting is no longer an option and that the U.S., as a leading industrial nation, plays a key role in forging the way towards a renewable energy future. We hope that this report will provide the impetus needed to get the ball rolling in the right direction.

Read our press release at <http://www.renewableenergylongisland.org/pressRelease.cfm?releaseID=151>

Download the full report at <http://www.civilsocietyinstitute.org/media/pdfs/Toward%20a%20Sustainable%20Future%2011-16-11.pdf>

**For All Upcoming Events Check Out reLI's Online Calendar:**

<http://renewableenergylongisland.org/calendar.cfm>

Dec 11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

BAU. Not surprisingly, these technology investments would create much needed employment. The report estimates that 310,000 full time equivalent jobs would be created during the first

## Making a charitable donation this holiday season?

This year, we encourage you or your business to become a member of reLI. Click the appropriate button below and support our efforts to bring clean, renewable energy to Long Island!

BUSINESS/  
PROFESSIONAL

INDIVIDUAL

## NEWS UPDATE

### “Renewable Power Trumps Fossils for First Time”

Published November 25, 2011 by Alex Morales  
Bloomberg News



Blades for Vestas Wind Systems A/S wind turbines.

Electricity from the wind, sun, waves and biomass drew \$187 billion last year compared with \$157 billion for natural gas, oil and coal, according to calculations by Bloomberg New Energy Finance using the latest data. Accelerating installations of solar- and wind-power plants led to lower equipment prices, making clean energy more competitive with coal. (...) The findings indicate the world is shifting toward consuming more renewable energy even without a global agreement on limiting greenhouse gases.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

## Resources

reLI's Online Solar PV Calculator:

[SunshinelsFree.org](http://SunshinelsFree.org)

reLI's LIGreenGuide:

[LIGreenGuide.org](http://LIGreenGuide.org)

Offshore Wind Initiative:

[WindWorks4LI.org](http://WindWorks4LI.org)

reLI Professional Membership:

[renewableenergylongisland.org/membershipinfo.cfm](http://renewableenergylongisland.org/membershipinfo.cfm)

Events Calendar:

[RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org/calendar.cfm](http://RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org/calendar.cfm)

Shop for reLI products online at:

[CafePress.com/RenewableEnergyLongIsland](http://CafePress.com/RenewableEnergyLongIsland)

LIPA's Solar Hot Water Rebate

[lipower.org/residential/efficiency/renewables/solar-hotwater.html](http://lipower.org/residential/efficiency/renewables/solar-hotwater.html)

Find A Solar Contractor (pre-screened by reLI):

[SunshinelsFree.org/contractorselector.php](http://SunshinelsFree.org/contractorselector.php)

Become a reLI Member:

[RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org/join.cfm](http://RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org/join.cfm)

Long Island Green Homes:

<http://longislandgreenhomes.org/>



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Clean Energy - Safe Environment - Healthy Planet

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