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April 1-15, 2013

Latest sustainability & environmental management developments
## EL Trends: April 1-15, 2013

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Sustainable Agriculture

Unilever says it is sourcing more than a third of its agricultural raw materials sustainably, putting the global consumer goods and food company closer to its target of 100 percent by 2020.

Climate change will threaten grape growing, leading to dramatic production declines in the world’s top wine regions, researchers predict in a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

UK supermarket chain Waitrose said it will stop using pesticides linked to declining bee populations by the end of 2014.

Energy Management

Boston’s Mayor Thomas Menino wants large commercial buildings in the city to benchmark their energy usage, but a report studying the effects of benchmarking finds that the costs outweigh the benefits.

San Antonio’s Comal School District says it will save about $54,000 per year in energy with help from Acuity Brands lighting and controls solutions.

Johnson Controls expanded its Guangzhou, China, factory to meet the increasing demand for energy efficient building technologies.

Environmental & Energy Software

Green building software provider GreenWizard has partnered with environmental NGO the International Living Future Institute to promote a more sustainable and transparent built environment. Under the partnership, the Institute’s Declare program is integrated into GreenWizard’s Product Management.
**Workflow**, a web-based product data and documentation tool that helps builders define sustainability goals, find products to meet those goals, and achieve green-building certification.

**Renewable Energy**

AES Energy Storage says its AES Laurel Mountain facility, which consists of 98 MW of wind power and 64 MW of battery-based energy storage, surpassed the 400,000 MWh mark of regulation service to the PJM Interconnection since the project began service on September 30, 2011.

CO2Meter.com, a provider of atmospheric gas measurement equipment, has developed a combination carbon dioxide and methane gas level meter for use in the biogas industry.

A Gallup poll conducted in March found 76 percent of Americans want more domestic energy from solar power, followed by wind (71 percent) and natural gas (65 percent).

Leftover grease and oil from restaurants will power a new combined heat and power station at Beckton in East London.

National park and resort concessioner Xanterra Parks & Resorts says the solar photovoltaic system at the Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley, Calif., has produced more than 10 million kWh and met the company’s goal of reducing purchased electricity by 30 percent.

**Conventional Energy**

Over the last 12 months GE Power Conversion has won contracts valued at more than $600 million to provide propulsion systems to customers leading the pre-salt oilfield expansion off Brazil’s east coast. Currently GE is in the process of building systems for 22 of the 29 drillships for the current phase of the Brazilian oil and gas exploration by Brazilian energy corporation Petrobras.
Fuel Tech has received air pollution control orders totaling $4.3 million. The largest of these orders is from a Midwest utility for a nitrogen oxide reduction project on a coal-fired boiler. This project will utilize Fuel Tech’s HERT High Energy Reagent Technology and NOxOUT Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction injection technologies. Equipment deliveries are scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2013.

Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Group has been awarded a contract to deliver, erect and commission a dry flue gas desulfurization system for Interstate Power and Light Company’s 270 MW coal-fired Lansing Generating Station in Lansing, Iowa. Construction on the Lansing project is scheduled to begin in 2014 and to be completed in 2015.

General Electric says it will build a $110 million research center in Oklahoma to study oil and gas extraction technologies including hydraulic fracturing.

Ecuador plans to auction off more than 3 million hectares of Amazonian rainforest to Chinese and other global oil companies, capping a four-nation tour to publicize the bidding contracts.

**Climate**

US energy-related CO2 emissions dropped in 2012 to their lowest levels since 1994, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

An overwhelming majority of Americans want to prepare to minimize likely damage caused by global warming-induced sea-level rise and storms, but most citizens want people whose properties and businesses are located in hazard areas – not the government – to foot the bill for such measures, according to a survey conducted by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and the Center for Ocean Solutions.

The plains and the western US are still in the worst drought in more than 50 years, but this year’s corn, soybean and wheat harvest will be better than in the summer of 2012.
Carbon pollution from power plants, factories and vehicles is settling in the ocean — and supersizing crabs, lobsters and shrimp.

**Carbon Management**

Ford Motor Company says it is expanding its 3-Wet paint capacity by 50 percent this year, adding the environmentally friendly process to four more plants on three continents. It expects the process to reduce CO2 emissions between 15 and 25 percent at those facilities.

The NBA, partnering with Sprint and the Natural Resources Defense Council, has pledged to offset more than 10 million pounds of CO2.

Colby College has achieved carbon neutrality, two years before its target date.

Some 82 percent of major developers in the emissions reduction industry surveyed by the Project Developer Forum cite the lack of government targets on climate change mitigation as the biggest barrier to their continued development of clean energy and emissions reduction projects.

**Carbon Markets**

Britain’s carbon-emitting businesses will pay more for energy than their European counterparts under the UK’s new carbon price floor.

Emission credits issued by the United Nations increased 38 percent this month, Bloomberg reported on April 9.
Environmental Management

NASA has selected Navarro Research and Engineering of Oak Ridge, Tenn., to provide environmental compliance and restoration services at the agency’s White Sands Test Facility in Las Cruces, NM. The contract calls for a two-year base period beginning June 1 and extending through May 31, 2015. The entire maximum potential value of the contract including all options is $80 million.

Packaging, Paper & Forests

Yum! Brands, parent company of KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, has set a goal of purchasing paper-based packaging with fiber from responsibly managed forests and recycled sources. The company says it will publish a detailed procurement policy with public targets to achieve its sustainable paper goals by 2014.

Packaging and packaging materials supplier MeadWestvaco Corporation has said it will give purchasing preference to certified wood supplies — specifically wood that is certified under the American Tree Farm System.

International Paper and southern US forest conservation organization Dogwood Alliance have reached an agreement that they say will help advance science-based forestry improvements in the world’s largest paper producing region.

Harlequin romance novels and Toronto Star parent company Torstar has adopted paper procurement principles that it says will eliminate the use of fiber from ancient and endangered forests — but it doesn’t set any target deadlines or percentages.

Highland Plastics, manufacturer of injection molded food-grade plastic packaging, will offer packaging products that use Cardia Biohybrid resin technology that can increase packaging’s renewable content by up to 50 percent, Cardia says.
Hilex Poly Co. received an award for its Bag-2-Bag recycling program, which consumers and retail employees can use to recycle plastic bags, sacks and wraps at grocery stores and other retailers.

The Co-operative has reduced the weight of its own-brand wine bottles, saving 725 metric tons of glass and more than 556 metric tons of CO2 per year, according to the company.

Global Fresh Foods’ technology is being used to ship fresh salmon from Chile by sea to the West Coast of the US without using ice, environmentally harmful polystyrene foam packaging, or costly and CO2 emissions-intensive air freight, the company says.

Asia Pulp & Paper released a report that says it has not violated its zero-deforestation policy. The report investigates allegations made last month that two of APP’s suppliers were clearing natural forest in West Kalimantan Province on the island of Borneo and comes a day after further allegations published by WWF and other environmental groups.

Green Hygienics, which manufactures bamboo-based personal care products and tissues, has received an additional wholesale purchase order from Avanti Distribution, the company’s exclusive Canadian distributor. The multi-container purchase order for Sensational Brand bath tissue originated from one of Canada’s largest retailers with well over 500 locations across the country.

Google, in partnership with the University of Maryland and the UN Environment Programme, has developed a tool to help prevent deforestation.

Fleets & Transportation

For its newest retail distribution center in Wilmer, Texas, Ace Hardware will deploy 65 GenDrive fuel cell units from Plug Power for its fleet of electric lift trucks.

A transition to natural gas-fueled heavy duty and light duty vehicles over the next decade will have a minimal impact on natural gas prices, according to research by the American Clean Skies Foundation.
United Airlines has set a goal to save 85 million gallons of fuel in 2013. The airline says this savings will equal 828,750 metric tons of CO2 or about $275 million dollars at current fuel prices.

Swiss project Solar Impulse is planning to fly a solar powered aircraft across the United States in May.

Alternative transportation fuel consumption increased almost 13 percent in 2011 to a total of 515.9 million gasoline-equivalent gallons, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

The Kroger Co. and Ecotality will add more than 200 level 2 quick-charge electric vehicle charging stations and 25 DC fast chargers at Kroger supermarkets across the US.

General Motors has said it will invest about $332 million in four manufacturing sites to produce more fuel-efficient engines and transmissions.

Renewable products company Amyris, which focuses on producing sustainable alternatives to a range of petroleum-sourced products, and French oil giant Total intend to form a joint venture company by mid-2013 to market renewable diesel, jet fuel, and other specialty products derived from Biofene, Amyris’s renewable brand of farnesene. Amyris has also announced an expansion of its Novvi joint venture with Cosan.

Avon Rent A Car Truck and Van says it is the first rental agency in the US to take delivery of the new 2013 HINO diesel-electric hybrid trucks. The new truck have a 30-35 percent better fuel economy and a low carbon footprint as compared with standard diesel trucks. Avon expects the diesel-electric hybrids to save, on average, more than $2,000 annually.

Nat G CNG Solutions is introducing the DuraDrive bi-fuel CNG system from AGA Systems into Texas and Louisiana.

B&L Yellow Cab of Broward County, Fla. has signed a multi-year contract to deploy DriveCam fleet-wide to 600 vehicles.

Greyhound Lines has ordered more than 220 new diesel buses from Motor Coach Industries and Prevost. The company says this is its largest bus order in more than 20 years. The order includes 130 D4505 buses.
from MCI and 90 X3-45 buses from Prevost, all of which are outfitted with DriveCam. Greyhound say, with this latest order, its fleet will become one of the youngest and most environmentally friendly in the industry.

**Ford Motor Company** has announced a four-cylinder 1.5-liter EcoBoost engine will join its lineup of fuel-efficient powertrains. The 1.5-liter EcoBoost is the first engine from Ford to incorporate a computer-controlled clutch on the belt-drive water pump, which the automaker says further improves efficiencies by reducing warm-up time.

There are currently 48,705 electric vehicle public charging stations around the world, according to Navigant Research.

**ABB** has launched its Terra SmartConnect 20kW DC fast charger with delivery in North and South America in the second quarter. Initial shipments will support the CHAdeMO fast-charging standard, with SAE / Combined Charging System units available later this year.

**Fuji Electric Corp. of America** announced the beginning of production of its UL-Certified DC Quick Chargers for Electric Vehicles, with March seeing the first production units shipping out of Milpitas, Calif. The manufacturer’s fourth-generation 25kW DC fast charger is built to the CHAdeMO specification and allows EV owners to charge their vehicles in under an hour.

**Nissan North America** reported its best-ever sales month for the Nissan LEAF. March sales totaled 2,236 deliveries, a month-over-month increase of 286.2 percent. GM reports that Chevy sold 1,478 Volts last month, down 35.4 percent from March 2012 when the manufacturer sold 2,289 of its plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Overall, hybrids now command a 4 percent share of the US auto market after staying relatively stagnant at a less than 3 percent market share. This number could double by 2020. Hybrid sales were up 32 percent in the first two months of 2013 compared with the same period last year.

The Energy Department announced winners of its Apps for Vehicles Challenge. The department awarded the diagnostics and analytics app Dash the judges’ prize, and MyCarma, a personalized fuel economy app, the popular choice prize. The Green Button Gamer won the safety innovation award, and Fuel Economy Coach received the fuel efficiency innovation award.
Eaton has launched a new family of UltraShift PLUS transmissions designed for Navistar to maximize fuel efficiency in linehaul applications. The two companies will co-release the products.

Scania has a new series of trucks featuring refined technology and innovations expected to reduce fuel consumption by up to 8 percent. The Streamline G- and R-series long-haulage trucks are optimized for low fuel consumption.

Vehicle-to-building technology, which makes energy stored in plug-in electric vehicle batteries available to commercial and residential buildings, is garnering new attention as PEV sales climb, according to a report by Navigant Research.

BNSF Railway customers’ use of rail for freight shipping prevented more than 30 million metric tons of CO2e from entering the atmosphere in 2012, the company has announced.

Green Building

Facebook has received approval to build its green-roofed, Frank Gehry-designed second campus in Menlo Park, Calif.

Recycled plastic and plastic composite building composites are being used to repair and restore bridge decking on a bridge in Clare, New York, a move which will result in 30,000 pounds of plastic being taken out of the landfill stream, says Axion International Holdings, the maker of the products used in the bridge repairs.

BASF’s Green Sense Concrete reduced the carbon footprint of One World Trade Center by 15,838,267 kg CO2 in the construction of the building’s first 40 floors, according to the chemical company’s sustainable construction website.

Construction and consulting firm CH2M Hill has been awarded a project to develop an economic master plan for Brazil’s Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region. Brazil is seeking recommendations for building modern...
infrastructure in the region, rooted in the concepts of sustainable occupation, innovation and economic development for the modern knowledge economy.

Executive Moves

Recyclebank: The company that uses discounts and deals to encourage people to recycle has appointed David Eisendrath as chief operating officer, a new position within the company. Eisendrath joined Recyclebank in December 2010. Prior to becoming COO, Eisendrath was responsible for the company’s incentive-based recycling program and digital products.

Ecodesk: The open data sustainability reporting platform has named Sonny Masero global head of sales and business development. Masero most recently worked at CA Technologies as VP of energy and sustainability management solutions.

Verified Carbon Standard: The global carbon accounting standards program has hired Sandro Marostica as VCS director for Brazil. Prior to joining VCS, Marostica managed Bunge’s emission markets division in Brazil.

Strategic Materials Inc.: The major glass recycler’s CEO Bill Waltz has left the company, Waste & Recycling News reports. Waltz has been with the company since 2009. SMI did not give a reason for Waltz’s departure, according to the news outlet.

NSF International: The global independent public health organization that writes standards, and tests and certifies products for the health sciences, water, food and consumer goods industries, has promoted three scientific experts to its executive, health sciences and laboratory teams. Lori Bestervelt, Ph.D., has been promoted to NSF International executive vice president and chief technical officer; she formerly served as NSF senior vice president and CTO. Bob Pietrowski, Ph.D., has been promoted to vice president of NSF International’s global health sciences division; he was managing partner at pharma/biotech consultancy NSF-DBA (formerly David Begg Associates). Kurtis Kneen, Ph.D., has been promoted to vice president of NSF International’s global laboratories. He was most recently director of NSF’s chemistry laboratories.
WSP Flack + Kurtz: The international engineering firm has appointed Alan Shepherd as senior vice president and director of its built ecology practice. Previously, Shepherd worked at multidisciplinary design firms.

Baldwin Brothers Inc.: Adam Seitchik and Farnum Brown have joined the financial advisory firm to launch Arjuna Capital, a sustainable wealth management platform. Adam Seitchik is Arjuna’s chief investment officer, and Farnum Brown serves as chief strategist and senior portfolio manager. Brown founded socially responsible investment advisory Advent Advisors in 1987; the company merged with Trillium in 1994. At Trillium, Brown was the chief investment strategist. Seitchik is the former co-CEO and CIO at Trillium and founder of the Sustainable Investment Research Center.

California Air Resources Board: The state board has appointed Richard Corey as CARB’s executive officer. Prior to this appointment, Corey served as deputy executive officer overseeing the Stationary Source Division.

Fuel Freedom Foundation: John Hofmeister, former Shell Oil president and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy, has joined the nonprofit’s advisory board. Fuel Freedom Foundation advocates for alternative transportation fuels.

Terra Tech: The sustainable agricultural products company has appointed Dr. Ronald Hart to its advisory board. Hart is the former chief scientist and executive director of the FDA’s National Center for Toxicology Research and was the first person in the history of the FDA to be named distinguished scientist in residence.

NASA: Scientist James E. Hansen has retired after a 46-year career at the space agency’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies in Manhattan, The New York Times reports. The newspaper says the “climate maverick,” who in 1988 testified before a Congressional committee that human-induced global warming had begun, plans to focus on political and legal efforts to halt greenhouse gas emissions.

Ecodesk: The open data sustainability reporting platform has hired Nick Murry as chief sustainability officer. Murry, who has also consulted for the United Nations, World Bank and European Commission, joins Ecodesk after 16 years with international infrastructure consultancy group Halcrow (now part of CH2M Hill) where he worked as associate director and group sustainability manager.
LiqTech International: The Denmark-based clean technology company has named Finn Helmer as CEO. Helmer previously was president at Visipia ApS, a Swiss telecommunications company. Helmer replaces Lasse Andreassen, LiqTech founder and former CEO.

R2 Solutions: The nonprofit organization formed to administer and promote the R2 e-recycling standard, has hired John Lingelbach as executive director. Lingelbach was involved in starting the organization and led it for its first two years before taking a medical leave of absence early last summer.

Environmental Defense Fund: The nonprofit has hired Daniel Heagerty as habitat markets director. Heagerty has 30 years experience in conservation and environmental markets at environmental engineering firms including CH2MHiIl and David Evans and Associates.

PricewaterhouseCoopers US: The consulting services firm has named Tom Solazzo as US cleantech leader. Solazzo succeeds Tim Carey in this role and also leads PwC’s management consulting group in the power and utilities sector.

Greenhouse Gas Management Institute: The nonprofit, which trains professionals to work on GHG measurement, accounting, auditing and management, has elected Wiley Barbour as chair of the GHGMI board of directors. Wiley succeeds Randy Freed, who will remain a regular member of the board. Wiley is currently vice president, corporate development at Camco Clean Energy.

Hit or Group: The environmental technology accelerator has appointed Brian Sulaiman to its advisory board. Sulaiman founded the Dena Group of companies, which has commercialized and patented engineering technologies, in the mid-’90s.

Water Management

Ecolab has introduced an industrial laundry program that it says cleans heavily soiled textiles without using hazardous chemicals and can save industrial laundry customers as much as 3 million gallons of water a year.
Toyota and the Wyland Foundation have launched the second annual National Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation. The challenge runs throughout Earth Month, until April 30, and asks participants to show their commitment to conserving natural resources by taking an online pledge.

On-site water monitoring instruments manufacturer In-Situ has announced its Smartroll Multiparameter (MP) Handheld Instrument and iSitu smartphone application for environmental monitoring applications.

**Waste & Recycling**

Procter & Gamble announced that 45 of its facilities have achieved zero manufacturing waste to landfill. The consumer goods company has set a goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2020.

Waste2Tricity (W2T) announced the start of a Concept Design Study for the development of an advanced waste-to-energy plant. The facility will convert approximately 100,000 metric tons a year of feedstock – residual household or commercial and industrial waste – to low carbon electricity.

A manufacturer-run program for collecting mercury thermostats is failing to keep the heavy metal out of the trash in most states, according to a new report released by two environmental groups: the Multi-State Mercury Products Campaign (MMPC) and the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI).

Finnish recycler Lassila & Tikanoja plc and ZenRobotics Ltd. announced L&T is acquiring the ZenRobotics Recycler recycling system. The system safely sorts raw materials like metal, wood, and stone fractions from construction and demolition waste.

E-World Online, a leading provider of comprehensive e-waste take-back programs for electronics manufacturers and inventory management solutions for national retailers, says it will surpass 200 million pounds of end-of-life electronics and returned merchandise managed through its Manufacturer Interstate Take-back System (MITS) and Retail Return Program (RRP) by year-end.
The 523 colleges and universities participating in March’s RecycleMania Tournament — meant to harness the competitive spirit around sports rivalries and use them to increase campus recycling and waste reduction — collectively recovered 90.3 million pounds of recyclables and organic materials between the beginning of February and the end of March.

NASCAR has designated Liberty Tire Recycling as the official tire recycler of NASCAR Green, a month-long, industry wide effort to reduce the sport’s carbon footprint.

The Consumer Electronics Association and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc. have announced a technical CRT Challenge — with a $10,000 prize — in the hopes of identifying financially viable, environmentally-conscious proposals for using recycled cathode ray tube glass.

Canada diverts 24 percent of its waste stream from landfills, according to John Foden, executive director of the Canadian Energy-From-Waste Coalition — but that still leaves 76 percent of waste going to landfills.

Research from Green Alliance shows that, in the US, 92 percent of discarded mobile devices are sent to landfill, while in the UK, 25 percent of mobile devices are already recovered, with 80 percent expected to be diverted from landfills by 2020.

**Corporate Sustainability**

Environmental Leader launched its 2013 Insider Knowledge Report. The report, made possible by sponsor Schneider Electric, shares lessons learned from 120 corporate environmental, energy and sustainability decision-makers.

Kimberly-Clark has selected PE International to help manage its corporate-wide sustainability initiatives after identifying between $75 million and $100 million in potential savings.
Employees who participate in workplace sustainability programs are likely to promote sustainable practices at home, and encourage others to participate. And three out of four will make purchasing decisions based on a company’s environmentally conscious practices, a new study finds.

The bulk of companies that invest in sustainability communications are unable to drive revenue growth or reap any business benefits from their efforts because they fail to integrate them into the corporate brand, according to a report from independent analyst firm Verdantix.

Green Marketing

A record-high 71 percent of Americans consider the environment when they shop, up from 66 percent in 2008, according to research from Cone Communications.

Corporate Reports

Fiat, the majority shareholder in US carmaker Chrysler, cut mass-market brand plants’ water consumption per vehicle last year by 15.6 percent versus 2011 levels, and by 31.2 percent versus 2010, according to its 2012 sustainability report.

Wells Fargo cut its absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 18 percent from 2008 to 2012, according to the company’s 2012 corporate social responsibility interim report.

Verizon cut its carbon intensity by 10 percent in 2012, to a monthly average of .05726 metric tons of CO2 per terabyte of throughput, and by 37 percent since its 2009 baseline, according to the company’s latest corporate responsibility supplement.
Finance & Reporting

The International Integrated Reporting Council published a consultation draft of its corporate reporting model and is asking businesses, investors and other stakeholders worldwide to comment on the document.

While more than half (53 percent) of all companies in the S&P 500 Index and Fortune 500 published sustainability reports in 2011 — up from 19 percent the year before — companies in the US are less likely to obtain third-party assurance than their global peers, according to a report by the Global Reporting Initiative.

A primary driver of public confidence in a company is its efforts to communicate and deliver on corporate sustainability goals, according to a survey conducted by Hill+Knowlton Strategies.

Rankings

AT&T pushed Bristol-Myers Squibb from its No. 1 ranking to take the top spot on the list of 100 Best Corporate Citizens 2013 from CR Magazine.

Dow Chemical scored highest among Fortune 100 companies when it comes to applying the Global Reporting Initiative’s guidelines for sustainability reporting, according to a study by the iCompli division of BPA Worldwide and IRAS. Bloomberg topped the list of media sector companies.

Standards & Compliance

A proposal to adopt a European Union-wide standard to measure the environmental performance of products and organizations is drawing mixed reactions from industry groups.
McDonald’s, Caribou Coffee and Green Mountain Coffee are among the companies buying Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee — and attributing to the rapid growth in sustainable coffee sourcing. Last year, 375,000 metric tons of coffee, representing 4.5 percent of global production, was grown on Rainforest Alliance Certified farms, a 45 percent increase over 2011, the nonprofit says.

More than 50 television models from LG Electronics and 71 Samsung TVs are now rated on the Electronic Product Environmental Tool (EPEAT) global registry for greener electronics, which expanded yesterday to include televisions for the first time.

Sainsbury’s has begun selling farmed catfish certified by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council.

Sodexo will serve Marine Stewardship Council-certified seafood at 11 Washington, DC-area locations and has agreed to use the Real Food Calculator to increase supply-chain sustainability on all Sodexo-contracted campuses.

Virgin Atlantic has partnered with the Sustainable Restaurant Association to serve sustainable food on in-flight meals. By the end of the year, all of Virgin Atlantic’s caterers worldwide will have been rated by the SRA, according to the association, which says this program is the first of its kind in the airline industry.

ASHRAE announced that 26 more proposed addenda to ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, are open for public comment, all at www.ashrae.org/publicreviews.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, in a partnership with utilities including American Water, Austin Water Utility and San Antonio Water System of Texas, is urging the American Water Works Association to revise national accuracy standards for new water meters, to make sure they can accurately measure extended low flows. The NRDC said the minimum flow rates at which meters must be tested have not changed since 1921.

Ecometrica has become the first environmental accounting provider to secure assurance of audit readiness, following a review by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The company commissioned PwC to carry out an independent review of output from its ‘Our Impacts’ service, in line with the International Standard on
Assurance Engagements 3000 and the code of ethics of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

The R2 Technical Advisory Committee unanimously approved the R2:2013 recycling standard, which now goes before the R2 Solutions board of directors. The board has 60 days to approve and adopt the standard or remand it to the committee for further work.

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council has selected the Cusco-Sacred Valley-Machu Picchu corridor in Peru, and the shores of Lake Llanquihue, Puerto Varas, and Frutillar in the Lakes Region of Chile, for the second round of its pilot program to test its new Criteria and Indicators for Destinations.

Caterpillar’s 850,000 sq ft axle-manufacturing plant in Winston-Salem, NC has secured LEED Silver certification for new construction, the Winston-Salem Journal reports.

Nine products from PPG Architectural Finishes have received certification under Greenguard’s Indoor Air Quality and Children & Schools programs, the company said.

Law firm the Chanler Group has filed Proposition 65 civil complaints in the Superior Court of California against spice and flavoring manufacturer McCormick & Company, coffee and flavoring manufacturer Farmer Bros., and Adams Extract & Spice, LLC.

In the past few months, private plaintiffs have filed several lawsuits and issued more than 100 Prop. 65 notice letters to companies regarding the compound Tris, also known as TDCPP, Arnold & Porter LLP says. The notices concern the compound’s presence in furniture products and in children’s nap mats and mattresses.

Ahold USA announced LEED certification for six new supermarkets: Stop & Shop stores in Cranston, R.I., Roslindale, Mass., Arverne, N.Y., and Oceanside, N.Y.; a Giant-Landover location in Burtonsville, Md.; and a Giant-Carlisle location in Trexlertown, Pa., Supermarket News reported.
Shaw Industries has achieved LEED Silver designation for New Construction for its 35,397 sq ft Reclaim to Energy process building, which converts carpet to steam energy for two adjacent carpet manufacturing facilities, the company said.

Twelve out of 63 electrical products were out of compliance with the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive, in tests by Sweden’s Chemicals Agency, Kemi, and the country’s Electrical Safety Authority.

Monadnock Paper Mills’ Bennington, NH, facility has achieved recertification for compliance with ISO 14001 for environmental management systems, following an audit by Systems and Services Certification, a member of the SGS Group, the paper company said.

An ASTM task group has sent the EPA proposed revisions to ASTM E1527, the standard for Phase I environmental site assessments (ESAs), Winston & Strawn LLP said. The new standard will need EPA approval to meet the agency’s requirements of All Appropriate Inquiry to receive liability protections under CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund.

An ASTM subcommittee has developed ASTM D7495, setting out minimum requirements for bodies that accredit agencies that themselves test and inspect road and paving materials, ASTM said.

Gerber Products, Del Monte Foods, Beech-Nut Nutrition and other major baby food manufacturers are defendants in a lead-labeling lawsuit that went to trial in California, the AP reports. The Environmental Law Foundation brought the suit, saying many of the companies’ products contain lead at levels that require a warning under the state’s Proposition 65.

Lawsuits under Prop 65 rarely come to trial, Law360 reports. The suit between ELF and 16 food manufacturers will therefore have an “outsized impact” on how the standard is interpreted, how levels of listed substances are measured, and whether Prop 65 warnings will be pre-empted by federal law.

GlaxoSmithKline has opened a double-LEED Platinum, 208,000 sq ft facility in Philadelphia, including office space, meeting centers, a coffee shop, cafeteria and fitness center. The building won Platinum for both Core & Shell and Commercial Interiors, GSK says.
The SKF bearing factory in Ahmedabad, India has won LEED Gold certification from the India Green Building Council, Electric Light & Power reports.

Bangalore International Airport Limited has secured ISO 50001 energy management system certification, TravelBizMonitor reports. Suresh BL and Radhakrishnan, DNV awarded the certificate.

Nord Drivesystems’ UK sales and assembly facility has achieved ISO 14001 environmental management systems accreditation, awarded by LRQA, HUB 4 reported.

The British Standards Institution, the UK’s member body to the ISO, has submitted a proposal for a new international standard that would specify requirements for an occupational health and safety management system. ANSI, the US member body to the ISO, has invited comments on the proposal by April 26.

The international OASIS open standards consortium announced that it has been accredited by ANSI to develop and maintain American National Standards. Ratified OASIS Standards will now be eligible for ANSI designation.

ASTM International Committee F11 on Vacuum Cleaners has formed a new task group to develop standards for high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration, the organization said.

Broan-NuTone Canada, a producer of residential ventilation products including range hoods and bathroom fans, has received ISO 50001 energy management system certification, according to Intertek, which awarded the certificate.

UK name badge manufacturer Badgemaster has secured ISO 14001 environmental management certification from the British Standards Institute, the company says.

Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina on Lake Mohave, in Nevada’s Lake Mead National Recreation Area, says it has received the world’s first LEED Gold certification for a floating building, for the marina’s operations office.
Schilling Green II, a warehouse-turned-office building in Hunt Valley, Md., has been certified LEED-CS Platinum. Developer Merritt Properties says it recycled 95 percent of construction waste, reusing the crushed concrete, masonry and asphalt from the existing building and parking lot as aggregate for the new site.

The College of Public Health Building at the University of Iowa has earned LEED Platinum certification, the university says.

The University of Calgary’s “Energy. Environment. Experiential” Learning Building has been certified LEED Platinum, the university says.

Policy & Enforcement

Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, New Belgium Brewing Company and 19 other craft brewers have partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council to advocate for strong clean-water policies.

Nike, Starbucks, Ikea and 30 other companies have signed a statement urging federal policymakers to take action on climate change by promoting clean energy, boosting efficiency and limiting carbon emissions.

The EPA says it will assess 23 commonly used chemicals, with a specific focus on flame retardant chemicals, to ascertain any potential risks to people’s health and the environment.

Two rival bills currently in the legislature in California focus on the recycling of mattresses, and industry experts and environmentalists say some form of mattress recycling legislation is likely to be passed this year.

The European Parliament’s environment committee voted to create a Europe-wide ship recycling fund.

The American Petroleum Institute and the American Lung Association have released contradictory reports that, respectively, castigate and praise the EPA’s Tier 3 clean-gasoline proposal.
In North Carolina, a house panel began the process of repealing a law that requires state electric utilities to generate a certain amount of power from renewable energy.

The EPA said it will delay finalizing regulations that limit greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants, and would rewrite the rules to address concerns raised by the electric industry, the New York Times reports. The agency would not say when the new standards would be issued. The rules proposed last March would have limited CO2 emissions to 1,000 pounds per megawatt-hour.

Suncor Energy’s wastewater spill into the Athabasca River on March 25 did not threaten human health, the Alberta Environment Department said, according to Reuters. But the department said the water was fatal to rainbow trout, due to high levels of naphthenic acid, and that other compound levels were higher than legal limits.

Chevron’s two-decade-long legal battle over alleged pollution in the Ecuadorian Amazon has taken a strange twist after Stratus Consulting of Boulder, Colo., recanted research supporting local villagers’ pollution claims, the New York Times reported. Plaintiffs claim the move is an example of coercion by Chevron, which is trying to overturn a 2011 decision ordering it to pay $18 billion in damages.

The EPA says it has received more information from ExxonMobil about its Pegasus pipeline spill in Mayflower, Arkansas. The company answered EPA questions about the materials spilled and cleanup strategies used. Updates on the cleanup activities can be found on a webpage run by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

The Congressional Research Service has concluded that FutureGen, a coal power and carbon capture project awarded $1 billion in stimulus funding, may never be completed, the Hill reported.

The US and China have established a Climate Change Working Group to find ways to advance their cooperation on technology, research, conservation and alternative energy, in an agreement brokered during secretary of state John Kerry’s visit to China, the Hill reported.

The EPA was expected to publish a draft document changing its advice to state and local governments about how to limit radiation exposure after a nuclear reactor accident. Groups opposed to nuclear power say...
the EPA document, and a Department of Homeland Security report, recommend greatly increasing the amount of radioactive contamination permitted in food and water, the New York Times reports.

The House Natural Resources Committee held a full committee oversight hearing to examine the difference in energy production and permitting on federal lands versus state and private lands.

Alaska’s legislature approved a bill making deep cuts to taxes on oil production, Reuters reported. Supporters say the move will boost output, but critics say it will severely hurt state finances.

The Senate confirmed REI chief executive Sally Jewell as Interior Secretary, in an 87-11 vote, the Boston Globe reports. One of her first agenda items will be a rule proposing that companies publicly disclose the chemicals they use in fracking on public lands.

The EPA will show flexibility when applying new pollution rules to coal plants, EPA administrator nominee Gina McCarthy said in a hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She told Senators that coal will continue to be a significant part of the US energy mix, Reuters reported.

Republicans on the committee also grilled McCarthy, currently director of the EPA’s office of air and radiation, on the agency’s transparency and litigation methods, the New York Times reported.

CoconoPhillips has suspended plans for drilling in Alaska’s Chukchi Sea in 2014 because of “regulatory uncertainty,” including changing federal rules. It is the third major oil company to back off from offshore drilling in the US Arctic, the Los Angeles Times says.

President Obama’s budget proposes to increase clean energy funding by 40 percent over current levels, paid for in part by elimination of tax breaks and subsidies for oil, gas and coal. But he proposes to cut spending for environmental protection, Reuters reports.

California governor Jerry Brown has given the state Air Resources Board permission to enact its plans of linking the California and Quebec carbon markets, the Los Angeles Times reported. The board will review the plan this fall, and if it makes no changes, the markets will link on January 1.
The House of Representatives passed H.R. 678, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act, with a bipartisan vote of 416-7. This legislation would help generate thousands of megawatts of hydropower at no cost to taxpayers by authorizing development on existing, man-made Bureau of Reclamation water canals and pipes, streamlining a duplicative regulatory process, and cutting administrative costs, according to the House Natural Resources Committee.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration proposed expanding its dolphin protection regulations to include more fisheries and tuna fishing techniques, Reuters reported.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on world leaders to take stronger action to protect the planet’s seas, warning about the effects of pollution, resource depletion, climate change and acidification. He said oceans play a critical role in the health of the planet as well as the economy.

The EPA reissued Clean Water Act permits to the Guam Waterworks Authority for the Northern District and Agana Sewage Treatment plants. The permits require both plants to upgrade to full secondary treatment and establish wastewater quality levels consistent with secondary treatment requirements, the agency said.

Jay-Cee Cleaners, a former dry cleaning business in Nelsonia, Va., and its former owner John L. Darby, have agreed to reimburse the EPA for costs the agency incurred while responding to the release of hazardous substances once used at the site. The EPA's response costs were $616,351, the agency said.

ExxonMobil must pay $236 million to New Hampshire after a jury found the company liable for groundwater contamination caused by the gasoline additive MTBE, the AP reports. MTBE reduces smog, and oil companies accelerated their use of the chemical in the 1990s to comply with Clean Air Act requirements, NPR says.

The Renewable Fuels Association has urged the EPA to lower this year's biofuel standard, saying the federal quotas are unrealistic, the Hill reports. The EPA set the 2013 standard for cellulosic fuel at 14 million gallons, up from 8.65 million gallons in 2012.
The **House Energy & Commerce Committee** met to discuss the Coal Ash Recycling and Oversight Act of 2013. Witnesses will include representatives from the EPA, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

The Carlsbad Irrigation District in New Mexico voted unanimously to make a “priority call” on the Pecos River, which could force the state’s Office of the State Engineer to reallocate supplies by assigning water to users based on seniority. This could deprive some users of their water supplies, the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com) said.

The EPA has finalized a plan to address contaminated ground water at the Cayuga County Superfund site in Cayuga County, NY. General Electric’s semiconductor manufacturing in Auburn, NY was the major source of ground water contamination in the area, along with its joint venture Powerex, and the EPA says the companies will be responsible for cleanup costs, estimated at $20 million.

Shield Packaging Company has agreed $484,900 in penalties to settle EPA claims that it violated hazardous waste management, chemical accident prevention, hazardous chemical inventory reporting, and oil pollution prevention rules at its liquid and aerosol packaging facility in Dudley, Mass., the EPA said.

Advanced BioEnergy of Bloomington, Minn., agreed to pay penalties of $136,500 to settle claims related to alleged violations at its Huron and Aberdeen, SD ethanol production facilities. The violations are related to the facilities’ risk management programs and the failure to properly file Toxic Release Inventory forms detailing with the use and management of chemicals, the EPA said.

Tyson Foods and several affiliate corporations have agreed pay a $3.95 million penalty, conduct third-party audits and buy $300,000 worth of equipment for chemical emergency first responders, under a settlement to address anhydrous ammonia releases that killed one person and caused multiple injuries between 2006 and 2010, the EPA said. The settlement will protect workers and communities at 23 sites in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, the agency said.

The EPA finalized its plan to clean up river sediment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Grasse River Superfund site in Massena, New York, and says it expects Alcoa to perform the $243
million cleanup. Alcoa’s Massena facility released PCBs into the river from the 1950s until the mid-1970s, and both Aloca and EPA have been involved in cleanup efforts for several decades, the agency said.

A federal judge ruled that BP can proceed with its appeal of claim allocations related to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the New York Times reported. BP has called some of the claims “absurd,” including $21 million for a rice mill 40 miles inland, which in 2010 saw its highest revenue in three years.

A Duke University study finds that EPA regulations could increasingly push power companies to turn from coal to natural gas - even if gas prices rise significantly, the Hill reports. The study was published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology.

Sen. David Vitter (R-LA) and other Republicans on the Environment and Public Works Committee say the EPA has improperly allowed environmental groups access to private information on businesses and individuals, the Hill reports.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a violation to Dominion Energy's decommissioned Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant in Wisconsin, for failure to identify the loss of an indicator to monitor parameters for declaring a general or site area emergency, the NRC said.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) requested documents from the Department of the Interior related to the administration’s decision to prohibit the Drakes Bay Oyster Company’s operations within the Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California, the committee said.

The USDA awarded $5.3 million in Conservation Innovation Grants to develop approaches and technology to help agriculture adapt to drought inflicted by extreme climate changes. The grants will address issues such as grazing management, warm season forage systems, irrigation strategies and innovative cropping systems, the agency said.

The EPA's Region 10 has ordered Oil Re-Refining Company of Portland, Oregon to properly dispose of PCB-contaminated oil or pay a $450,000 federal penalty, the agency said. Under the order, ORRCo must incinerate 150,000 gallons of oil by October 2016.
Small-scale suction dredge miners may begin applying for a new federal water discharge permit to lawfully operate their dredges in Idaho’s rivers lakes and streams, the EPA said.

The Interior Department recommended that four PacifiCorp hydroelectric dams be removed from the Klamath River in Oregon and California, at a cost of $450 million, to aid salmon runs and water allocation, Reuters said.

The Coast Guard has sent the White House’s Office of Management and Budget a plan to allow the barging of fracking wastewater, Reuters reports.

Fifty-eight percent of Republicans believe global warming is a “hoax,” according to a survey by Public Policy Polling. But in another poll, by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 44 percent of Republicans said there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth is rising.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on the agency’s proposed regulatory changes to ensure US nuclear power plants can safely withstand a “station blackout,” or complete loss of alternating current power. The proposal will available on the federal government’s rulemaking website under Docket ID NRC-2011-0299.

The Sierra Club, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and RE Sources for Sustainable Communities announced their intention to sue BNSF Railways and six coal companies, to force the firms to better contain coal shipped in open-topped train cars, the Seattle Times reported.

Air quality has improved in the Arkansas town where Exxon Mobil Corp’s Pegasus pipeline leaked, but is still unhealthy where workers are cleaning up the spill, the company and the EPA said, according to Reuters. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is posting air quality data related to the spill here.

The EPA has finalized a plan to clean up additional contaminated soil and ground water at the Saratoga Springs, NY Superfund site of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (which does business as National Grid). The site contains hazardous substances including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds, the EPA says. The agency expects National Grid to perform and pay for this $6.5 million final phase of the cleanup.
The EPA is withdrawing approval, issued from 2006 to 2012, for the import and sale of up to 74,000 gas-powered on- and off-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles from China. The agency believes that it received misleading emissions information in applications from the two companies involved, Snyder Technology, and Snyder Computer Systems (doing business as Wildfire Motors Corporation).

Torromeo Industries has agreed to pay $700,000 and restore a significant area of filled wetlands as a penalty for the unpermitted filling of approximately 12.5 acres of wetlands and streams at its sand, gravel and stone mining and ready-mix concrete plant in Kingston, N.H., the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the EPA said.

Hydrofarm, one of the nation’s largest distributors of agricultural and hydroponic supplies, has agreed to stop selling two unregistered pesticides and to pay $316,000 in fines, the EPA said.

The Supreme Court rejected the American Petroleum Institute’s petition to overturn an EPA standard governing short-term spikes in nitrogen dioxide levels around roadways. By deciding not to hear the case, the justices left intact a July 2012 Court of Appeals judgment upholding the rule, Reuters said.

Dominion Energy has agreed to pay a $3.4 million civil penalty and spend about $9.8 million on environmental mitigation projects under a settlement to resolve Clean Air Act violations, the EPA said. Under the settlement, Dominion must also install or upgrade pollution control technology on its plants at Brayon Point, Mass., and Kincaid, Ill., and permanently retire its State Line, Ind., plant.

The Transportation Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Administration ordered Exxon Mobil to take necessary corrective action for the leak at its Pegasus pipeline in Mayflower, Arkansas, Reuters said. The order said Exxon had estimated a spill of 3,500 to 5,000 barrels of crude, though publicly the company had only said that it recovered 12,000 barrels of oil and water.

Arkansas attorney general Dustin McDaniel plans to investigate the cause of the leak, CBS reported. He said the company may be liable for the consequences of the spill, under Arkansas’s Water and Air Pollution Act and other laws.
Southern California Edison has submitted a draft request to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to fire up one unit at the San Onofre nuclear plant this spring. Edison plans to run the unit at 70 percent power for five months, then power it down and inspect it, the Los Angeles Times reports. The plant closed over a year ago because of excessive wear on tubes that carry radioactive water.

Emissions from factories and power plants subject to the EU Emissions Trading System fell for a second consecutive year in 2012, with a 1.4 percent drop, Reuters reported. The preliminary data shows the EU on track for its 2020 emissions reduction goal.

Collis Inc, a manufacturer of metal racks and shelving brackets for refrigerators, has agreed to pay a $31,379 administrative civil penalty to settle several Resource Conservation and Recovery Act violations in Clinton, Iowa, the EPA said. The company will also spend at least $91,809 to replace high-mercury fluorescent fixtures with low-mercury fixtures and bulbs.

The US Air Force 611th Air Support Group has closed banned motor vehicle waste wells at the Sparrevoeh, Tatalina and Indian Mountain Long Range Radar Sites in Alaska, and separately agreed to pay $45,000 to resolve the violations, the EPA said.

Ferrell’s Fuel Network, Carson Oil Co. and Tyree Oil Inc. will pay fines and invest in facility upgrades for alleged violations of federal oil spill prevention and response rules under the Clean Water Act, at their Oregon facilities, the EPA said.

A US district judge sentenced Jeffrey Gunselman to nearly 16 years in federal prison, $54.9 million in restitution and $175,000 in fines, for defrauding the EPA with a fake biofuel business.

The EPA and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration are investigating an oil spill from ExxonMobil’s Pegasus pipeline, which has forced the evacuation of 22 homes in Arkansas, Reuters reported.

DuPont and the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have agreed to set voluntary standards for sustainable harvesting of corn stover, an agricultural residue, for renewable fuel, the USDA said.
Canada is now the only one of 193 UN member states not party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The UNCCD secretariat described Canada’s withdrawal as “regrettable,” but said it believes Canada will still seize every opportunity to support the convention’s implementation.

New York’s Taxi and Limousine Commission said it will allow some taxi owners to buy hybrids, but only if the vehicles’ interiors measure at least 138 cubic feet – the same as the city’s preferred taxi, the conventionally fueled Nissan NV200, the New York Times reports.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a supplemental draft environmental impact statement on the Downeast LNG Project, a liquefied natural gas import terminal, natural gas pipeline, and associated facilities in Washington County, Maine.

Ernest Moniz, President Obama’s nomination for energy secretary, said that if confirmed he will resign a board position with General Electric’s Ecomagination branch, among other organizations. He made the pledge in a federal ethics and financial disclosure filing, the Hill reported.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, the American Lung Association and other groups petitioned the Supreme Court to review the August 2012 appeals court decision that threw out the EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, the Hill reports. In January, the appeals court denied the White House’s request for a full court review, and the EPA said it is deciding its next course of action.

The EDF and NRDC also presented more than 60,000 signatures to the State Department, urging the US to back a market-based approach to cut carbon emissions from airplanes. Countries appear deadlocked over the geographic scope of such a mechanism, Reuters reported.

Chemical Waste Management has agreed to pay $311,000 in fines for failures to report 72 hazardous materials spills at a waste dump in the San Joaquin Valley, the Los Angeles Times reported. The facility was the only one in California licensed to accept polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a carcinogen. The company was previously fined for poor monitoring, environmental management violations and lack of permits in 1985, 2005, 2010 and 2011.