In this issue:
April 16-30, 2013

Latest sustainability & environmental management developments
## EL Trends: April 16-30, 2013

### Contents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon footprint</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon markets</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals and materials</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate reports</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate sustainability</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy management</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental &amp; energy software</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental management</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive moves</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; reporting</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleets &amp; transportation</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green building</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging, paper &amp; forests</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply chain</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable agriculture</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste &amp; recycling</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water management</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards &amp; compliance</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy &amp; enforcement</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Carbon Footprint

**Grocery deliver services** — such as those offered by Amazon, Safeway, FreshDirect and Google — can cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 to 75 percent compared with individual household trips to the store, according to University of Washington researchers.

Ecolab and the parent company of **Ann Taylor and Loft** have both set new environmental targets after surpassing earlier **carbon-reduction goals**.

**Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase** are among 10 companies that have committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from their offices by up to 40 percent in the next 10 years.

**Sony Pictures Entertainment** has set new environmental goals targeted for completion in 2020 including reductions in operational carbon emissions by 15 percent, compared to 2012 levels.

**Unilever** says it has reduced CO2 from its manufacturing and logistics operations by more than 1 million metric tons since 2008, saving the company more than €300 million ($394.8 million).

Greenhouse gas emissions in the US totaled 6,702,000 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2011, a **1.6 percent reduction** from the previous year, according to an annual report by the EPA.

**Carbon Markets**

**Carbon prices hit record lows** after the European Parliament rejected an emergency plan to boost the ailing EU carbon market.
Chemicals and Materials

Nike, along with partners NASA, the US Agency for International Development and the US Department of State, have challenged materials manufacturers and others to create new, sustainable materials.

Rennovia says it has developed a process to make a bio-based nylon material that will cost 20 to 25 percent less to produce and halve greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional petroleum-derived chemicals.

Coca-Cola Co., LanzaTech, Lignol Energy, Plum Creek and three other businesses have joined the Biotechnology Industry Organization, a group that represents companies developing innovative industrial biotechnology products and processes.

Cabot Corporation expects to see a complete return on investment within two years after implementing SiteHawk’s cloud-based safety data sheet (SDS) and chemical data management software.

Green tea plants, sunflowers, coffee, fruit and peppers may replace potentially hazardous chemicals normally used in a host of products including textiles and clothing, scientists say.

Climate

Cisco and Google have tied for first place in Greenpeace’s latest ranking of IT sector climate leadership.

Some 22.8 percent of PNC Financial shareholders representing more than $5.4 billion dollars have voted in support of a resolution asking the company to assess its exposure to climate change in its lending, investing and financing activities.

Rain in the upper Midwest region caused flooding along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and as far south as Tennessee, forcing officials to close several locks and causing farmers to delay corn planting.
Corporate Reports

**Walmart's greenhouse gas emissions** fell 5.4 percent relative to revenue in 2011, from 49.7 to 47.0 metric tons per dollar, according to the company's sixth annual Global Responsibility Report.

**Anheuser-Busch InBev** cut the amount of waste it sent to landfills by 54.8 percent year-on-year, from 104,946 metric tons in 2011 to 47,341 in 2012, according to its 2012 Global Citizenship Report.

**Shell**’s total direct GHG emissions were 72 million metric tons CO2e last year, down 2.7 percent from 74 million in 2011, according to the company’s 2012 sustainability report. This meant GHGs dropped faster than revenue but far slower than income.

**Unilever**’s greenhouse gas intensity fell 16 percent over the course of 2012, from 118.31 to 99.97 kg per metric ton of production, according to the company’s latest Sustainable Living Plan progress report.

**Pfizer**’s absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions fell 4.8 percent from 2011 to 2012, to 2.4 million metric tons CO2e, while its revenue fell by 9.6 percent, according to the company’s third integrated annual review, which summarizes the company’s 2012 financial, environmental and social responsibility performance.

Corporate Sustainability

Restrooms, floor care, strategic sourcing, towels and wipes, and cleaning chemicals are five commonly overlooked areas where restaurants can improve their commitment to sustainability, according to business service provider Cintas Corporation.

In celebration of **Earth Day**, a host of companies including **Office Depot, Delta Air Lines, Iron Mountain, MGM Resorts and Dell** announced eco-initiatives and sustainability targets.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development has released **Eco4Biz** - a toolkit aimed at businesses looking to assess, measure and **value the natural resources** they use.
Coal-powered energy and cattle ranching are the two most environmentally expensive industries — and cost the economy more in environmental damage than they generate in revenue, according to a UN-backed report.

EPA Region 7 and the Kansas City Chiefs announced its Extra Yard for the Environment initiative, a program designed to devise and implement new green policies for the Kansas City Chiefs while raising awareness for green efforts at Arrowhead Stadium and the University of Kansas Hospital Training Complex.

**Energy Management**

CenterPoint Energy, PG&E and SDG&E have topped a ranking of smart grid maturity in North America released by GTM Research.

The Building Owners and Managers Association International has issued a list of the top 10 ways commercial real estate professionals can make energy efficiency and sustainability a priority, such as by benchmarking energy and water consumption using the Energy Star Portfolio Manager.

Worldwide spending on industrial energy management systems and services, including software components, will grow from $11.3 billion in 2013 to $22.4 billion in 2020, according to a study from Navigant Research.

Walmart committed to two new goals for 2020: to drive the production or procurement of 7 billion kWh of renewable energy globally every year, a 600 percent increase over 2010 levels; and to reduce the kWh per square required to power its buildings by 20 percent compared to 2010 levels.

LiqTech has received an order for its silicon carbide membranes for public pool installations in the US, valued at $500,000, from Provital Solutions. Provital says it has used LiqTech SiC membranes to improve pool water quality, reduce energy consumption and total operating costs for pool installations in Scandinavia since 2009.
Environmental & Energy Software

Payroll On A Budget’s [paperless, Internet-based payroll system](#) can save a 10-person office 1.3 metric tons of greenhouse gases, more than 58 pounds of paper and more than 2,000 gallons of water per year, the company says.

[K2 Sports](#) has chosen Scope 5’s cloud-based sustainability services to track and manage the environmental impacts of its transportation, waste stream, energy and material usage. The ski and snowboard company, which includes 14 global brands, said it previously measured its benchmark 2009 carbon footprint and annual calculations via a spreadsheet-based carbon footprint calculator.

Meridian Energy has adopted a [software platform to streamline its greenhouse gas reporting](#), a technology investment the company says will improve productivity 50 percent by cutting down the time to gather, analyze and report data.

[SAP launched a cloud-based carpool app](#) that has saved the software company more than $5 million internally in less than two years.

Environmental Management

RSK Business Solutions has launched a web-based tool to help UK-based construction companies mitigate environmental risk, drive legal compliance and enhance their key performance indicator (KPI) reporting to avoid environmental related fines and penalties through failing to comply with the [ISO 14001 environmental management standard](#).

Scientists at UC Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have found new materials that could be used to [scrub methane](#), a potent greenhouse gas, from the air.
Oil and gas companies’ spending on environment, health and safety issues will balloon 60 percent to $56 billion in 2030, up from $35 billion in 2011, as heavily publicized environmental disasters have increased regulatory scrutiny, a Lux Research study says.

US Demil has selected Harper International to design a continuous indirect rotary thermal treatment unit (TTU) for demilitarization processing of munitions. The equipment will support US Department of Defense efforts directed at reducing and recycling large stockpile of excess, obsolete and unserviceable munitions for safety and environmental purposes.

Tetra Tech has been awarded a $17.8 million contract with McClellan Business Park to perform environmental services for the privatized cleanup of portions of the former McClellan Air Force Base in California. Under this contract, more than 130 installation restoration program (IRP) sites on more than 600 acres will be evaluated, remediated, and closed, at which point the property will be available for development.

ICF International has been awarded a $23 million recompete contract by the EPA to provide technical and outreach support for the Office of Air and Radiation, Clean Air Markets Division (CAMD). The contract has a five-year term. Under this contract, ICF will support EPA’s CAMD across a range of activities, including modeling for the power sector and other industrial sectors; economic and environmental modeling and analysis; statistical, regulatory, policy, and technical analysis; outreach and communications support; and workshop and conference support.

MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates, a global communications and information company, has signed a $1.7 million contract with the US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. NFWF is working to protect ecological environments by funding a satellite monitoring pilot program designed to detect illegal discharges of oil from vessels operating in the US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Over the course of the 18-month program, MDA and NFWF, in consultation with the Coast Guard, will coordinate the collection and analysis of satellite-based ship and oil detection information to help promote environmental compliance within the US EEZ and to prevent environmental crimes from recurring.

Air pollution control technology company Ceco Environmental has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Met-Pro, a provider of product recovery, pollution control, fluid handling and filtration solutions.
across multiple diversified end-markets. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, Ceco will acquire all of the outstanding shares of Met-Pro common stock in a cash and stock transaction valued at a total of approximately $210 million.

Executive Moves

Clean Harbors: The environmental, energy and industrial services company has promoted Jerry E. Correll to president of Safety-Kleen Environmental Services. Correll replaces Robert Craycraft, who has resigned to pursue other opportunities. Correll joined Clean Harbors in 2002 in conjunction with the Company’s acquisition of Safety-Kleen’s Chemical Services Division. He most recently was executive vice president of environmental sales.

National Academy of Environmental Design: Linda Sorrento has been appointed as the first permanent executive director of the think-tank and will guide this year’s launch of the organization’s new location at the Center for Sustainability and Green Technologies in Ni Village, Spotsylvania, Va. Previously, Sorrento was senior director of education for the US Green Building Council.

Green Innovations: The bamboo-based personal care and paper products company has appointed Philip C. Rundle as chief executive officer. He most recently was CEO of Oasis Brands, a tissue manufacturer.

URS Corporation: The engineering, construction and technical services company has named William Harnagel vice president and corporate controller. Prior to his promotion, he served as senior vice president and controller for the Power Group at URS.

Sustainability Accounting Standards Board: The nonprofit organization developing sustainability measurement and reporting standards for publicly held companies in the US has appointed Matteo Tonello, The Conference Board managing director of corporate leadership, to its advisory council.

OxiCool: Gen. James L. Jones has joined the cooling technology company’s advisory board. Jones, who leads Jones Group International, which provides advisory and strategic consulting services on energy,
market access and trade promotion, and international security, is the former US national security advisor to the president.

**URS Corporation**: The construction and environmental engineering firm has named Richard Reis as a vice president and Northwest regional manager for URS’s infrastructure and environment division. Prior to joining URS, Reis served as the operations manager for Tetra Tech in Bellevue, Wash.

**EBI Consulting**: The environmental, engineering and due diligence consulting company has announced three new hires. The company has appointed James Greskovich as director of business development for the life sciences industry. Greskovich comes to EBI from Clean Harbors Environmental, where he served as vice president of pharmaceutical and biotechnology. Peter Pratt has joined EBI as a program director within the acquisition/equity due diligence services group. Pratt is a LEED-accredited professional. Wendy Meschkow Gross has been named senior architect in the real estate services group.

**Rivertop Renewables**: The renewable chemicals company has appointed John Monks as vice president of business development. Monk previously worked at companies including ICI, DSM and Genencor.

**Wilo**: The company, which makes pumps and pump solutions for water management, building services and groundwater, has hired Ralf Peifer as director of service for its new factory service center in Thomasville, Ga. Peifer is relocating from Germany to the US.

**Recology**: The recycling and disposal services company has elected Larry A. Colton, CEO of G2 Insurance Services, and George P. McGrath, Recology executive vice president and COO, to the company’s board of directors.

**International Living Future Institute**: The environmental NGO has appointed three members to its board of directors. George Salah, Coretta Anderson and Richard V. Piacentini will begin their board service at the organization’s May board meeting. Salah is director of real estate and workplace services at Google. Anderson is a former special initiatives manager with the Natural Resources Defense Council and current public relations and fundraising consultant. Piacentini is executive director of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.
Fuel Freedom Foundation: The nonprofit that advocates for alternative fuels and electric vehicles has named Doug Foy, president of Serrafix and former Secretary of the Massachusetts Office for Commonwealth Development under Mitt Romney, as senior legal advisor.

Finance & Reporting

American Electric Power, Clorox, Dow Chemical, Eaton, Ingersoll Rand, Pfizer and Southwest Airlines are the only companies in the S&P 500 — just 1.4 percent of the total — with fully integrated annual financial and sustainability reports, according to a study from the IRRC Institute and the Sustainable Investments Institute.

There are "serious deficiencies" in the disclosure practices of FracFocus.org, a widely used website that allows companies to voluntarily disclose the chemicals they use in the process of natural gas drilling known as hydraulic fracturing, according to a study by the Harvard Environmental Law Program's Policy Initiative.

Fleets & Transportation

The US General Services Administration says it will expand the number of hybrid vehicles in the federal fleet by up to 10,000 vehicles, resulting in the reduction of about 1 million gallons of fuel per year for the life of these vehicles.

LaserShip has joined the EPA’s SmartWay Transport Partnership, a program that reduces transportation-related emissions by creating incentives to improve supply chain fuel efficiency.

UPS announced it will purchase about 700 liquefied natural gas 18-wheelers and build four refueling stations to serve its heavy-weight rigs by the end of 2014.
The FAA has approved battery system improvements for Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner, clearing the way for the grounded fleet to resume commercial flights.

GE Oil and Gas and Nat G CNG Solutions have both launched compressed natural gas vehicle fueling systems.

The USDA has extended for five years its agreement to work with the FAA and commercial aviation partners, including Boeing and industry trade group Airlines for America, to help develop a viable biofuel for the aviation industry.

Modern Transportation has deployed freight service to the Owens Corning roofing plant in Savannah, Ga., using trucks powered solely by 12-liter natural gas-fueled engines. The high volume, dedicated service is the first ever built around commercial-order, production-built engines fueled exclusively with liquefied natural gas, the company says.

BYD has delivered six electric buses to the city of Schiermonnikoog, Netherlands, for use in a National Park. Arriva will operate the six vehicles, which can accommodate up to 70 passengers. The buses can travel 250 km (155 miles) on one, overnight charge.

Hybrid and electric bus technologies can perform as well or better than comparable diesel-powered buses, and with a greater economic benefit, according to a report released by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

UK grocery chain Sainsbury’s has joined a government-backed program aimed at improving the adoption of hydrogen-powered vehicles and supporting infrastructure. There are currently 12 industry participants in phase two of UKH₂Mobility including Hyundai, ITM Power and Sainsbury’s rival Morrisons.

BAE Systems will provide its hybrid propulsion system on 475 Nova LFS hybrid electric buses for the Association du Transport Urbain du Quebec. Compared with conventional diesel-powered buses, the Nova LFS HEV offers approximately 30 percent lower fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, BAE says.
Leviton has been awarded a $1 million grant to install electric vehicle charging stations across the state of New York to support governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Charge NY initiative, a proposed network of 3,000 public and workplace charging stations to be installed over five years.

Also in New York, Nissan and mayor Michael Bloomberg have launched an EV taxi pilot that puts six Nissan LEAFs on the streets. As part of the pilot, Nissan and partners in New York City will also install several CHAdeMO-based DC quick chargers, which will enable drivers to re-charge their electric taxis quickly during their shift.

BMW Manufacturing’s plant in Spartanburg, SC, has more than doubled its fleet of material handling equipment using hydrogen fueling systems provided by Linde North America.

GE has been awarded new contracts for orders of electric power and propulsion systems on two liquid natural gas carriers and an LNG Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU). Shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries chose GE’s propulsion system for a FSRU ordered by Höegh LNG and also selected GE’s power and propulsion system for an LNG carrier being built for Tsakos Energy Navigation. Korean shipbuilder Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering chose GE’s power and propulsion technology for two new LNG carriers to be built for Maran Gas Maritime.

Clean Air Power, which develops dual-fuel engine management software for heavy-duty vehicles, will receive a $2.6 million grant from the California Energy Commission to support its development of a Genesis Edge dual-fuel product for the US market. The project will deliver a US Genesis product certified to US 2010 emissions levels and intended to help meet growing demand for US natural gas vehicles, the company says. Clean Air Power will receive the funds between May 2013 and October 2014.

Green Building

The adoption of building information modeling in North American construction industry has increased from 28 percent in 2007 to 71 percent in 2012, according to research by McGraw Hill.
Packaging, Paper & Forests

Smart Planet Technologies has announced a new coating, EarthCoating Hyper-barrier (HB40), that the company says provides a cost-effective, environmentally friendlier alternative to Polyvinilidene Chloride (PVdC) coatings in barrier folding carton packaging.

Flexible packaging and specialty paper company Packaging Dynamics Corporation has signed a definitive agreement to sell its Thilmany Papers business unit to a new company to be formed and controlled by investment funds sponsored by KPS Capital Partners. Wausau Paper has previously announced that it had signed a non-binding letter of intent to sell its specialty paper business to this new company being formed by KPS.

Renewable Energy

The Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is developing a process that uses sunshine to increase the amount of energy in natural gas.

Google committed an additional $600 million investment in its Lenoir, NC data center site, and said its local electricity provider, Duke Energy, has pledged to develop a new program for large companies like Google that want to buy renewable power for their operations.

Facebook is planning to build a $1 billion data center in Altoona, Iowa, that experts are predicting will be the world’s “most technologically advanced.” Associated with the project is a request by Facebook for tax credits for wind energy production in Iowa.

The Algae Biomass Organization has published an online map showing algae production facilities and research projects worldwide.

Lockheed Martin is working with Beijing-based Reignwood Group to develop an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) pilot power plant off the coast of southern China.
Bio-based chemicals company Cobalt Technologies has announced a strategic relationship with two Asian chemical companies to develop biomass-to-butadiene technology, expected to be completed in 2014, to be followed by construction of a commercial-scale biorefinery in Asia.

Biofuels manufacturer Joule says it had converted waste CO2 into gasoline and jet fuel components. The company says this is an industry first in renewable fuel production.

**Supply Chain**

**United Airlines** says it will measure and evaluate the sustainability of its suppliers’ products and operations and then set targets for improvements in 2014.

UK communications company **BT** says it has cut its supply chain carbon dioxide impact by more than 30,000 metric tons over the last year.

**Sustainable Agriculture**

Walmart Canada, Costco Canada, Metro, Loblaw, Safeway Canada, Federated Co-operatives, Sobeys and Co-op Atlantic — **all eight of Canada's largest supermarket chains** — have pledged to eliminate the use of pork housed in gestation crates from their supply chains in the next nine years.

**DuPont shareholders** will vote on a resolution on genetically engineered seeds while Abbott Laboratories’ shareholders will ask the company to remove GMOs from its infant formula and other nutritional products until long-term safety testing proves GMOs are safe.

A tool developed by USDA scientists can help agribusiness model phosphorus loss in runoff and determine ways to reduce these losses.
An online tool to help dairies calculate their environmental footprint is being tested by producers, the Innovation Center for US Dairy says.

**Waste & Recycling**

New York City has put two initiatives into effect to improve its waste and recycling efforts.

Electronic Recyclers International (ERI) has launched a new tracking and transparency system that gives customers complete real-time access to the status of their organizational recycling efforts, the company says.

The Coca-Cola Foundation/Keep America Beautiful Bin Grant Program is awarding communities, schools, universities and organizations with grants of recycling bins, allowing these entities to either expand existing recycling programs or to make recycling available for the first time.

Veolia Environnement expects revenue from its toxic waste recycling business to grow by 10 percent per year over the next four to five years and profit from these activities to grow by 15 percent per year, according to media reports.

The Healthier Hospitals Initiative kept more than 100 million pounds of waste out of landfills in its initial year, according to the program's first progress report.

Apple, Dell, HP and some 2,000 other consumer electronics companies increased the amount of electronics they recycled by about 27 percent last year, according to the Consumer Electronics Association.

About 66.7 million tons of reclaimed asphalt pavement and 1.2 million tons of reclaimed asphalt shingles were collected in the United States during 2011 for use in new pavements, according to a survey conducted by the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
The US Postal Service released a consumer video, as a tie-in with Earth Day, demonstrating how to recycle cell phones, MP3 players and tablets through the MaxBack electronics buyback program.

Coca-Cola, telecommunications company CenturyLink and EcoScraps, an organic lawn and garden products manufacturer, are among the companies that announced recycling initiatives and milestones yesterday, on Earth Day.

A marine contracting company in Abu Dhabi, Khamis Al Rumaithy (KARE) hopes to make the UAE a ship recycling center.

Properties owned by Indianapolis-based real estate company Simon Property Group Inc. have begun collecting and baling clear plastic packaging materials – such as individual plastic bags that contain the clothing that is delivered to the malls – for recycling.

Facilities are now allowed to recycle plastics separated from automobile shredder residue, according to the EPA’s new interpretation of existing regulations.

HP has expanded its recycling program, adding Office Depot as a retailer that will offer HP ink recycling, and says its Everyday Paper line in North America is now Forest Stewardship Council certified.

Laws proposed in North Carolina and Alabama would require any container made from compostable or biodegradable plastic to be labeled "non-recyclable."

The UK Nuclear Decommissioning Authority awarded a five-year contract extension to the URS-led Nuclear Waste Management consortium to continue management of the UK National Low Level Waste Repository in North West England, and to develop and implement a national low level waste strategy.
Water Management

Sainsbury’s has reduced its operational water use 50 percent relative across its stores, against a 2005-06 baseline, employing a number of measures including recycling, leak detection and rainwater harvesting.

Monsanto is investigating the water treatment system at its phosphate mine in southeast Idaho after a holding pond leak dumped millions of gallons of water and sediment into a neighboring wetland.

Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates' wetland treatment saved Washington, Ind., $26 million and cut projected annual operating costs by $1.6 million, according to the American Council of Engineering Companies.

Gap, Brooks Brothers and other fashion brands are dumping toxic wastewater in Indonesia waterways, Greenpeace says.

Environmental technology company Flexible Solutions International says its Watersavr product reduced evaporation by an average of 31 percent during a trial on Lake Sahara in Las Vegas.

DuPont says it will install a large-scale PGClear unit, which is designed to treat groundwater contaminated with chloroform, at its site in Louisville, Ky., in June.

Companies should develop and implement a more holistic watershed approach, according to a report by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Coca-Cola has partnered with WaterAid to provide safe drinking water to one of the poorest suburbs of Burkina Faso’s capital city, Ouagadougou, in western Africa, and in two rural communities in southern Ethiopia.

Chevron Mining awarded URS Corporation a contract to design, construct and commission a stormwater management system for the Questa molybdenum mine in Questa, New Mexico.
GLV Group has announced that Ovivo, its operating sector involved in water treatment, signed three major contracts with electronics companies for a total value close to $85 million Canadian dollars ($82.86 USD). The scope of work includes the design, supply and commissioning of advanced ultrapure water as well as industrial process and wastewater systems.

Ecolab, a water, hygiene and energy technology company, has reached an agreement to acquire AkzoNobel's Purate business, which specializes in global anti-microbial water treatment technology.

**Standards & Compliance**

A Sacramento County Superior Court Judge ruled that Bisphenol-A (BPA) must be removed from California's list of reproductive toxianrs regulated under Proposition 65, in a case brought by the American Chemistry Council, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. The state's Environmental Protection Agency added BPA to the list only the week before.

The California EPA issued a notice of intent to list clomiphene citrate as a carcinogenic chemical under Prop. 65, according to law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon. The drug is used to treat infertility in women, and its FDA-approved label says prolonged use may increase the risk of ovarian tumors.

California assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) introduced a bill that would help business owners avoid fines for minor Prop. 65 violations, if they fix problems quickly, the Los Angeles Times reported. Gatto said Prop. 65 had led to "shakedowns of California's small business owners."

A bill in the North Carolina legislature would effectively prohibit use of the LEED rating system on public building projects, the Charlotte Business Journal reports. House Bill 628 says green building ratings used by the state must award points to wood certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and American Tree Farm System. LEED gives points only to wood certified under the Forest Stewardship Council.

Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers has achieved LEED Operations and Maintenance certifications for three of its Atlanta office assets, totaling more than 800,000 sq ft. Glenridge Highlands One earned LEED Gold,
while 1040 and 1050 Crown Pointe Parkway achieved LEED Silver, Transwestern Sustainability Services (TSS) says.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas has become the first presidential library to earn LEED Platinum certification for new construction, the Dallas Morning News reports.

EnerG2, a manufacturer of nano-structured materials for energy storage, has secured ISO 14001 certification for its Albany, Ore., factory, the company says.

Bergstrom has achieved ISO 14001 environmental management certification for its Rockford, Ill., facility. The company designs climate systems for commercial vehicles, Fleet Owner reports.

Legal firm The Chanler Group says it will publish a list of furniture manufacturers whose products have tested negative for the flame retardant chemicals TDCPP and TCEP, both also known as Tris, Furniture Today reports.

OfficeMax, Ross Stores and Kinwai USA are among the nine manufacturers and retailers that law firm The Chanler Group is suing under California’s Proposition 65. The group has also served more than 100 violation notices on leading furniture manufacturers and retailers, including Ashley Furniture, Best Buy, Costco, Kohl’s, Pier 1 and the TJX Companies, alleging the unlabeled use of flame retardants TDCPP and TCEP (both also known as Tris).

The UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched a public consultation on an overhaul to the country’s WEEE compliance system. Either of BIS’s two preferred options represent a complete transformation of the current set-up, LetsRecycle.com reports. The consultation ends June 21 and the new rules are expected to take effect January 1, 2014.

CSA Group, NSF International, IAPMO R&T, UL, and the Water Quality Association are consolidating more than 650 previously established action levels for unregulated chemical contaminants from products that contact drinking water, such as pipes, treatment chemicals, treatment devices and faucets. They say the work will eliminate inconsistencies in the product certification process.
Chinatrust Commercial Bank has been certified to the ISO 50001 standard for energy management systems, the China Post reports. The bank said it will introduce the EMS in all 147 branches across China.

The 57-story, 1.3 million sq ft Chicago office building 300 N. LaSalle has received LEED Platinum for Existing Buildings, according to developer Hines and owner KBS REIT II. Tenants include The Boston Consulting Group, GTCR, Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Quarles & Brady LLP, REJournals reports.

The Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, near Seattle, has earned LEED Gold certification, EarthTechling reports.

The International Code Council is seeking members for a committee to develop two ICC/Solar Rating & Certification Corporation standards for solar water heating systems and solar thermal collectors.

Staples is the first major US electronics retailer to become a licensed e-Stewards Enterprise company, a program of the environmental organization Basel Action Network, BAN announced. Staples pledged to use certified e-Stewards Recyclers to handle materials collected from its free technology recycling program at more than 1,500 stores, as well as electronic waste from its own internal operations.

BAN also announced that ECOvanta, an e-waste recycling subsidiary of Covanta Energy Corporation, has achieved e-Stewards certification.

A proposed ASTM international standard, ASTM WK34574, will be used by laboratories to monitor quality of hydrogen fuel for fuel cell vehicles to satisfy requirements of SAE J2719. The proposed test method will allow users to monitor formaldehyde and each hydrocarbon compound at one part per billion, ASTM says.

AIM Metals & Alloys LP announced that its Montreal facility has been awarded ISO 14001:2004 certification for its environmental management system from Systems & Services Certification, a Division of SGS North America Inc., EMS Now says.

The Hyatt Capital Gate Abu Dhabi has won ISO 14001 certification, AME Info reports.
Canadian restaurant chain Tim Hortons has opened its first LEED-certified restaurant, in Hamilton, Ontario. Builders reused the site’s old parking surface as granular fill, and diverted 99 percent of construction waste from landfill. The company hopes to have 30 LEED-certified buildings by the end of 2016, and says the location will serve as a test-bed for building technologies.

Marketing and communications design firm Bowman Design Group says it is the first US company to receive Sustainable Company certification from FAMAB, the German exhibition and events industry association.

Bedding and bath accessory company Coyuchi has announced the certification of all its organic cotton product lines to the Global Organic Textile Standard.

Multinational textile group TenCate has announced that all four of its companies have been level 3-certified under the Corporate Social Responsibility Performance Ladder system, Specialty Fabrics Review reports. The Dutch standards is based on guidelines including ISO 26000, ISO 9001, AA1000 and the Global Reporting Initiative.

Intertek has opened its first North American Center of Excellence for RoHS directive testing in Columbus, Ohio. Intertek will use the facility for CE marking requirements including BOM review, XRF testing and Wet Chemical analysis.

Singapore Management University has achieved certification to the ISO 50001 Energy Management System standard, Eco-Business.com reports.

The Ronald and Maxine Linde Center for Global Environmental Science at Caltech has earned LEED Platinum certification. One of its most innovative features is its solar telescope, which has been retrofitted with mirrors to pull sunlight deep into the building’s underground lab, EarthTechling reports.

The Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building IV project at Arizona State University has achieved LEED Gold, according to one of the structural design consultants, CH2M Hill.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) building in Raleigh has achieved LEED Platinum status.
The headquarters for HVAC manufacturer Harshaw Trane, at the Blankenbaker Station business park in Louisville, Ky., has achieved LEED Silver. It is the company’s second LEED certification, Business First reports.

Group Health Cooperative’s medical office building in Puyallup, Wash., has become the first building in the nation to win LEED for Healthcare certification, USGBC says. The facility achieved Gold and earned several credits new to LEED, including connection to the natural world (providing landscaped areas for patients and visitors), reduced potable water use for cooling medical equipment, use of least-polluting combustion equipment, and minimization of persistent bioaccumulative toxins.

Volkswagen's test center in Oxnard, Calif., has achieved LEED certification, the automaker said.

The non-profit Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale, Penn., announced that its Moorhead Environmental Complex has achieved LEED Platinum. The complex houses offices and also serves as a teaching tool, the organization says.

UK-based Enviro Technology Services, a global supplier of environmental monitoring equipment, has achieved ISO 14001 environmental management system certification, alongside BS OHAS 18001 health and safety management accreditation, the company said.

A proposed ASTM International standard, ASTM WK40037, Guide for Determining Concentration Values from Groundwater, Air and Soil Gas Using Adsorbent-Based, Passive Samplers, addresses the measurement of vapor intrusion - the migration of gas-phase compounds into buildings from underlying soil. The standard will help avoid health problems associated with vapor intrusion, ASTM says.

ASTM has also released a new standard, D7830, Test Method for In-Place Determination of Density and Water Content of Soil Using an Electromagnetic Soil Density Gauge. The standard covers procedures for determining in-place properties of non-frozen, unbound soil and soil aggregate mixtures by measuring electromagnetic impedance of compacted soil using electrical, non-nuclear devices.

The Brazilian Association of Technical Standards has published ABNT NBR 16156:2013, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Waste-Requirements for reverse manufacturing activity. The standard covers
Advantageous Systems (ADS) has received final NSF/ANSI Standard 61 Certification for its ADS Arsenic Absorbent Filter Water Treatment Technology. The patent-pending technology can remove arsenic selectively from potable water and embed it in a solid matrix without producing sludge or needing backwashes, ADS says.

Bourbon maker Jim Beam says it is poised to receive LEED Gold certification at its new visitors' center, The Jim Beam American Stillhouse, in Clermont, Ky.

**Policy & Enforcement**

Officials continue to investigate the fire and explosion at West Fertilizer, which killed at least 14 and injuring 200 in the small central Texas town. But it does appear the fertilizer plant — which housed some 270 tons of ammonium nitrate — may have violated a host of environmental and safety regulations before the deadly blast.

Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) have reintroduced their Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, an energy efficiency bill that is supported by the National Association of Manufacturers, the Alliance to Save Energy and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association among others.

The National Association of Manufacturers, American Frozen Food Institute, American Petroleum Institute and other industry groups have appealed to the US Supreme Court to stop the EPA's greenhouse gas emissions rules, which they say are too costly and threaten manufacturers’ global competitiveness.

Chevron is leading a lobbying and public relations campaign to weaken California’s low-carbon fuel standard, a law the oil company once supported.
The US ranks No. 1 among 21 countries most actively using the tax code to influence sustainable corporate activity, reflecting the country’s federal tax incentives for energy efficiency, renewable energy and green buildings, according to KPMG’s first Green Tax Index.

The carbon intensity of the world’s energy supplies has barely changed in the past 20 years, despite implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and a boom in renewable power, the International Energy Agency said in a report, according to Bloomberg.

The August fire that severely damaged Chevron's Richmond, Calif., refinery and caused 15,000 people to seek treatment for respiratory problems occurred because state rules allowed the company to simply monitor potential problems rather than fix them, the US Chemical Safety Board said Monday. Board chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso said the way refineries do business in California and across the US must change, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

King County and the city of Seattle will make nearly $1.5 billion in upgrades to sewage and combined stormwater collection, piping and treatment under settlements with the Department of Justice and the EPA, to address raw sewage discharges and other alleged violations. King County will make improvements costing about $860 million and pay a $400,000 penalty. Seattle will spend about $600 million on upgrades and pay a $350,000 penalty.

The White House released the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, which the administration says will help coordinate the 27 federal agencies that enforce over 100 ocean-related laws, the Environmental News Service reports. President Obama issued the policy by executive order in July 2010.

Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), the top Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, has introduced the bipartisan North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act, which would reauthorize the program to protect and restore wetlands in all 50 states through 2017. Authorization for the program expired at the end of fiscal year 2012, the committee said.

The House Natural Resources Committee’s subcommittee on public lands and environmental regulation held a hearing on HR 657, the Grazing Improvement Act, which according to its sponsors would amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and
permits. The subcommittee on fisheries, wildlife, oceans and insular affairs held an oversight hearing on the president's 2014 budget requests for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Grain Processing Corporation, in Muscatine, Iowa, has agreed to pay a $129,000 penalty for violations of the federal Clean Water Act, the EPA said. The agency said the company's violations included exceeding the effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, temperature, and pH; taking unrepresentative flow measurements; failing to conduct settleability tests; and failing to maintain all facilities and control systems in good working order.

The EPA reached two settlements with Mark West Liberty Midstream & Resources and the Laurel Mountain Midstream Robin Hill facility, which agreed to improve operation of their natural gas facilities in western Pennsylvania. The agency alleged that the companies failed to comply with federal clean air regulations to prevent accidental releases of flammable substances.

Connecticut, Vermont, Oregon, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, and the cities of New York and the District of Columbia, sent the EPA a formal notice of intent to sue over the agency's failure to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, the Hill reported. The EPA missed a deadline to finalize standards for new plants.

SL Industries and SL Surface Technologies agreed to perform about $23 million of soil cleanup and reimburse the EPA's $10.7 million of past costs at the Puchack Well Field Superfund site in Pennsauken Township, NJ. The soil to be cleaned up is contaminated with hexavalent chromium, and six public drinking water wells near the site had to be taken out of use due to contamination, the agency said.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) said the House would introduce its own version of the Water Resources Development Act by late spring or early summer, the Hill reported. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the act, which would make low-interest loans available for water infrastructure projects, in March.

The Department of Energy and Alaska's Department of Natural Resources signed a memorandum of understanding that seeks to accelerate development of vast unconventional energy resources
including viscous oil and methane hydrates. The MOU aims to improve the agencies’ cooperation related to research and development, and enhance information sharing, the DOE said.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee published a white paper examining the effects of the Renewable Fuel Standard on the agricultural sector. It is the second in a series of white papers, an effort led by chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and ranking member Henry A. Waxman (D-CA).

Three Republican congressmen have introduced HR 1613, which would approve and implement the terms of the U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs Agreement, signed in 2012, to enable greater energy exploration and development for resources across the countries' maritime border.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) conditionally accepted more Order No. 1000 compliance filings, including plans from the California Independent System Operator and New York Independent System Operator, the agency said. The order is designed to make major progress towards a more productive and efficient electric transmission grid. FERC also conditionally accepted Order No. 1000 compliance filings from two public utility transmission providers, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company and NorthWestern Corp., and granted waivers to Lockhart Power Co. and Alcoa Power Generating Inc.

FERC is also seeking comment on a proposed rule that would extend the scope of systems protected by cyber security standards. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation submitted the proposal, which constitutes version 5 of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards, in January.

The EPA proposed several options to reduce the amounts of mercury, arsenic, lead and selenium that power plants release into waterways via coal ash, air pollution control waste and other waste. The proposed rules would update standards in place since 1982 and would be phased in between 2017 and 2022. The agency is under a consent decree to take final action by May 22, 2014.

The rules would impact coal-fired plants the most, as these facilities are the biggest source of the pollutants, Bloomberg reported. But the EPA says it expects fewer than half of coal-fired plants to incur costs under any of its proposed options, because many already have the necessary technology and procedures in place.
Florida and Mississippi sued BP over the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, joining existing litigants Alabama and Louisiana, which are embroiled in litigation in New Orleans. Florida is also suing BP contractor Halliburton, the AP reported.

Cemex agreed to pay a $1 million civil penalty and install selective non-catalytic reduction controls on its Lyons, Colo., cement kiln, to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Air Act, including modifications that the EPA says significantly increased emissions of nitrogen oxide and particulate matter. The controls' capital cost is about $600,000, and EPA expects the cost of injecting ammonia into the stack emissions stream, a necessary part of the pollution prevention process, to be about $1.5 million per year.

A dozen House Republicans are petitioning the Supreme Court to review a 2012 federal court ruling that upheld the EPA's power to regulate carbon emissions, the Hill said. The petition by the conservative Southeastern Legal Foundation also won backing from FreedomWorks, the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Georgia Motor Trucking Association. They join an appeal by major industries.

Norway's ruling Labour party voted to conduct a study into the potential impacts of oil and gas exploration around the Lofoten Islands, just north of the Arctic Circle. The area is home to one of the world's richest cod stocks, Reuters reports. The party said it would take another vote, in 2015, before any drilling is allowed to begin.

The United Nations Forum on Forests has called on nations to take steps to address deforestation and forest degradation, as well as to improve data collection. At its tenth session the forum also agreed that multiple sources of public and private financing, at the national, regional and international levels, is needed to address the problem.

UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon and World Bank president Jim Yong Kim co-chaired the first meeting of the Advisory Board of Sustainable Energy for All, a public-private partnership that aims to double the share of renewable energy in the world's energy mix, double improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, and provide universal access to modern energy. Chad Holliday from Bank of America is the executive committee chair.
South Africa's largest steel maker, ArcelorMittal SA, applied for a three-month waiver of emissions conditions on its Vanderbijlpark plant, Business Day reported. Water and environmental affairs minister Edna Molewa backed the appeal and called the suspension an "ideal" solution.

The US Court of Appeals ruled that the EPA can revoke Arch Coal's permit for its Spruce No. 1 mountaintop mine in West Virginia, the Wall Street Journal reports. The US Army Corps of Engineers approved the permit. A lower court will now consider whether the EPA’s revocation was arbitrary, as the company alleges.

The Supreme Court appeared skeptical of Texas’ claim that it has a right to buy and draw water from Oklahoma, the AP reports. Texas says it has the right under the 30-year-old Red River Compact between the two states, plus Arkansas and Louisiana.

A federal court yesterday rejected the energy industry's plea to overturn a 2010 order, which forced the EPA to review power plant runoff rules, the Hill reports.

Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Reps. Ted Poe (R-Texas) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) reintroduced the Master Limited Partnerships Parity Act, which would extend the financing mechanism to renewable energy development. MLPs are currently only available for oil and gas, the Hill said.

Wisconsin Power and Light, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC), Madison Gas and Electric Company, and Wisconsin Electric Power Company agreed to invest more than $1 billion in pollution control technology, spend a total of $8.5 million on environmental mitigation projects, and pay a civil penalty of $2.45 million to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Air Act from three coal-fired plants, located near Portage, Sheboygan, and Cassville, Wis. The settlement also requires WPL and WPSC to permanently retire, refuel, or repower four additional coal-fired units. The EPA and Sierra Club were co-plaintiffs to the settlement.

Beef Products Inc. (BPI) agreed to pay a $450,000 civil penalty and conduct third-party audits to settle alleged violations of Clean Air Act regulations. The settlement stems from a 2007 incident at the now-closed Waterloo, Iowa, facility that released more than 1,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, killing one worker and permanently disabling another, the EPA said. BPI also directed its employees to enter the facility while dangerous levels of airborne anhydrous ammonia remained present, the agency said.
Halliburton says it is in advanced talks to settle most claims related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the AP reports. The company was BP's cement contractor on the rig.

EPA acting administrator Bob Perciasepe and acting chief financial officer Maryann Froehlich testified before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, to discuss the EPA's proposed FY 2014 budget.

The EPA called the State Department's 2,000-page draft review of the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline "insufficient," and said the department must examine climate impacts more closely. The agency also said it was concerned about safety, in light of a high-profile Michigan river spill in 2010, Reuters reported.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing on Department of Energy loans made to the troubled electric car maker Fisker Automotive.

The EPA and the Arizona Department of Transportation reached an agreement to improve the state’s stormwater management program. ADOT voluntarily agreed to add positions in its Office of Environmental Services, and to map its storm drain outfalls and roadside water filters. The agreement requires ADOT to conduct additional corrective measures, and establishes a series of compliance dates, ending in March 2014.

The Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) agreed to perform collaborative research related to airborne emissions and air quality at natural gas drilling sites. They join a cross-functional team of scientists from the DoE, Department of the Interior, and the EPA.

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced a bill to require labeling for foods made with genetically modified organisms, Reuters reported. The bill has 31 co-sponsors. But executives from Monsanto, Dow Chemical and DuPont said they are planning a campaign to turn public opinion against such proposals.

China agreed to eliminate its industrial production of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2030. The UN says it will provide China - the world's largest
producer and consumer of HCFCs - with up to $385 million for ODS eradication. China estimates the move will prevent over 4.3 billion metric tons of CO2e from entering the atmosphere, and the UN says the project will help pave the way for similar actions in other developing countries.

Many impoundment ponds for storing coal mining slurry are poorly constructed and have dangerously weak walls, according to a study for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement obtained by the Washington Post. Only 16 out of 73 field tests in the study met standards.

Designers of products including mobile phones and electric car batteries should vastly improve recyclability, to help address skyrocketing demand for metals, according to two reports by the United Nations' International Resource Panel, Reuters said. The reports also called on governments to agree on best available recycling technologies.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced a bill to make violations of chemical reporting rules a federal crime, the Hill reports. Lautenberg was spurred by the fertilizer plant explosion that killed 14 people in West, Texas last week. He called existing chemical reporting laws "toothless."

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR), ranking Republican Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced a bill that would change how the country stores nuclear waste. The bill would let state and local governments apply to host a national waste repository, and it would create a new federal agency to manage the waste, the Hill reports.

The House Natural Resources Committee passed HR 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, which would reduce regulatory hurdles for the Keystone XL pipeline. The bill passed 24-17.

A Senate Finance Committee white paper proposed a carbon tax as one possible policy option to reform the federal tax code. But the paper warned that its proposals do not necessarily have the backing of committee chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), and the Hill says that a carbon tax is likely still "dead on arrival."
The Department of Agriculture renewed an agreement with dairy producers to increase the construction of anaerobic digesters and explore innovative ways to repurpose waste. The USDA said this work will help the industry reach its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020.

The House Committee on Natural Resources held legislative hearing today on HR 1548, which sponsors say would reduce federal regulations that impede tribes’ energy development on Indian lands.

The House science committee’s subcommittees on energy and environment held a hearing entitled Review of Federal Hydraulic Fracturing Research Activities. The hearing examined progress under Executive Order 13605, which mandated the creation of an interagency working group to facilitate coordinated natural gas policy efforts.

The European Union voted to impose a two-year ban on neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides linked to bee decline. The decision is a serious defeat for chemical companies, the Guardian says. The European Commission wants a moratorium to begin no later than July 1, the BBC reports.

The proposed Pebble Mine copper and gold project in Bristol Bay, Alaska would destroy 90 miles of streams and up to 4,800 acres of wetland salmon habitat, according to an EPA revised draft assessment, the Hill reports.

The Department of Interior announced an oil and gas lease sale in August for more than 21 million acres offshore Texas. This third auction in the 2012-2017 leasing program will include 3,953 blocks, covering about 21.1 million acres, which could produce up to 200 million barrels of oil and up to 938 billion cubic feet of natural gas, the department said.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has started an inspection into a loss of offsite power following a lighting strike at Exelon’s LaSalle Units 1 and 2 boiling water reactors in Marseilles, Ill., on April 17. Both units shut down automatically and all control rods were inserted. The emergency diesel generators started and powered the safety-related systems as planned, the NRC said.
The European Commission began investigating claims that Chinese manufacturers are selling solar glass below cost, Reuters reports. The case is separate to the continent's largest trade investigation, into subsidies and alleged dumping of Chinese solar panels.

European countries will need to introduce carbon taxes if the continent's emissions trading system proves beyond repair, E.ON chief executive Johannes Teyssen told the newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, according to Reuters. Teyssen said that unless action is taken to save the system quickly, Europe's climate efforts will face "a decade of stagnation."

The EPA approved Iowa's 2012 list of 479 impaired waters requiring total maximum daily load calculations. The state Department Natural Resources added 78 water bodies to the list and removed 73.

The House of Representatives passed HR 527, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, by a vote of 394–1. The bill lays out plans to sell helium from the Federal Helium Reserve in a responsible manner, to prevent a global shortage, protect jobs and ensure a fairer return for taxpayers, the House Committee on Natural Resources says.

The EPA will award about $4 million in grants to 20 communities to help them to plan for cleanup and reuse of brownfields. The agency will award up to $200,000 per recipient.