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Environment & Energy

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Highlights

Leading the News

Dicamba Woes Drain State Agencies, Vex Companies

By *Tiffany Stecker*

Cash-strapped state agriculture agencies are buckling under an increased workload due to the hundreds of herbicide damage complaints filed in 2017 and scuttling other priorities to fully investigate claims of crop injury.

Energy Research Arm Nominee Avoids Stance on Climate Change

By *Rebecca Kern*

Linda Capuano, the nominee to be administrator of the Energy Information Administration, told lawmakers Dec. 5 she is not taking a position on climate change: "For me to take a position would introduce a bias."

Interior Won't Say What It's Doing With Coal Health Study

By *Stephen Lee*

The Trump administration isn't sharing any details about its review of a coal mining study it halted three months ago.

GOP Bills Would Protect Bears Ears, Create New

National Park

By *Alan Kovski*

New mining claims and oil and natural gas leasing would be barred from the area of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah under a bill unveiled by congressional Republicans Dec. 5.

Today's News

Trump Sued Over 'Unlawful' Shrinking of Utah National Monuments

By Peter Blumberg

Environmental groups hit President Donald Trump with a lawsuit just hours after he announced he'll shrink two national monuments in Utah that contain stunning red-sandstone vistas, historic relics and energy resources.

Cities Vow to Fill U.S. Void on Climate Change

By *Stephen Joyce*

Dozens of cities will begin tracking and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to meet the terms of an international deal the U.S. spurned.

Husqvarna Fined \$2.8 Million for Air Pollution Violations

By *Jennifer Lu*

Husqvarna will pay more than \$2.8 million in penalties to the EPA for air pollution testing violations from its leaf-blowers, trimmers, and chainsaws.

Maine Commission Votes to Delay Rollback of Solar Credit

By *Adrienne Appel*

The Maine Public Utilities Commission voted today to wait another four months before implementing rules widely viewed by renewable energy advocates as "anti-solar energy."

Latest Bull Case for Electric Cars: the Cheapest Batteries Ever

By Mark Chediak

The kind of battery that powers electric vehicles is now the cheapest it's ever been thanks to a global ramp-up in production.

Oil Firms Pledge to Plug Methane Leaks in Bid to Burnish Image

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

As the Trump administration rolls back Obama-era curbs on greenhouse gas emissions, more than two dozen oil companies are uniting in a voluntary effort to pare methane leaks and better position natural gas for a clean-energy future.

For Nebraska Landowners, Keystone XL Fight Isn't Cheap

By Jillian Goodman

November is the end of harvesting season in northeast Nebraska, so on the morning of Nov. 6, 2015, Art Tanderup was out combining. Early that day, President Barack Obama rejected TransCanada Corp.'s application to build the Keystone XL pipeline, an extension of the existing Keystone system that carries heavy crude from the Alberta tar sands to refineries on the Gulf Coast. Tanderup is one of about 90 landowners in Nebraska who've refused to sign easements allowing the pipeline to be built on their property.

Tax Bill May Chill Clean Energy Investments by Large Banks

By Joe Ryan, Brian Eckhouse and Christopher Martin

Clean-energy developers are learning the hard way that every line of the U.S. tax code is connected. While the bill passed by Senate Republicans over the weekend would preserve crucial credits for wind and solar farms, it also imposes a minimum tax on foreign transactions for JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and other large investors that threatens to erode the value of those credits.

How Trump Did the Impossible: Got Solar, Oil Lobbyists to Unite

By Ari Natter and Jennifer A. Dlouhy

In his 20 years of promoting renewable energy in Washington, Gregory Wetstone has made common cause with a range of special interest groups: environmentalists, power utilities, even a handful of natural gas producers. But President Donald Trump's efforts to bail out the coal industry led Wetstone, the head of the American Council on Renewable Energy, to find a surprising new

partner: Big Oil.

Vatican Sees Way Around Trump on Climate Change, Official Says

By Chiara Albanese and Flavia Rotondi

The Pope's leading adviser on climate issues has called for the European Union or China to fill the void left by the U.S. after Donald Trump's decision to pull the country out of the Paris Climate Agreement.



**China Assumes Green Power Mantle, Leaving
Germany, U.S. Behind**

By Brian Parkin

Chinese exports of environmental goods and services surged ahead of Germany

and the U.S., according to a report that shows how the climate change fight is shifting international trade.

Europe's Biggest Utility Bets on Italy Green Power Revival

By *Chiara Albanese* and *Giovanni Salzano*

Europe's biggest utility is betting on an Italian green power renaissance to lift business.



Statoil Greenlights Key \$6 Billion Norway Arctic Oil Project

By Mikael Holter

Statoil ASA gave the final go-ahead to a flagship Arctic oil project after slashing costs by half.

Monday Night Wrapup

Coal Export Terminal Appeals Permit Denial in Washington State

By Paul Shukovsky

Backers of what would be the only U.S. terminal for exporting Powder River Basin coal to Asia appealed Dec. 4 the denial of a shoreline permit to construct terminal infrastructure on the Columbia River port of Longview, Wash.

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