

6-20-2012

## PV Costs Overestimated - High-Impact Innovation

Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization (NIREC)

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**From:** NIREC - Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2012 8:06 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** NV Newsflash - PV Costs Overestimated - High-Impact Innovation



**NEVADA** CLEAN ENERGY  
COMMERCIALIZATION  
NEWSFLASH



### High-Impact Innovation

Develop a culture of innovation  
in your organization and  
incorporate a spirit of innovation  
in everything you do.

June 25, 2012 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Desert Research Institute  
2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV

Cost: \$65

[Register online](#)

### PV Costs Often Overestimated, According to New Report

Current accounting methods often over-estimate the lifetime costs of generating electricity from solar panels, according to "Re-considering the Economics of Photovoltaic Power." This new working paper, written by 10 authors with insight into the economics of solar power, appeared on the website *Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF)*.



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June 20, 2012

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### GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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[Innovative Biosynthetic Pathways to Advanced Biofuels](#)

U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office

Letter of Intent Due: June 21, 2012

Application Due: July 10, 2012

[Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#)

U.S. Department of Defense



Much of the confusion arises from how photovoltaic (PV) costs are calculated:

- Costs of PV modules are measured in price per watt (\$/W).
- Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) is a complex calculation measured in price per kilowatt-hour (\$/kWh).
- Grid parity – the goal of PV being equal in cost to other sources of electricity.

Each measure is useful, the report says, but “[e]ach of these metrics can be calculated in a number of ways and depend[s] on a wide range of assumptions that span technical, economic, commercial and policy considerations.” Many of these assumptions are years old—and over the past four years, PV prices have fallen precipitously.

From 2008 to 2011, prices for PV modules have dropped from over \$4 per watt to, in some cases, under \$1 per watt. The balance-of-system costs—racking, wiring, inverters and installation—have also been falling. One big difference between PV and fossil fuel electricity economics concerns upfront costs: PV’s are almost completely frontloaded: 90 percent upfront, with minimal operations and maintenance.

Meanwhile, costs of most other forms of electricity—such as coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydropower—are actually higher than the price paid by ratepayers, because of subsidies in place for many years longer than those for renewables. Further, electricity accounting, by definition, does not include costs from pollution and greenhouse gas emissions—“externalities”—of which PV produces none. With subsidies and incentives considered for *all* electricity sources—not just renewables—the authors believe that grid parity for PV in large parts of North America is likely by the end of 2013. Natural gas will still be cheaper—but its price has also been the most volatile historically.

The report looks at the “assumptions, inputs and parameters in calculations relating to the economics of PV.” Download the full report at: [www.bnef.com/WhitePapers/download/82](http://www.bnef.com/WhitePapers/download/82)

*JIM ROSSI is currently a graduate student studying renewable energy at UNLV, and has written for the Los Angeles Times, Bike and many other publications.*

Deadline: June 27, 2012

[Geothermal Resources Council Awards](#)

Deadline: June 29, 2012

[19th Annual Innovative Renewable Energy Projects & Programs](#)

Interstate Renewable Energy Council  
Deadline: June 29, 2012

[Regional Test Centers: Validation of Photovoltaic Modules and Systems](#)

U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative  
Deadline: June 30, 2012

[SAINT-GOBAIN / NOVA Innovation Competition 2012](#)

SAINT-GOBAIN; & NOVA External Venturing;  
US Green Building Council-Northern California Chapter  
Awards: \$50,000; \$25,000; \$10,000  
Deadline: June 30, 2012

[Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) Phase 1 Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)

Award Funding: Up to \$150,000  
Deadline: July 3, 2012

[SunShot Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies \(SEEDS\)](#)

U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office  
Concept Papers Due: July 13, 2012  
Full Applications Due: September 17, 2012

[Innovative Pilot and Demonstration Scale Production of Advanced Biofuels](#)

U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office  
Concept Paper Due: July 16, 2012  
Application Due: August 13, 2012

[2012 i6 Challenge: Innovation, Commercialization & Proof of Concept Centers](#)

U.S. Economic Development Administration  
Deadline: July 20, 2012  
No. of Awards: 6  
Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

[Meet with Dow Ventures](#)

Environmental Business Cluster  
(Palo Alto, CA)  
July 25, 2012

[Biotechnology, Biochemical and Biomass Engineering](#)

National Science Foundation  
Deadline: September 18, 2012

[Autodesk Clean Tech Partner Software Grant](#)

Autodesk  
Deadline: ongoing

[MORE OPPORTUNITIES >>>](#)



## National Clean Energy Summit 5.0: The Power of Choice

**Tuesday, August 7, 2012**  
**Bellagio**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

Keynote: Former President Bill Clinton

Speakers include:  
U.S. Senator Harry Reid  
Center for American Progress Chair & Counselor of the John Podesta  
Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk  
MGM Resorts Chairman/CEO Jim Murren  
FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghof  
USW International President Leo W. Gerard

Bringing together clean energy visionaries and leaders, public officials, business executives and entrepreneurs, investors, students, and the media to discuss how to empower the public with tools to promote the clean energy economy; increasing jobs and our energy independence.

Hosted by:  
Center for American Progress  
Clean Energy Project  
MGM Resorts International  
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

REGISTER: [www.cleanenergysummit.org](http://www.cleanenergysummit.org)

We hope you will join us at

## EVENTS

### [9th Annual Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) Wall Street](#)

American Council on Renewable Energy  
(ACORE)  
(New York, NY)  
June 19-20, 2012

### [Wind Powering America: Success Stories](#)

U.S. Department of Energy  
(webinar)  
June 20, 2012

### [Cleantech Open National Conference: Has Cleantech Finally Arrived?](#)

(San Jose, CA)  
June 21, 2012

### [Jelly Breakout Session](#)

Vegas Jelly  
(Las Vegas, NV)  
June 21, 2012

### [High Impact Innovation](#)

DCA Partners  
(Reno, NV)  
June 25, 2012

### [Green Tie Event](#)

Nevada Conservation League  
(Reno, NV)  
June 28, 2012

### [National Clean Energy Summit 5.0](#)

Center for American Progress; Clean Energy Project; Senator Harry Reid, MGM Resorts International  
(Las Vegas, NV)  
August 7, 2012

### [National Geothermal Summit](#)

Geothermal Energy Association  
(Sacramento, CA)  
August 7-8, 2012

[MORE EVENTS >>>](#)



[19th Annual Search for Innovative Renewable Energy Projects and Programs](#)

Deadline: June 29, 2012

Recognizing individuals and organizations that have implemented innovative projects during the past year that promote and accelerate the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the following four categories:

Clean Energy Workforce Development  
K-12 Education and Training  
Community Renewable Energy Projects  
State and Local Government Initiatives

Young Professionals in Energy Nevada  
Electric Vehicle Drive & Food Truck Scavenger Hunt  
Reno, Nevada - June 19, 2012



You're invited to join  
Young Professionals  
in Energy - Nevada

[www.ypenevada.org](http://www.ypenevada.org)

All ages and career-levels  
welcomed!

*Education - Activities  
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