

June 2012

Comment to
info@energy.edu.au

Articles from various sources from around the world and Australia.

Have you checked out our webpages recently?

We are slowly revamping the site – let us know what you think!

<http://www.energy.edu.au/new-website/index.html>

Looking for an energy topic lesson solution?

Our Moodle is up and running on our own website.



If interested please e-mail Hassan to gain your own login and password. Once registered you can register students to access assignments, research projects, assessments etc. moodleadmin@energy.edu.au



Oldest Gramophone recording

Modern technology may have resurrected the oldest sound recording in the world from an image printed in a German magazine from 1890. A researcher at Indiana University has been able to save the sounds from a newspaper image that German inventor Emile Berliner created.

[Click to view video.](#)

Plug-in Electric Vehicles

Whilst this summation report might appear meaningless to most of us, the Pike Research does give educators a glimpse of what their students will be facing if they chose a career that is involved in the many facets of a plug-in electric vehicle. Already in Australia we have the Mitsubishi iMiev, the Nissan Leaf and now the Holden Volt. All these vehicles and more will need recharging stations, servicing outlets and so on.

[Worth a read if only to gain background information.](#)

URL: <http://www.pikeresearch.com/research/plug-in-electric-vehicles>



The new look Mitsubishi iMiev



London Buses

Image: A Fuel Cell Perth Bus during the world Hydrogen testing. Ballard Power Systems announced that it has secured an order for three FCvelocity[®] fuel cell modules to power zero-emission

hydrogen hybrid fuel cell buses in London, U.K., where the city's publicly stated goal is to reduce CO2 emissions 60% from the 1990 level, by 2025.

It was not many years ago that the Western Australian Government had Fuel Cell Buses running the Perth routes based on Hydrogen as a fuel. In that experiment the manufacturing of Hydrogen unfortunately was not by hydrolysis (the separation of Hydrogen and Oxygen from water) but from petroleum, a fuel in its own right. Since then Ballard has shown the world that Hydrogen can be a fuel source for transportation as witnessed at the Canadian Winter Olympics in Whistler. Today a fleet of twenty Hydrogen fuel cell buses still serve the people of Whistler and surrounding districts. Click to visit [BC Transit Fuel Cell buses](http://www.bctransit.com/fuelcell/). URL: <http://www.bctransit.com/fuelcell/>

Oxygen helping Biofuels - Cyanobacteria are small organisms with huge importance. Ancient cyanobacteria created the oxygen atmosphere, and modern cyanobacteria produce a significant amount of the air we breathe. Now, these tiny organisms are helping us again by providing clues to improving biofuel production. [Click for article.](#)

URL: <http://www.ecomagination.com/illuminating-cyanobacteria-enlightens-biofuel-production>



A 13 year old e-mailed us recently about why many turn off electrical appliances for one hour each year for Earth Hour around the world. Here is the question. *Why should we do it? How does it save energy? The energy from generators still gets to our homes, and then it goes nowhere. It is being wasted without us using it. We have a choice whether or not to turn off our lights and electrical appliances. That proves that the energy generators are not shut down, but are still releasing a great amount of Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere. So, what is the point of Earth Hour?*

A valid question. What would you say if the student asked this question in your class?

The Earth Hour website states:

“our mission is to make the world a better place for people & planet”.

Maybe we all need to research further what this really means and how it can be accomplished?