



In Flux

A compilation of renewable energy news

A WORD FROM THE REI PRESIDENT

By Russ Maymon, President of the RENEW Energy Initiative

Welcome everyone to our newly designed and newly named newsletter, **In Flux**. REI chose this name for our newsletter as it corresponds with the power industry (flux relates the flow of energy) and it also relates to the status of the renewable energy industry, very much in flux. We intend to deliver this newsletter to our members every other month and will try to incorporate as much up to date info and articles that relate to our industry both locally and nationally.

Its great to reach out and get in touch with our members after a long and difficult year for all of us. The last time we met was right at the beginning of the Covid pandemic outbreak in early March 2020. We held a very well attended event at The Guild Brewery in Pawtucket that centered around the growing Community Solar market here in RI. I am very saddened to report here that one of our presenters at that meeting, **Erika Niedowski**, unexpectedly passed away last October. Erika was a good friend of REI presenting at two of our events and she was a long-time advocate for renewable energy. Your REI group has planted a tree in her memory.

With the obvious difficulties in organizing and hosting an in-person event, we are excited to announce our first ever webinar series this year. With the trend towards reducing our carbon footprint and incorporating more greener technologies in our word there is a requirement to transition more forms of power consumption to electricity. This movement is commonly referred to as RE-Electrification. Our webinar series will break this RE Electrification into three parts, transportation, utility, and the building segment. The first webinar will be held on April 8th and include three speakers involved with various sectors of the electric vehicles industry. It will be an exciting and informative session and we hope you can join us virtually.

WELCOME NEW RENEW ENERGY INITIATIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Since our last publication, we are proud to welcome some new board members to REI



Marissa Desautel is an attorney specializing in environmental and regulatory issues in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Marisa has serves as Senior Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and we are thrilled to have her expertise on our board.



Michael Savage currently leads the sales effort for Renew Energy Partners an organization dedicated to improving the pace of renewable energy projects. His prior background with US SolarWorks brings valuable knowledge and experience to the organization.



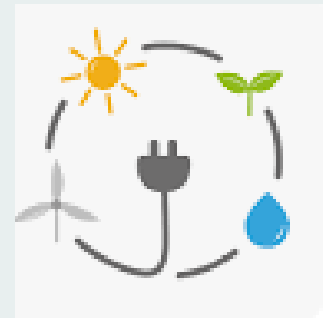
Kevin Doyle is an investment advisor with Edward Jones and has a passion for a sustainable future. His volunteer work with the Rhode Island chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby provides him with experience in the funding and practical application of renewable energy projects.



Carl Engelbourg is a consultant with Navisun Solar a developer of Solar power generation projects. Carl's experience and expertise in developing 1MW to 30MW solar power projects provides the board with a practical understanding of the build environment and the challenges with building out a renewable energy infrastructure.

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BECOME A MEMBER

Since 2010, REI has provided education and advocacy services for our members without any membership fees.

If you are not currently a member, it's easy to join!

Visit our website at www.renewenergyinitiative.org

Then click on the Contact menu. Simply provide your contact information and in the message box, indicate your desire to join the organization.

The chair of our membership committee will contact you to welcome you and provide some information on upcoming events.



What's in the wind from Washington



JENNIFER GRANHOLM SWORN IN AS 16TH SECRETARY OF ENERGY

On February 25th, Jennifer M. Granholm, the former first woman Governor of Michigan, was sworn in to office by Vice President Kamala Harris.

From 2003 to 2011, Granholm served two terms as governor. After her stint as governor, she joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley as a Professor in the Goldman School of Public Policy.

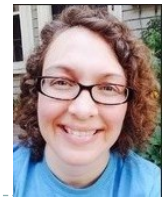
She was also an advisor to the Clean Energy program of the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Granholm, originally from Canada is a Graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Law School.

Following her official swearing in ceremony, Granholm released a message via video touting the abilities of the staff at the Department of Energy and laying out her priorities as the new Secretary of the US Department of Energy. You can watch the video by pointing your browser to

[Granholm's initial video message](#)

In Memoria— Erika A. Niedowski (age 46) of Lincoln, RI, died at Rhode Island Hospital on Friday, October 2 after a brief and sudden illness. After a career as a journalist where she was a finalist for a Pulitzer prize. She eventually joining the Acadia Center as an advocate for policy development efforts in Rhode Island. Her most recent position was Northeast Regional Director of the Coalition for Community Solar Access, where she was active on community and solar energy issues.



OUR MISSION

RENEW Energy Initiative (REI) is a non-profit business association driven to promote the expansion of alternative energy and energy-efficiency in organizations throughout New England. As a nexus to information, people, capital and other resources REI seeks to increase the energy IQ of business people to boost efficiencies, reduce carbon emissions and increase corporate competitiveness. Primary service delivery is through a series of member networking events and formal training programs.

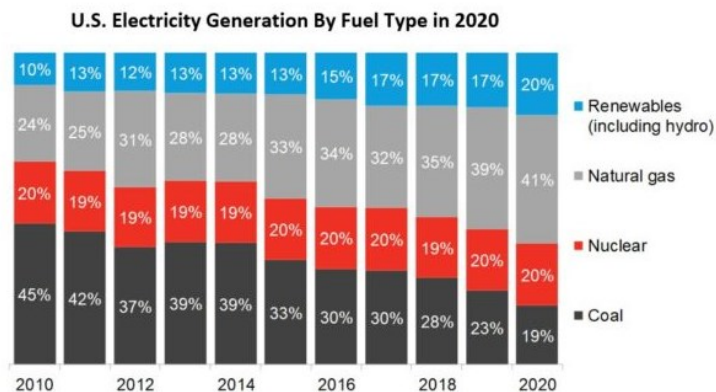
THIS SECTION IS DEVOTED TO ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Renewable energy icon and entrepreneur Jigar Shah takes over the [DOE loan program](#)...

Ex-RI Governor [Raimondo to lead the Commerce Department](#) for Biden...

Local [RI solar developer quoted in A.P. news](#) article on challenges facing the Biden administration with reaching their energy goals...

[India is adopting 'green hydrogen'](#) to decarbonize its economy...



Source: BloombergNEF