

Watt's Happening? #131

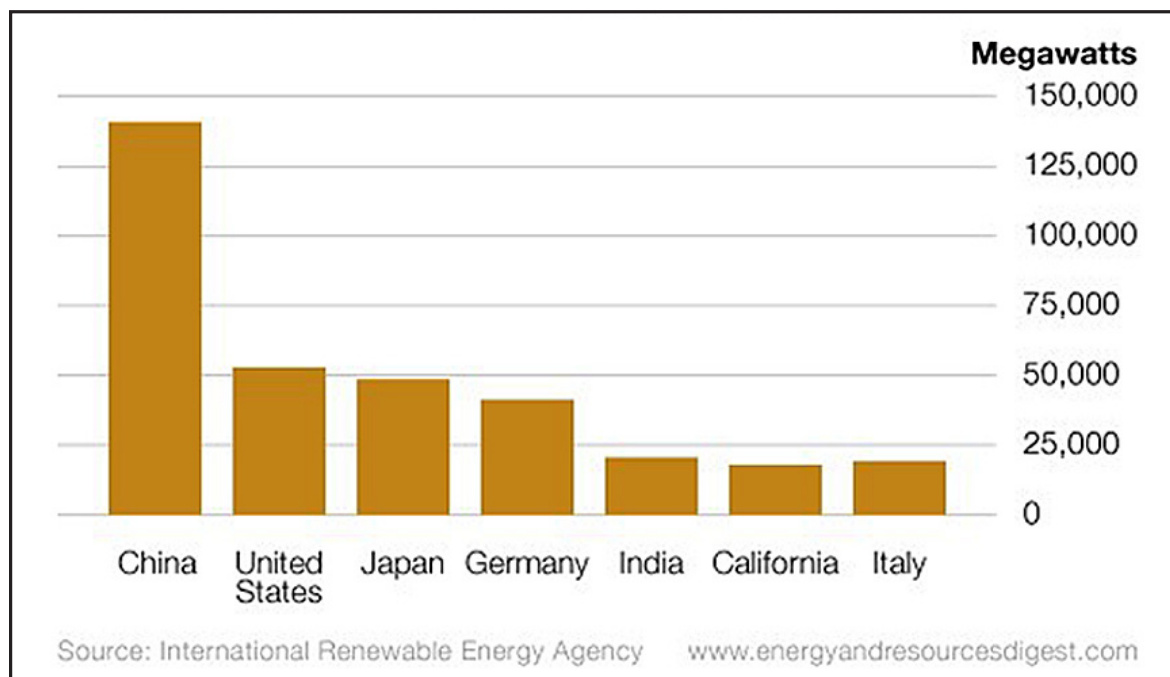
by Don Pettit

for Peace Energy Renewable Energy Cooperative

www.peaceenergy.ca ph 250-782-3882



Watt's New in renewable energy



If California were a country, it would be tied with India and Italy as the world's fifth-largest solarized nation. China, however, continues to lead by a wide margin, and is expected to increase that margin by installing another 40,000 megawatts of solar in 2018.

There's lots of cool stuff happening with renewable energy these days! Let's have a quick look around, locally and globally, at some choice tidbits.

HUDSON'S HOPE GOES SOLAR

The wonderful BC Peace Region community of Hudson's Hope has taken a major leadership role for municipalities who want to reduce their costs of operation by generating their own electricity with solar energy.

Thanks to their visionary Mayor Gwen Johansson, District Council and CAO Tom Matus, Hudson's Hope has placed more than 500 kilowatts of solar (some 1500 solar panels!) on nine of their municipal buildings and facilities. For comparison, a modern home can be run by about 10 kilowatts of solar.

Our local Peace Energy Cooperative in a joint venture with Moch Electric Ltd. designed, supplied and installed the grid-tied solar power systems which are now all coming on-line, saving the District at least \$3 million dollars in

electrical expenses over the next 30 years. That's an average electricity cost reduction for the solarized facilities of about 65%. Not bad!

This coming Saturday, June 2, Hudson's Hope will celebrate the official commissioning of their solar power project, now the largest municipal solar project in the province.

Doors open at 10:00 a.m. with a free barbecue lunch at noon, followed by a tour of the solar facilities. Everyone is welcome. Call the District office 250-783-9901 for details.

LAMBOURGHINI GOES ELECTRIC

Automobili Lamborghini has begun work on their new electric super sports car in partnership with the MIT R&D department.

The new Terzo Millennio car will “rewrite the rules on super sports cars” by incorporating the very latest technology, including:

- 1) Instead of conventional lithium (chemical) batteries, super capacitor energy storage will be used. Super capacitors degrade very little over time, can be charged almost instantly, and have an energy density much higher than chemical batteries (they can be much smaller);
- 2) New carbon fiber materials that will not only constitute the super-strong, lightweight body of the Terzo Millennio, but will also be integrated with the super capacitor system, enabling the entire body of the car to be used as an energy storage system;
- 3) Each wheel will incorporate an integrated electric engine, providing super high torque, and the instant response, reversibility and precise control of high-efficiency electric motors.

Much like the technology developed for the high end Tesla Roadster, this Lamborghini technology will quickly move into electric vehicles that are affordable and immensely more practical than combustion engines.

CALIFORNIA: NEW HOMES MUST HAVE SOLAR

Last week the California Energy Commission unanimously approved a regulation that requires homebuilders to install solar panels on new homes, citing both direct financial benefits to the homeowners

and indirect health benefits.

Adding solar panels to the new homes will add about \$10,000 to the cost of the average home, but will save the homeowners about \$20,000 in energy bills over the next 30 years.

Additionally, the commission says the new requirement will reduce air pollution to produce significant health benefits to California’s 40 million residents.

As of 2017, California has about 145,000 residential solar roofs, which has created a booming solar industry in that state. (For comparison, B.C. has only about 2000 solar roofs and a struggling solar industry.) The new reg is expected to double that number in just a few years.

If California were an independent country, it would rank fifth on the list of countries with the most solar capacity, tied with India and Italy.

SOLAR GROWTH

No matter where you look, solar is in a major growth phase.

In the U.S., solar jobs are growing 17 times faster than the overall economy, now employing more people than Apple, Google and Facebook

combined. That’s about 3.4 million worldwide.

Nobody can beat China though, which now has about 140,000 megawatts of solar installed, three times that of the next big solar leader, the U.S. China is expected to install another 40,000 megawatts this year alone (that’s the equivalent of 5 million residential solar roofs in just one year!)

Nothing boring about this energy transition. We’re even making solar history right here in the Peace Country – see you in Hudson’s Hope this Saturday!

As of 2017,
California has
about 145,000
residential solar
roofs, which has
created a booming
solar industry in
that state.