

Sustainable Practices 2005

Innovations, Technologies, and Products

Coming Soon to a World Near You

January 14, 2005

Old Oil Field Used to Sequester Carbon Dioxide. Scientists have found a purpose for long disused underground oil reservoirs near the town of Dayton, Texas. A team from the University of Texas (UT) has successfully pumped 1,600 tons of carbon dioxide into the briny waters of the South Liberty oil field, more than 5,000 feet underground. Australian researchers assisted in the project. CO₂ has long been used to enhance the recovery of petroleum and the industry has experience in shipping the gas long distances for this purpose. Much of the expertise and at least a limited transportation network already exists. UT scientists note that the amount of carbon dioxide storage capacity along the coast regions of the Gulf of Mexico amounts to about 300 billion tons. (Wired News, November 27, 2004, http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0%2C1282%2C65852%2C00.html?tw=wn_tophead_5)

New Jersey Commits \$745 Million to Clean Energy. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has approved \$745 million in funding to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the state. The funds, which will be allocated over the next four years, come from electric and gas customers who pay a "Societal Benefits Charge" mandated by state law in 1999. The current charge to the average household customer is \$9/year for electricity and \$7/year for natural gas. The state's Clean Energy Program allocates funding on a 75 percent/25 percent ratio between energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. (New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Press Release, December 22, 2004, <http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/home/printRelease.shtml?71-04>)

Bayer Backs Out of GE in India. Bayer Crop Science has ended efforts to commercialize genetically engineered (GE) crops in India. In a November 4, 2004, letter to Greenpeace India, Bayer admitted that "the future lies in conventional breeding." Bayer is one of the leading agro-chemical companies of the world, holding nearly one fourth of the market share in the Indian pesticides industry. Greenpeace termed Bayer's withdrawal "an admission of immense significance for the entire genetic engineering industry." (Pesticide Action Network Updates Service, December 20, 2004, <http://www.panna.org>)

Mitsubishi and Partners Develop Sugar-Cane Fiber Shirts. Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Shikibo Ltd. and Shinnaigai Textile, Ltd. have launched a new line of clothing made of new material from sugar cane fibers. Mitsubishi provided the technology to separate the cane into pith, rind, and the outer most part, including wax. Shikibo provided the technology to process the rind into fibers, and Shinnaigai Textile spins the fibers into yarn. The material has air-permeable, antibacterial and deodorant properties. (Japan for Sustainability, September 26, 2004, <http://www.japanfs.org/db/database.cgi?cmd=dp&num=820&UserNum>)

***Sustainable Practices 2005** is a weekly information service compiled from publicly available sources and provided by EPA Region 8's Sustainable Practices and State Partnerships Program. For more information, contact David Schaller, 303-312-6146, schaller.david@epa.gov*