

Saturday, March 07, 2009 (file cac200)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subject: Optimizing the grid and wide range support of environmental issues

Ref A: Bradford Plummer, Clean Break, Audubon , Mar/Apr 09, pp23-25

Ref B: John Harte, Global Environmental Crisis, Conversations with history reviewing Harte's book Green fuse, (U.C. Press) and background on the author, UCTV 3/06/09 6PM. Harte and his wife have started the WEBSITE [www.cooltheearth.org](http://www.cooltheearth.org) that embodies his position for K-8 students

Ref C: Global Lake Ecological Observation Network (GLEON) [www.gleonrcn.org](http://www.gleonrcn.org) and [www.wikipedia.org/GLEON](http://www.wikipedia.org/GLEON)

Ref D: Elizabeth Kolbert, Field Notes from a Catastrophe, Local lecture at Laxson Auditorium at Chico State, Wednesday Mar 11, 09, 7:30 PM part of Rawlins Environmental Series, Summary in CC&R Mar 5, 09, pp17-20

Feed-in Tariffs: Ref A describes a successful approach to mobilizing private sector funding in alternatives such as solar, wind and geothermal developed in Germany and Denmark. Bills have been introduced in Minnesota, Illinois, Rhode Island, and California that support this concept. In the long view, a utility is required to negotiate a long term contract (Typically 15-20 years) to guarantee priority connection to the grid and to pay for the necessary upgrades. The State Public Utility Commission would set a price that would return a reasonable rate of return on investment. Tariff rates would favor local producers. The state regulator would assess a modest "user charge" on all customers. (Typically \$4/month). The system would be "fine tuned" to maintain incentives along with improvements in efficiency and to minimize the burden on customers.

Priorities for reducing CO2 equivalent: Ref B is a position paper by Harte in the U.C. Natural Resource Department at Berkeley. Solar, wind and geothermal are high on his list. He expresses concern about massive biomass operations that may remove long term carbon storage in the tropics. The cooltheearth WEBSITE that he and his wife are involved with in Marin County, describe the problem and proposed actions.

Ref C describes the Global Lake Ecological Observation Network (GLEON) that incorporates everyone from post-docs to elementary children primarily to assess the effects of global warming on lakes around the world. The relatively static state of lakes makes good candidates for a wide range of observations by people and organizations worldwide that help focus on global warming potential effects. An analogous extension would be the observation of vegetation and animals over long periods of time and space.

Ref D by Kolbert has written a 3 part New Yorker series that I previously reported. She comes with a background in political reporting for the New York Times. She emphasizes wholesale change in how we produce and consume energy with increased reliance on solar, wind and biofuel power. Hopefully the local lecture at Chico state can stimulate civil debate among potentially contentious groups on mitigation specifics that may be candidates for the Butte County General Plan.