

The Greening of the Gulf: Energy & Clean Technology

Did you know that...?

- ◆ “Like many other airlines, Qatar Airways is looking toward alternative sources of fuel for efficiency and environmental stewardship. While airlines such as Air New Zealand, Japan Airlines, Continental Airlines and Virgin Atlantic are experimenting with various biofuels blends, Qatar Airways is dedicated to exploring gas-to-liquids as a viable alternative fuel to jet fuel, which would make it the first gas-based fuel airlines.”ⁱ
- ◆ “Qatar is home to the third-largest gas reserves. It is working on how to leverage that and turn that into a more green-friendly-for-the-environment kind of travel for us,” said Rebecca Jelfo, marketing manager for Qatar Airways.”ⁱⁱ
- ◆ “Gulf Air’s goals for innovation, sustainability and greener flying are bold and comprehensive. By being actively involved in this bio-fuel initiative, Gulf Air believes it can play a key role in addressing today’s environmental challenges and help build a better future for our children, the local community and the world.”ⁱⁱⁱ
- ◆ Abu Dhabi announced the recipient of a \$1.5m prize for sustainability, which went to a subsidiary of a Bangladeshi micro-finance house. [Abu Dhabi] also committed itself to having 7% of its energy coming from renewable sources by 2020.^{iv}
- ◆ In Saudi Arabia, the new state-owned King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, or Kaust, gave a Stanford scientist \$25 million to start a research center on how to make the cost of solar power competitive with that of coal.^v
- ◆ “Abu Dhabi is an oil-exporting country, and we want to become an energy-exporting country, and to do that we need to excel at the newer forms of energy,” said Khaled Awad, a director of Masdar, a futuristic zero-carbon city and a research park that has an affiliation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.^{vi}
- ◆ The Gulf States are aggressively pouring billions of dollars made in the oil fields into new green technologies. They are establishing billion-dollar clean-technology investment funds. And they are putting millions of dollars behind research projects at universities from California to Boston to London, and setting up green research parks at home.^{vii}
- ◆ “The gulf provides the right environment to developers and equipment suppliers to establish launching pads covering a vast market for renewable,” said Patrick Blanchard, global head of project and sectorial finance of Dexia.^{viii}
- ◆ The crown prince of Abu Dhabi, the wealthiest of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates, announced last January that he would invest \$15 billion in renewable energy.^{ix}
- ◆ In November, the Qatari government signed an agreement with Britain’s Prime Minister Gordon Brown to invest £150 million, more than \$220 million, in a British low-carbon technology fund, dwarfing the fund’s investments from home.^x
- ◆ “In the West, people are ahead of the developers in demanding sustainability. In the Middle East, it’s the leaders and the corporations that are driving this”.^{xi}
- ◆ The United Arab Emirates ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2005 but does not have to reduce its carbon emissions as classified as a developing country. However, with initiatives such as MASDAR and The World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi is positioning itself to be a major clean energy provider wherever the future of energy lies.^{xii}
- ◆ “We believe this [Masdar] is a logical step for Abu Dhabi. Through our substantial financial resources we can always insist that Abu Dhabi will be known as a leader in renewable energy. We’re hoping it will become the Silicon Valley of renewable energy,” [Sultan al-Jaber, Masdar’s chief executive] says.^{xiii}
- ◆ Masdar City is a \$22bn project that is due to accommodate 40,000 residents and 50,000 commuters in a carbon-neutral environment. The project, which includes a raft of international joint ventures and a research institute, has caught the world’s imagination.^{xiv}
- ◆ “We know we can’t continue with this carbon footprint,” he said. “We have to change. This is why Abu Dhabi must develop new models — for the planet...[and]...Abu Dhabi.”^{xv}
- ◆ “The world is now consuming 80 million barrels of oil a day, and that could continue to rise steeply over the coming decades if population and consumption trends continue. That could mean having to add six Saudi Arabia’s worth of oil output just to keep up, according to Mr. Barker-Homek, at a time when scientists are warning that carbon levels need to be cut significantly to avoid potentially disastrous global warming.”^{xvi}



Articles for Further Reading

- ◆ “Boeing, Airlines Testing Algae Oil as Jet Fuel.” *USA Today*. Dec. 8 2008
www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-12-08-boeing-algae_N.htm?csp=Travel&POE=click-refer
- ◆ James Drummond & Robin Wigglesworth. “Gulf Renewables Race Hots Up.” *Financial Times*. Jan. 21, 2009
www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c0d11fde-e7e4-11dd-b2a5-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1
- ◆ Elisabeth Rosenthal. “Gulf Oil States Seeking a Lead in Clean Energy.” *New York Times*. Jan. 12, 2009
www.nytimes.com/2009/01/13/world/middleeast/13greengulf.html?_r=1&emc=eta1
- ◆ Simona Covell. “Alternative-Energy Companies Grow Even as Others Falter.” *The Wall Street Journal*. Jan. 13, 2009
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123181075624775965.html>

Renewable Energy Conferences

- ◆ Renewable Energy Finance Forum, West: San Francisco, Sept. 29-30th, 2009 — www.refwest.com
- ◆ Algae Biomass Summit: Algae for Energy — www.algalbiomass.org
- ◆ World Future Energy Summit — www.worldfutureenergysummit.com

ⁱ Hitchings, Monique A. “Houston: We Have a New Air Route; GTL as Possible Jet Fuel” Fuel for Thought. March 31, 2009.
<http://blogs.hartfuel.com/blog/category/transportation>

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ “Gulf Air joins leaders to accelerate development of sustainable biofuels.” ETN. Sept. 26, 2008.

www.eturbonews.com/5238/gulf-air-joins-leaders-accelerate-development-sustainable-biofuel

^{iv} Drummond, James & Robin Wigglesworth. “Gulf Renewables Race Hots Up.” *Financial Times*. Jan. 21, 2009.

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c0d11fde-e7e4-11dd-b2a5-0000779fd2ac_i_email=y.html

^v Elisabeth Rosenthal. “Gulf Oil States Seeking a Lead in Clean Energy.” *New York Times*. Jan. 12, 2009.

www.nytimes.com/2009/01/13/world/middleeast/13greengulf.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

^{vi} *Ibid.*

^{vii} *Ibid.*

^{viii} “Abu Dhabi is a leading renewable market, according to WFES experts.” AME News. Nov. 20, 2008. www.ameinfo.com/176425.html

^{ix} Elisabeth Rosenthal. “Gulf Oil States Seeking a Lead in Clean Energy.” *New York Times*. Jan. 12, 2009.

www.nytimes.com/2009/01/13/world/middleeast/13greengulf.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

^x *Ibid.*

^{xi} Covell, Simona. “Alternative-energy companies grow even as others falter.” *The Wall Street Journal*. Jan. 13, 2009.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123181075624775965.html>

^{xii} “Abu Dhabi is a leading renewable market, according to WFES experts.” AME News. Nov. 20, 2008. www.ameinfo.com/176425.html

^{xiii} Drummond, James & Robin Wigglesworth. “Gulf Renewables Race Hots Up.” *Financial Times*. Jan. 21, 2009.

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c0d11fde-e7e4-11dd-b2a5-0000779fd2ac_i_email=y.html

^{xiv} *Ibid.*

^{xv} Elisabeth Rosenthal. “Gulf Oil States Seeking a Lead in Clean Energy.” *New York Times*. Jan. 12, 2009.

www.nytimes.com/2009/01/13/world/middleeast/13greengulf.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

^{xvi} *Ibid.*



We encourage to visit news sources such as the Financial Times, industry reports, local Arab news sources, BBC, the Economist and others for the latest on this dynamic subject.