The Buzz

E-Newsletter

January 2012 Issue

97% of Renewable Energy Still Untapped

The Buzz is produced monthly for subscribers.

Click here to subscribe.

Click here to unsubscribe.

Click here for past issues.

Click here to comment.

>> Our Website
>> Drill Rig Purchases
>> Press Releases
>> Brochures
>> Contact Us

Can we flourish without fossil fuels?

Close to 80 per cent of the world's energy supply could be met by renewables by mid-century if backed by the right enabling public policies a new report shows. The findings, from researchers working with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), also indicate that the rising penetration of renewable energies could lead to cumulative greenhouse gas savings equivalent to 220 to 560 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide between 2010 and 2050.

More than 120 researchers participated, investigating 164 different scenarios which addressed two critical questions: what is the potential energy contribution from solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, ocean energy and bioenergy and what social and environmental impacts might occur?

The IPCC report indicates that Earth has the potential of utilizing 80 per cent renewable energy sources by the year 2050. Other insights include the following:

- A concerted policy effort, using feed-in tariffs, bioenergy sustainability criteria, building mandates and other policies will be necessary to reach this goal.
- Most renewable energy is priced higher than fossil fuels, but, if the cost of pollution caused by fossil fuels was included, renewables would be much more attractive financially.
- In 2008, renewables provided 35% of all the new added electrical capacity. From 2008 to 2009, in spite of the global financial melt-down, wind energy grew by 32%, grid-connected solar PV by 53%, and solar hot water by 21%.
- We are currently using less than 2.5% of the globally available technical potential for renewables. Over 97% of renewable energy sources is still untapped.

Read the full report here.

Company Profile: Cascade Drilling

Meet Cascade Drilling — Proudly Sonic

Headquartered in Seattle, Cascade Drilling L. P. is a full-service drilling company that specializes in environmental and geotechnical borings and well drilling for remediation systems, geotechnical investigations and construction site dewatering. Additional full-service offices are located in Portland, Sacramento and Los Angeles as well as two field offices in San Francisco and San Diego.

Equipment
Cascade Drilling's sonic rigs have been operating continuously on projects ranging from small environmental site investigations to major monitoring-well installations for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation installation. Sonic rigs have also been used on large thermal remediation systems at Fort Lewis, WA for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Cascade Drilling offers full size, mid-size and mini-sonic rigs, air rotary, air rotary ODEX, hollow stem auger, mud rotary, rock coring, direct push drilling and vacuum hole clearing.

Clients
Cascade Drilling has a broad customer base built on an extensive list of public and private clients. Public clients include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Air Force. Cascade Drilling has also provided services to more than a dozen Port authorities.

Military clients and major commercial operations are too numerous to list but include BP, Chevron, Shell/Texaco, Tosco and ConocoPhillips.

Questions and Answers

Ray Roussy, Sonic Drilling Technology Developer and Patent-Holder

Q: *What effect has the sonic drill had on the drilling industry?*

A: Without sounding overstated, our sonic drill rigs have revolutionized many aspects of the drilling industry. Take an environmental investigation, for example. Prior to us being onsite, contaminated sites were typically handled by auger rigs and, when ground conditions got tough, they would use a diesel top-hole hammer with reverse circulation.

It was slow and expensive and the hammer spat out un-burnt diesel fuel all over the place making it an unattractive option. On the other hand, a sonic machine is 3-5 times faster, creates far less mess (no drilling mud required), can buzz through all sorts of mixed geology and provides undisturbed core samples to 300 ft. (100 m). Once we came on the scene, the diesel hammer disappeared on environmental sites.

Q: *How important is good health and safety practices?*

A: In North America, safety is a huge issue. Not only does it affect the workplace but safety has a tremendous impact on people and their families. It's critical that all industries keep their personnel safe – no one gains anything from lost time, lost limbs or lost trust. One of the advantages to the sonic drill is that there are no auger flights which makes it safer to use.

www.sonicgeothermal.com SONIC DRILLING LTD. www.sonicdrilling.com
12055 - 102 Avenue, Surrey, BC, Canada V3V 3C5 Office: 1-604-588-6080 Fax: 1-604-588-6090