10 must-see posts from September

The ECN Editors

Here’s a rundown of the most read, most popular, most awesome articles for September. They all come with a witty, engaging summary just in case you missed them the first time or want to check up on an old favorite.

Keep checking out the Lead and follow us on twitter @ecnmagazine [1] for our most up-to-date articles.

1. A blow to wind energy **[2]**" *By M. Simon, Guest Blogger*
[2] Guest blogger M. Simon takes on the issue of sustainable wind energy. His answer? It's not possible. Simon explains that without government subsidies--which have not been renewed--the wind energy business is not sustainable and, even if it was, is not a viable energy option. Our readers love to debate renewable energy issues, making this the number one article for September.

2. **"**Bike alone? You need this helmet sensor **[3]"** *By Kasey Panetta, Associate Editor*
This helmet sensor is a must-have for active bikers in remote areas. If the sensor detects a traumatic impact--like a fall--it texts your location to the emergency contacts listed in your phone ensuring someone will know if you're incapacitated.

3. **"**Incandescent ban evokes nanny state **[4]"** *By Jason Lomberg, Technical Editor*
September 30 signaled the start date for a ban on incandescent lightbulbs and an intense debate for the ECN site. The U.S. government joins the EU in creating a ban on the Edison lightbulbs, requiring consumers to purchase LEDs, CFLs, or Halogens

at a higher price and--some feel--with no added benefits. Incandescent bulbs are inefficient--only about 10 percent of energy used goes towards light--but the alternatives are more expensive with longer life cycles and are difficult to dispose of.

4. **"**The lighting game is changing before our eyes **[5]"** *By Ted Konnerth, Founder, President and CEO, Egret Consulting Group*
LED technology is transforming the entire lighting industry. This article takes a look at how a pure electronic system with nuances requiring advanced design is changing the endgame of lighting.

5. **"**This app could save your teen driver's life **[6]"** *By Kasey Panetta, Associate Editor*
In 2010, 3092 people were killed and 416,000 injured in crashes involving a distracted driver, and texting teen drivers are some of the worst offenders. Rode Dog is an app developed by an 11-year-old girl as part of AT&T's "It can wait" campaign. The app allows users to join "packs" who can send "barking" reminders to drivers who are texting to call attention to their unsafe behaviour.

6. **"**Tech uses thermal imaging to scan for drunks **[7]"** *By Jason Lomberg, Technical Editor*
In an attempt to create a more fool-proof detector of drunkeness, researchers have developed a device that tracks "alcohol flush reaction."

7. "Your dollars are blowing in the wind and burning in the sun **[8]"** *By M. Simon, Guest Blogger*
In a follow up to his first blog, [2]Simon followed up with a column, which included statistics and numbers to support his idea that wind and solar energy sources are not viable options.

8. **"**What's it like to fly a plane with shuttle on top? **[9]"** *By Alicia Chang AP Science Writer*
People were more than a little curious about what it's like to piggyback an 170,000 pound shuttle on top of a Boeing 747, as the space ship Endevour was flown to its final resting place in LA.

9. **"**End your parking woes with this foldable car **[10]"** *By Kasey Panetta, Associate Editor*

Designed for those of us who live in cities with little to no available parking, the foldable, electric car, which can reach speeds of up to 30mph, can also be shortened to fit in an area that is 1/3 the size of a normal parking space.

10. **"**Enough wind to power global energy demand **[11]"** *By Eurekalert!*

According to a study in *Nature Climate Change*, there is enough wind energy available in the world if people are willing to consider the idea of atmospheric wind turbines as an alternative to ocean or land wind mills.

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