



February 2009
Newsletter

Gabriel Gazette

February 2009

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Po Poll:

If you could choose to use any form of renewable energy at your home or office, which type would you choose?

[Cast your vote here!](#)

Best Buy Expands E-Waste Program

Geothermal Energy Included in Stimulus Bill

At over 400 pages, the \$787 billion economic stimulus package ([H.R. 1 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009](#)) is a daunting read. But within those pages lies a promise of investment in emerging renewable energy industries like geothermal.

This legislation dramatically increases funding for research and development of geothermal efforts, as H.R. 1 allocates \$16.8 billion towards renewable energy. \$400 million of that budget is directed towards the DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency, which was established in 2007 but never provided funds. Support for ARAP-Energy will dramatically expand geothermal technology research, development and deployment efforts.



H.R. 1 also provides **expanded tax credits for geothermal heat pumps** and provides a range of programs designed to make clean technology far more affordable to homeowners who want to have a greener environmental footprint. H.R. 1 eliminates the \$2,000 limit on the 30% tax credit for homeowners who install geothermal heat pump systems in 2009 and beyond.

Additionally, businesses also have the opportunity to receive a 10% business energy tax credit for new installations and may be eligible for a new US Treasury grant program created by H.R. 1.

The Obama administration has set up a website at www.recovery.gov to provide the public with the ability to track where funds are being directed. The website also provides detailed projections for how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will affect individual districts throughout the United States.



Best Buy announced in January that it would be bringing its electronics recycling program to all of its 1,000+ stores starting Feb. 15th, 2009.

The company will accept most electronics, including TVs and monitors up to 32", VCR and DVD players, computer CPUs and notebooks, keyboards, and remotes.

Best Buy does not charge a fee for recycling most electronics. However, there is a \$10 fee for TVs, monitors and laptops - which is immediately offset with a \$10 gift card.

To learn more about Best Buy's e-waste recycling program, visit [their website](#).

To find other recycling locations near you, visit [Earth 911](#).

Google Earth Expands to Oceans

These new credit and grant programs will make the payback for geothermal installation even shorter and more appealing for homeowners and businesses alike. To learn more about how you or your company might benefit from geothermal contact [John Polich](#) at (773) 486-2123.

Commercial Property Foreclosures Expected to Increase

The [National Association of Realtors](#) released their latest [Commercial Real Estate Outlook report](#) with sobering news for commercial property holders. The economic slowdown and decrease in consumer spending is spurring an increase of foreclosures on commercial properties. Foreclosures on commercial property loans were higher in 2008 than the previous year and are expected to rise further in 2009.



One unanticipated side of this commercial foreclosure trend is that a growing number of lenders are now finding themselves in the unenviable position of property owner or operator. Often times these newly obtained sites are wrought with environmental issues.

As bankers take ownership of a commercial property during foreclosure, they must follow due diligence in order to assure they are protected in case of contamination on site. **How can you avoid becoming liable for the environmental problems? It's as simple as A-A-I.** Often times environmental due diligence includes performing a [All Appropriate Inquiry](#) to avoid liability under [CERCLA](#), also known as the Superfund Law.

While many of these foreclosures may have existing Phase I ESA's, they might now be out of date or require the protection of the AAI standard. Gabriel can review these reports and offer an unbiased opinion of the environmental risks of taking on the property.

Gabriel has more than 35 years experience in the environmental field. If you have any questions about how commercial foreclosures might affect your business, contact [John Polich](#) at (773) 486-2123.

Juneau's Power Outages Show Price the Strongest Motivator?

For the second time in less than a year, residents of Juneau, Alaska have become victims of an avalanche which has taken out their main source of power, a hydroelectric dam about 40 miles south of the city. For Juneau, a city accessible only by boat or plane, the only alternative option is to turn the entire city over to 100% diesel power. Last April when the first energy crisis occurred, electric bills skyrocketed when prices for electricity increased from **\$0.12/kWh to \$0.56/kWh**.





The popular computer feature Google Earth, has expanded its program offerings. The newest Google Earth program is no longer land locked, but allows users to dive beneath the seas and experience the bottom of the ocean as well.

Click [here](#) for more information on Google Earth's new offerings.

Environmental Links

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Gabriel Environmental Services' New Website!](#)

Softy for Coffee?



Want another way you can be kind to the environment, while also

The exorbitantly high prices, coupled with a three to six month repair estimate, caused a city-wide energy conservation effort. Stores turned off half their lights; residents unplugged their freezers and stopped using their clothes dryers; all over the city both businesses and individuals made a concerted effort to lower energy bills and in doing so cut energy usage by more than 30%. Interestingly enough, the money-saving and conservation efforts were not limited to electricity alone.

"The price shock catalyzed an environmental movement," Juneau resident Tyler Gress notes, "Oddly, it was often in entirely *unrelated* areas. People turned down their oil-driven heaters, drove slower to get better mileage in their cars, and recycled more."

This year's avalanche, which coincided with lower gas prices and a significantly shorter repair period, resulted in electric prices only two to three times as high as normal. Many have noticed that the lower prices have resulted in an ambivalent conservation reaction.

As Juneau resident Meghan DeSloover says, "The fear of losing money is frightening, even for the numbest of Americans. On the other hand, the fear of losing the environment is much more abstract."

Gabriel's Upcoming Seminars



Contamination, Now What? March 5th, 2009

A Phase I turns up a former gas station on your site. The strip mall you're buying has a dry cleaner on premises. A hazardous waste spill occurred on your property several years ago, leaving the soil negatively impacted.

Join Gabriel Environmental Services at a **free** seminar to learn how to cost-effectively handle contaminated property.

The seminar will cover:

- **What types and levels of contamination should cause concern**
- **State and Federal laws regulating UST's and other contaminated property**
- **How to save money on "dig and haul" remediation techniques**
- **Alternative types of remediation**

stretching your dollars farther?

Reusable travel coffee mugs not only are [more environmentally friendly](#) than disposable paper cups, but they will keep your drink hot (or cold) substantially longer.

Carry a reusable travel coffee mug with you. Most coffee shops (including large chains) will let you fill up your own mug instead of using their one-use cups. Some coffee shops will even give you a small discount for using your own mug!

Don't have a reusable coffee mug? Email [Sarah Polich](#) for your FREE Gabriel travel mug.

Environmental Issues Here to Stay

According to [a recent survey](#) of more than 1200 people performed by GfK Custom Research and released by Allianz Global Investors, of respondents polled:

91%

Believe that resolving environmental problems will be a major issue for years

72%

Say that the recent decline in stock prices has had no impact on their inclination to

- **Strategies, costs and timing for getting NFR (No Further Remediation) letters**

Thursday, March 5th, 2009

8:15 a.m. -Breakfast and Registration

8:30 a.m. -Seminar begins

9:55 a.m. -Soil Boring Demonstation

[1421 N. Elston Ave.- Chicago, IL](#)

To register for this seminar, email Sara Scardina at gabriel@gabrielenvironmental.com



Tapping Into Geothermal March 26th, 2009

Gabriel is offering a **FREE** seminar on March 26, 2009 on the promise and economic return that geothermal technology offers to businesses and consumers.

Geothermal Energy is:

Clean - emits little or no greenhouse gases

Reliable - energy is available regardless of the weather

Homegrown - making us less dependent on foreign oil

Come learn about the technology the EPA calls **the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective system for temperature control.**

Highlights include:

- **What are the benefits of geothermal technology?**
- **How are geothermal systems installed?**
- **Cost comparison to traditional heating and cooling methods**
- **Information on other renewable energy sources**
- **Geothermal boring demonstration**

Thursday, March 26th, 2009

invest in environmental
stocks

69%

Consider it important to
look at investing in
companies that
capitalize on addressing
those problems.

8:15 a.m. -Breakfast and Registration

8:30 a.m. -Seminar begins

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gabriel@gabrielenvironmental.com

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