
Future Energy eNews

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Future Energy eNews



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Hello Tom,

As we begin the New Year, some good news came across our desk regarding the American Booksellers Association (*The Week*, 1/16/26). The report notes 100 more bookstores opening in 2025 than the previous year, including Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million. In an age where everyone worries about young adults reading books anymore, the stats tell us there is hope since more people are buying books than ever before.

On another note, check out the documentary "The White House Effect" on Netflix. It's a flashback to the 1980's with George H.W. Bush and how he initially promised to address climate change, saying "the problem knows no political boundaries". However, we see how special interest groups started to erode the staff and the EPA until obfuscation was the standard answer. A reviewer in *New Scientist* (10/25/25) said, It is "designed to shake us from apathy and stagnation by any means possible", perhaps with the past real drama as it unfolds once again before our eyes, from forty years ago.

For those interested in the mysterious history of Mars and its high excess Xenon 129 residue, my friend and colleague [Dr. John Brandenburg](#) just published a [Letter to the Editor of *New Scientist*](#) (12/3/25) in response to their review of a Mars documentary "Blue Planet Red". He is now working on a feature article for the magazine, upon subsequent invitation from the Editor.

Story #1 gives us a surprising insight into how far fusion research has actually progressed since the Helion company (<https://www.helionenergy.com/>) is constructing the world's first commercial fusion plant. Under contract to provide the 50 MW power to a Microsoft data center, Helion uses a unique field-reversed configuration (FRC) and a pulsed, non-ignition fusion approach rather than traditional

tokamak reactors. Helion's approach focuses on using deuterium and Helium-3 to produce electricity directly, aiming for a faster path to commercialization compared to traditional fusion projects.

Story #2 For us space enthusiasts, it is great to see that the great Hubble Telescope still survives and serves the public. Interestingly, the James Webb Telescope was never intended to supplant Hubble, and in fact *can't*, given that it was designed for very different observations, in the infrared region of the spectrum. Hubble is optimized to observe the universe in visible light, the kind of light we see with our eyes. We hope it will continue for many more years to come.

Story #3 is a welcome relief for everyone interested in renewable energy. A federal judge ruled in favor of the almost complete offshore wind project in Massachusetts. Vineyard Wind is a joint venture between Avangrid and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, located 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, Massachusetts. It is 95% complete and partially operational, able to produce nearly 600 megawatts of power for the New England electric grid, according to the complaint. Before the pause, it was on track to be complete by the end of March, with 62 turbines generating a total of 800 megawatts. That is enough clean electricity to power about 400,000 homes.

Story #4 is an amazing breakthrough for the power of AI when used for advancing renewable energy. Analyzing underground reservoirs for hot water heated by the Earth's core while going through massive amounts of geological data, Zanskar (<https://zanskar.com/>) found an untapped "blind system" that had been overlooked. Drilling confirmed the Nevada site bubbling at 250F degrees roughly 2700 feet underground. Geothermal power is perhaps the easiest and simplest source of energy that can be converted into 100 MW electricity. Zanskar aims to produce energy at a terawatt scale soon.

Story #5 is amazing. With excess energy to give away, Australians received a welcome surprise this week with the news that every household will soon receive 3 hours of free electricity every day, as part of a world-first initiative to share the benefits of solar power. The "Solar Share" program will start this July 2026 in three states, with the rest of the country joining in 2027. Will the Western world ever catch up to this emerging **free energy reality**?

Best to all,

Thomas Valone, PhD,
Editor

1) Helion Begins First Fusion Power Plant

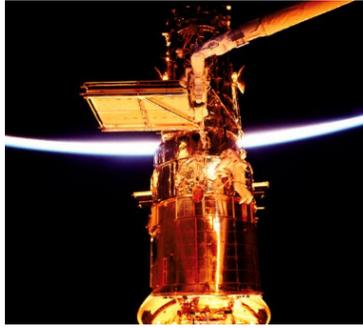


Power Technology. January 2026

The company's seventh-generation prototype, Polaris, will be the first to generate electricity from fusion. Previously, with its Trenta prototype, Helion became the first private company to reach a fuel temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius, a milestone typically regarded as essential for the operation of a commercial fusion power plant. Helion co-founder CEO David Kirtley stated: "Today is an important day – not just for Helion, but for the entire fusion industry – as we unleash a new era of energy independence and industrial renewal."

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2) After all these years, the Hubble Space Telescope is still awesome



Scientific American January 2026

The venerable Hubble observatory is going strong despite its decades in space and the advent of next-generation successors

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3) Massachusetts offshore wind project halted can continue

ABC News January 2026

“Vineyard Wind will focus on working in coordination with its contractors, the federal government, and other relevant stakeholders and authorities to safely restart activities, as it continues to deliver a critical source of new power to the New England region,” Gilvarg added.



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4) Zanskar used AI to find new geothermal energy



Wired, January 2026

Ageothermal startup said Thursday that it has hit gold in Nevada—metaphorically speaking. Zanskar, which uses AI to find hidden geothermal resources deep underground, says that it has identified a new commercially viable site for a potential power plant. The discovery, the company claims, is the first of its kind made by the industry in decades.

Related Article

[Geothermal Wildcatter Zanskar, Which Uses AI to Find Heat, Raises \\$115 Million -Wall Street Journal](#)

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5) Australia is getting free electricity



New Scientist

As one of the most advanced solar nations in the world, Australia is well placed to experiment with giving people free power - and if it succeeds, other countries may look to copy its approach

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