

FAREWELL TO SECRETARY CHU: Monday was Secretary Chu's last day at the Department – the end of an historic and successful tenure as Secretary of Energy. Until a new Secretary is sworn in, Deputy Secretary Poneman will serve as Acting Secretary, continuing his service to the Department where he has been a key leader on all aspects of the President's energy and nuclear security agenda since 2009.



LOOK BACK: Check out some of the highlights from Secretary Chu's time at the Department: <http://1.usa.gov/ZPCGSY>

LOOK FORWARD: And take a look at photos from Acting Secretary Poneman's recent trip to NREL: <http://bit.ly/Y2igIZ>

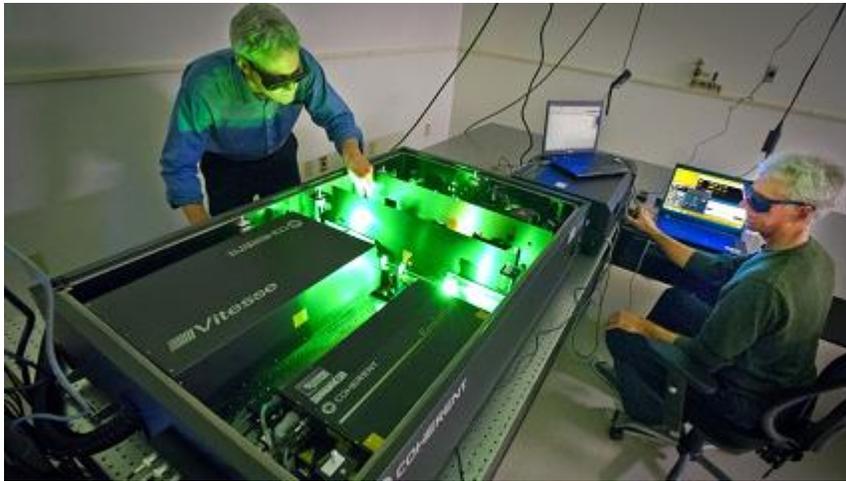
FERTILIZER THAT FIZZLES: A Sandia engineer who trained U.S. soldiers to avoid improvised explosive devices has developed a fertilizer that helps plants grow, but can't detonate a bomb. It's an alternative to ammonium nitrate, an agricultural staple that is also the raw ingredient in many of the IEDs in Afghanistan. <http://go.usa.gov/TRck>



HUBS TO THE HILL: This week, the directors of the Energy Innovation Hubs joined policymakers on Capitol Hill to discuss the critical research being conducted at the hubs. The hubs are integrated research centers that combine basic and applied research with engineering to accelerate scientific discovery to address critical energy issues. <http://go.usa.gov/Tnyj>

Also, check out the hub directors' thoughts on what a child born today will see in twenty years: <http://bit.ly/Y2i7Fy>

AN ARTIFICIAL LEAF TO FUEL THE WORLD: Scientists at the Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis, an Energy Innovation Hub, are working to develop a device that could use sunlight to take carbon dioxide from the air and turn it into fuel, similar to what plants have done for millions of years. <http://n.pr/12nVV9o>



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN AN 8TH GRADER?: This weekend, 115 winning teams – from 69 high schools and 46 middle schools - are traveling to Washington D.C. to compete in the finals of DOE's National Science Bowl. Over the past 23 years, 200,000 students have participated in the Science Bowl and countless future scientists, engineers, and Secretaries of Energy have been inspired along the way. <http://go.usa.gov/TR3H>



THE GREENEST AND THE GREATEST: The EPA recently released a list of the top 50 organizations that use electricity from clean and renewable sources.

<http://go.usa.gov/TR3h>



OUT OF AFRICA: After 40 years of federal service, Carolyn Haylock is retiring from her position as an International Relations Specialist in the DOE Office of African and Middle Eastern Affairs. As Desk Officer for twenty four African nations, she spent countless hours working to make Africa and the world more energy secure.

KEEP THEM COMING: Got a story idea for *Plugged In!*? Birthstones or milestones? Shoot an email to PublicAffairs@hq.doe.gov.

...AND FINALLY: <http://bit.ly/17ZAvTl>

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