



**Client Note:** Both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are out of session this week and next. We'll be sharing an abbreviated version of our client note, with some helpful reference articles for those who want to stay plugged in, even as Congress heads home.

### **What we're reading this week**

We've been combing through the Treasury Department's [guidance](#) on determining which locations are considered "Energy Communities" when claiming the bonus tax credit for clean energy projects, which was released this week. The new [mapping tool](#) is helpful, but incomplete. The areas in blue on the map are merely one part of a two-part test, so additional unemployment data is required to determine eligibility. More to come on this. Check out our attached visualizations of the guidance.

Though it has helped lift most of the state out of drought, [California's snowpack is the deepest it has been in at least 70 years](#) and, depending on how quickly it melts, could pose significant flood risk to downstream communities in the coming months.

Bloomberg continues [diving deep](#) into the particularly murky parts of the forestry-based carbon offsets market, this time uncovering a lack of additionality in South Pole's largest offset project.

Our friends at the Zero Emission Transportation Association (ZETA) have provided a helpful [overview](#) of the latest EV tax credit guidance from the Treasury Department.

What is a free trade agreement? [This](#) article outlines how this question is at the crux of the EV tax credit guidance.

As some U.S. electric utilities [work to retire coal-fired power plants](#), India is moving in the opposite direction, and [has ordered its plants to max out](#) this summer.

We're encouraged by these impressive stats our client SEIA lays out in [this article](#) about solar manufacturing announcements. It's a new day for the solar industry, which is on a path to bringing most of its supply chain to the U.S. over the next few years.

[Here's](#) a fun throwback that we found after reading Matt Levine's excellent series of posts on SVB (his full list of blog posts are [here](#)) - it's a wild look from a decade ago on energy market manipulation and why the world of energy markets is just so complicated.

According to a [new report](#) from ProPublica, Justice Clarence Thomas is potentially in deep water after not disclosing luxurious vacations paid for by a GOP billionaire donor. This comes as questions about [the need for ethics rules](#) for Supreme Court Justices have been swirling over the [past few months](#).

### **DOE Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)**

This week, the Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) \$450 million to support clean energy demonstration projects on current and former mine land. Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, eligible projects may receive between \$10 million and \$150 million up to a total cost share of 50%. This [program](#) focuses on clean energy technologies such as solar, microgrids, energy storage, geothermal, direct air capture, as well as carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration. Concept papers and full applications are due [here](#) on May 11 and August 31, respectively.

Additionally, DOE is seeking information in a [newly issued request for information \(RFI\)](#) on challenges and opportunities related to the domestic solar manufacturing workforce. Responses must be submitted [here](#) by June 2.

Lastly, the Department [issued](#) \$50 million in funding for states to support the development of smart manufacturing and high-performance computing technologies across the small-medium sized manufacturing base.

For other open FOAs that we're tracking in the energy space, please see [here](#).

### **Forthcoming Treasury Tax Credit Guidance**

In addition to the [guidance](#) on tax credit bonuses for clean energy projects in energy (coal) communities, the Treasury Department is expected to be releasing a number of initial and supplemental guidance in the coming months. Here's what we're tracking:

#### **Expected in Q2**

- Transferability and direct pay
- Domestic content bonus credit
- Additional guidance on prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements
- Additional guidance on the low-income bonus credit
- Sustainable aviation fuel credit

#### **Unknown or Expected Later this Year**

- Manufacturing production tax credit for solar, batteries, offshore wind (45X)
- Clean hydrogen production credit (45V)
- Carbon capture credits (45Q)

#### **Clients in the news**

[Climate Power](#) and the [League of Conservation Voters](#) [received](#) a well-deserved applause for their role in making the climate crisis a top legislative priority in Washington.

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, contributed to an [opinion article](#) urging Congress to strengthen SNAP benefits and pass a fully-funded farm bill to address the food insecurity crisis.

**Where in the world is Pioneer Public Affairs?**

Pioneer's Alex McDonough was invited to attend Vice President Kamala Harris's [visit](#) to Qcells' plant in Georgia this week.

[www.pioneerpublicaffairs.com](http://www.pioneerpublicaffairs.com)

