

Fair winds calm seas in Texas

While it be surfing the seas or flying a kite, Texas seems to be gearing itself for a rebound in supplying the world its energy needs.

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Energy prices continue to climb amid signs of economic recovery, including a government report that new US housing starts and permits jumped more than expected.

Texas General Land Office has reached an agreement with Baryonyx Corp to start construction of a new wind farm. Capable of powering over a half million homes and will only be a few miles off shore. The Houston based company was the sole bidder according to GLO spokesman Jim Suydam. The company is planning to lease the land for \$2.08 per acre and pay 6.5% of production revenue to the state's Permanent School fund. The only issue that has given any eyebrow raises is the real estate brokers, developers and fisherman along with wildlife on, if the jobs promised outweigh the proposed wind farm. Plan for the new site is still being determined and should be announced within the next few months.

A Houston company Terrabon with A&M University has built a \$3M facility to test a process of turning "lawn waste" into gasoline like substance. By the end of the year the facility plans on using chopped sorghum to produce over 300 gallons per day. Why that might not be much, it's a start.

But with good things some must come to an end.

GreenHunter Energy biodiesel refinery opened on the Houston Ship Channel almost exactly a year ago with the capacity to produce 105 million gallons of fuel a year. Texas Gov. Rick Perry bragged that the plant embodied "the future of energy in Texas and the United States." The refinery is now for sale due to new trade barriers and low demand for fuel in the US, it has also been idle and strapped for cash for the past half year.

Out in the sea, where oil rigs have recently fallen to the lowest level in seven years. This was a statement from Baker Hughes released Friday. U.S. natural gas drilling rigs have been in a mostly steady decline since peaking above 1,600 in September, and now stand at 869 rigs, or 57 percent, below the same week last year. Sources noted the gas rig count decline seemed to be slowing since first falling below the 700 mark five weeks ago.