

Green Consumer NewsBites for January 14, 2010

Written by [Lee H Goldberg](#) January 14, 2010

Since we use stuff as well as design it, the Green Power Community gives you a weekly update on the latest eco-friendly products, technologies, and consumer trends. Who says it isn't easy being green?

Featured in this issue: Intwine Connect's home energy control system, RAB Lighting's LED industrial lights, Blue Line's energy monitor, a study on the environmental advantages of LED lighting from Cree, and Saelig's solar-powered bio-acoustic scarecrow..

Compiled and commented by [Lee H. Goldberg](#), Green Power Community Leader

Intwine Connect Launches Industry's First Consumer Controlled Energy Management Network

TechBites Says: *Intwine calls its product a "consumer controlled, Internet connected ecosystem of retail distributed home energy management devices." The system provides Web-based access to a home's major energy consuming home products allowing a homeowner to manage its energy usage with direct monitoring and control from anywhere at any time. I'm not sure if Intwine and its partners have enough clout to make their communication protocol a de facto industry standard or whether it will simply remain a niche item like the old [BSR X10 system](#) but the idea behind it is sound. In any case it's an excellent example of how smart home technologies could dramatically change the way we use energy. For more information, [click here](#).*

Cree's White Paper Documents Energy and Environmental Advantages of LED Lighting in High-Volume Applications.

TechBites Says: *Ok –it's no surprise that a report from one of the world's leading LED manufacturers "conclusively proves" the superiority of solid state lighting but the eight-page whitepaper also provides some very interesting insights on this emerging technology. Besides giving you some nicely-documented insights on LED's dramatically lower full lifecycle environmental impacts, the article uses data from studies recently conducted by Carnegie Mellon University and OSRAM to provide some interesting insights on how lighting fixture design affects lighting performance and efficiency. To see Cree's announcement and a summary of the paper's findings, [click here](#). To download the full whitepaper, [click here](#).*

Blue Line Innovations' Home Electricity Monitor Offered by Newegg.com

TechBites Says: *The Blue Line energy monitor is a clever little gadget that gives you a real-time readout of how much electricity your house is using. It's nice to see NewEgg finally is making them widely available in the U.S. so you don't have to try to find a way to import them from Canada anymore. I've actually installed and used one in my home and found it to be a very handy tool for understanding and modifying how my family used electricity. It even helped me find a hidden energy vampire in the form of a malfunctioning dehumidifier. I only have only two minor gripes with the system. First, both the energy sensor that clamps onto your power meter and the in-home display are powered by batteries that need replacement every 10-12 months – a minor, but real inconvenience. The second thing is that the information you collect is only available on Blue Line's LCD display unit and not accessible by a computer. I've suggested they sell a USB dongle that would allow your PC to collect data where it could be turned into the kinds of charts and graphs that would provide a detailed picture of your energy consumption patterns over time. Although Blue Line has yet to offer such an accessory its current product is still a good value at \$109.99 (USD) from NewEgg. Update: Recent correspondence with Blue Line hints that new developments are in the works - could it be that long-awaited USB dongle? Stay tuned... For more information, [click here](#).*

RAB Lighting introduces a 10 watt, full-cutoff LED Wallpack.

TechBites Says: *The appearance of these industrial-grade lighting packs is a clear indicator that the long-promised LED lighting invasion is already in progress. OK, you can't light a ballroom or office space with these LED-based units but they do handle security and perimeter lighting tasks using about 1/3 the power of a conventional halide or HID lamp. The lamp's nominal 50,000 hour lifetime is yet another reason for industrial architects to go green... Heck, I may even buy a few to light my walkway and the stairs down to my basement office - AKA "The Rumpus Room f Doom (TM)"! For more information, [click here](#).*

Saelig Introduces Bio-Acoustic Solar-Powered Bird Dispersal Device.

TechBites Says: *I was scanning Saelig's site for news about their line of high-performance supercapacitors and stumbled on this rather novel solar power application. Trapezoidal-shaped like one of the Bose 901 bookshelf speakers, this solar-powered wonder acts like an electronic scarecrow to protect farms, orchards, airports, or even restaurant patios without chemicals or violence. It does this by emitting predator species distress calls to create an environment appearing "hostile" to birds, yet appears natural and inoffensive to humans nearby. For more information, [click here](#).*