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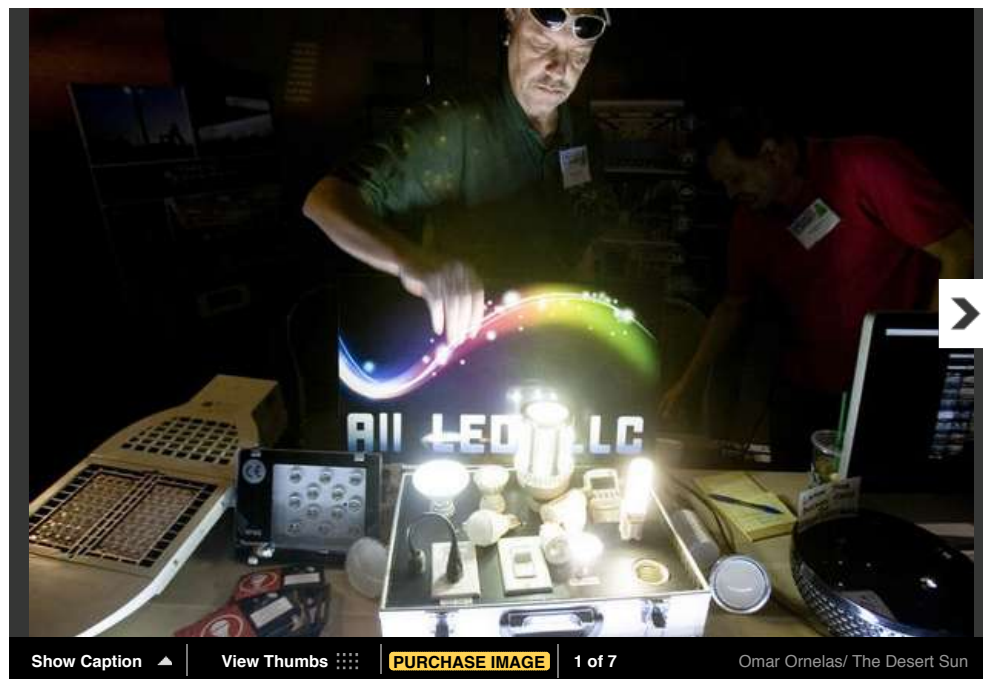
Gavin Newsom touts renewable development at Southern California Energy Summit

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ENERGY SUMMIT 2012
 OCTOBER 4-5, 2012
 PALM SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
GAVIN NEWSOM
 California Lt. Governor
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Written by **K Kaufmann**
The Desert Sun

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PALM SPRINGS — For California to meet the challenge of global competition, it needs a “low-carbon, green-growth economy,” driven by its ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals and the grassroots efforts of local governments.

The message Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom brought to the Southern California Energy Summit Thursday in Palm Springs was one the audience of several hundred local and state officials and green business leaders were hungry to hear.

“We have here in California something unique — that is the will to

step up where the U.S. walked away. All we're doing is rolling greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The opportunity that sets forth for all of you is extraordinary," he said.



Michael Lucas of ALL LED demonstrates alternatives to high energy consumption lights at the Southern California Energy Summit Thursday at the Palm Springs Convention Center. / Omar Ornelas/The Desert Sun

Live coverage

Follow renewable energy reporter K Kaufmann, @kkaufmann on Twitter, throughout the two-day

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"Green energy is the future, today and tomorrow, for this part of the state. We must invest in the future."

Some of that investment could come from the state's soon-to-start cap and trade system, where large businesses with high levels of greenhouse gas emissions will buy and sell carbon credits, he said. The revenue from the program, projected at \$660 million to \$2 billion, is earmarked for renewable development, he said.

Newsom's keynote to the two-day summit, which continues today at the Palm Springs Convention Center, provided a high-energy jolt to a day of panels and speakers talking mostly about familiar and longstanding permitting issues for large-scale renewable energy projects and state and federal government initiatives.

"He seems like he's the real thing," said Mark Weber, manager of the Coachella Valley Enterprise Zone, which provides incentives for businesses locating in a 56-mile stretch of the valley from Thousand Palms to Mecca.

"We had a state leader focus on the job creation side of renewable energy; that was huge," he said.

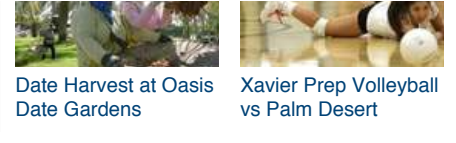
"I can't think of one line I didn't agree with," said Joe Wallace, chief executive of the Coachella Valley iHub, the region's green business incubator in Palm Springs.

Citing Imperial County's staggering 29 percent unemployment rate, Newsom zeroed in on the state's loss of its competitive edge in recent years, the result of funding cuts to education and research and a failure to appreciate the threat from other states and countries that have more aggressively pursued economic development.

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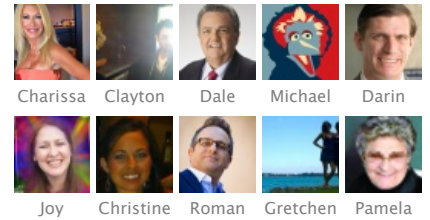
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