# Alternative Power Report

April 13, 2026

## News on Alternative Power Sources

Power Systems Research
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### Moving from ICE To Alternative Power

As manufacturers continue to shift their equipment production from ICE to alternative power sources, they need the latest information. That's why analysts at Power Systems Research continue to revise our global data and forecasts to provide the freshest picture available.

## A 'Failed Experiment'? Biofuels Under Spotlight

*EU Scrambles for Alternative Energy*

*By Guy Youngs, Forecast & Adoption Lead*

Unlike America, Europe is struggling to find sources of oil that are either not in Russia nor the Middle East. As a result the European Union has been advised to look again at Biofuels.

On March 31, EU ministers met to discuss the global shortage of around 11million barrels of oil per day. At the meeting, European Commissioner Dan Jørgensen urged nations to outline measures to reduce the use of oil and gas, particularly in transportation. The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz has caused panic within Europe. As a result, the EU has been advised to consider biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels.

The EU's Renewable Energy Directive requires member states to achieve a 29% share of renewable energy in transport by 2030, including a sub-target for renewable hydrogen and advanced biofuels of 5.5%.t

**Source:** *MSN* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** The real question is can biofuels actually replace fossil fuels? While it is possible to grow high energy crops on some poor-quality land, it is generally viewed that biofuels are a niche option at best. **PSR**

*Editor's Note: This monthly report includes news and analysis about EV and alternative power sources such as batteries and fuel cells from analysts at Power Systems Research.*

### CONTACT US

New power source installations vary across industry segments. Contact PSR for data on your specific application needs.
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## US Battery Recycler Lands $1.1B Metals Refining Deal

In Tokyo, at the first Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum, Nth Cycle (a critical metals refining company) signed a massive US$1.1 billion, 10 year, agreement to provide recycled battery metals.

Refining battery metals in the US and Europe has been difficult to scale up because the more traditional refineries often require billions of dollars in upfront investment, take a long time to get all the necessary permits and require huge amounts of material in order to be profitable.

Nth Cycle says that its process is different and can be operated without the constraints of traditional refineries and is profitable at much smaller scales.

**Source:** *Electrek* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** The world of battery recycling is developing at a fast rate but the real significance of this is the scale – despite being profitable at smaller scales, this deal is for thousands of tons of material. **PSR**

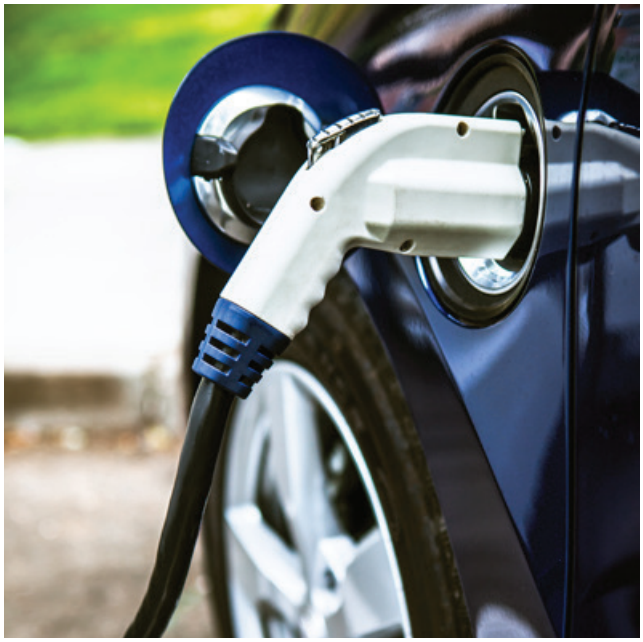
## When Fossil Fuel Supplies Falter, Interest In Renewables Increases

This article reviews how China is helping Cuba shift its dependence from oil to renewable energy, by a series of massive solar parks (92 in total) with a combined output of 2,000 MW (or roughly Cuba's entire current thermal generation from burning fossil fuels.

China has also committed to installing 10,000 photovoltaic systems for isolated homes and critical facilities. China is also investing in Cuba's wind farms.

**Source:** *CleanTechnica* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** What makes this article interesting is one factor –President Trump has blocked Cuba's access to cheap Venezuelan oil, and he has forced them to consider alternative sources of power. This comes just at the time when the US has attacked Iran and Iran has forced oil prices to grow dramatically. It turns out that while President Trump has pulled the USA back from renewables, he may just have given renewable and EVs the biggest growth boost it has ever had. **PSR**



## Oil Crisis Makes Drivers Reconsider Electrics

The US-Israeli attack on Iran, and Iran's retaliation has caused a massive rise in the costs of petrol and diesel. In the UK, petrol is up around 30% and diesel is up around 50%. In the USA, average gas prices were up by 33% in early April

There seems to be a never ending cycle of oil-related problems. In 2008, supply, demand and speculation caused a massive price hike. In 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine causing another oil price hike. And now, the US-Israeli attack on Iran has driven yet another price hike. The fundamental problem is that transportation remains totally dependent on oil, and oil prices are set by a very volatile global market.

This whole problem has encouraged motorists to do the math, and the result is staggering. Motorists simply cannot afford not to buy an EV as their next vehicle. This article goes into the math behind this.

**Source:** *Electrek* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** EVs cut across this problem, and it doesn't impact them because electric prices are set nationally not by a very volatile global market and they are a fraction of gas prices. Electric prices are also a way out of oil dependence. **PSR**

## Medaro Begins Exploration at Bastnäs Rare Earth Project in Sweden

Medaro Mining Corporation is a Canadian mineral exploration company that focusses on building a secure supply of the minerals critical for energy and high-tech applications. These critical minerals include Rare Earth Elements.

Medaro has just begun a new geological exploration program at its Bastnäs project in Sweden, which is located north of Gothenburg on the Norwegian border. The exploration is looking for rare earth elements alongside base and precious metals which include copper, cobalt, gold and other base metals.

**Source:** *BEST Magazine* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** This relatively short article is important as it evidences the increasing concern about development of non – Chinese sources of rare earth minerals that are so vital to our modern life. **PSR**

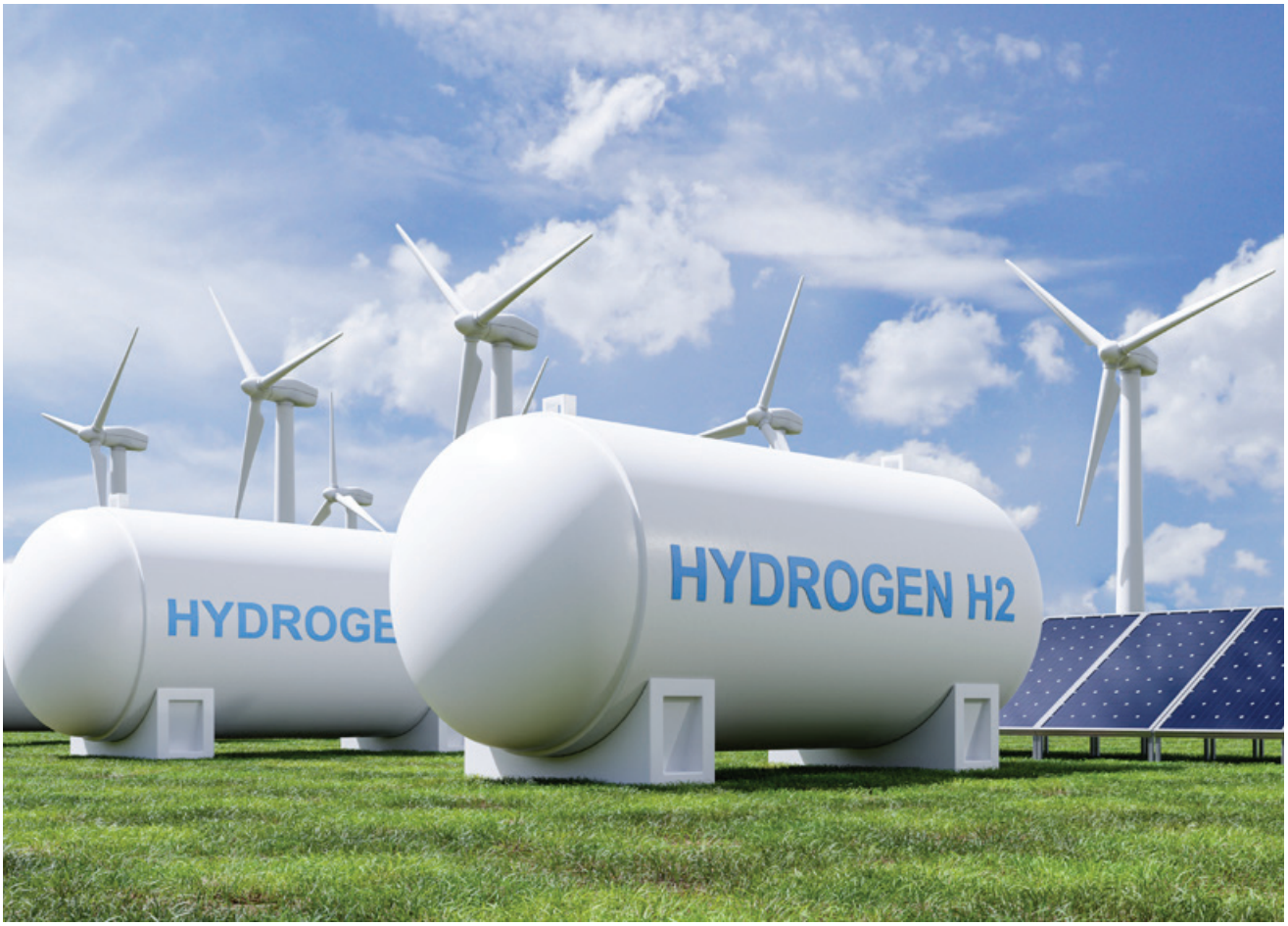
## Smart Hydrogels Offer Promise as Battery Electrolytes

Industry and universities continue to research and advance ideas for the development of batteries: cathodes, anodes and electrolytes, and this research covers everything from material used (battery chemistry), battery design, safety and to efficiency. In most lithium-ion batteries (except for those that are Solid State or use LFP chemistry), the electrolyte is potentially flammable

The use of hydrogels in batteries as an electrolyte offers a fundamentally safer option. A hydrogel is a biphasic material (a material that exists in two phases such as ice and water in a drink), a mixture of porous and permeable solids and at least 10% of water or other fluid. As hydrogel electrolytes are water-based, the possibility of a thermal runaway is removed.

**Source:** *PV Magazine* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** While hydrogels offer great promise, the




commercial aspects of this option are not yet clear, so the move from lab to prototype may reveal further benefits, or potentially further issues to resolve. **PSR**

## Ballard's 500 Fuel Cell Deal Meets A Hydrogen Bus Market That Never Arrived

Ballard Power and New Flyer announced a massive deal for 500 fuel cell engines, or about 50 MW of modules, for hydrogen transit buses starting in 2026. On the face of things, this is great news for Ballard, New Flyer and the fuel cell industry as a whole but Ballard's description of the deal has confused the market. Ballard described the deal as the largest single commitment from New Flyer, but it did not describe it as backlog, a firm purchase order, or a take-or-pay agreement.

As a result it has confused a lot of people who are now looking closely at this agreement and the fuel cell market for buses in North America.

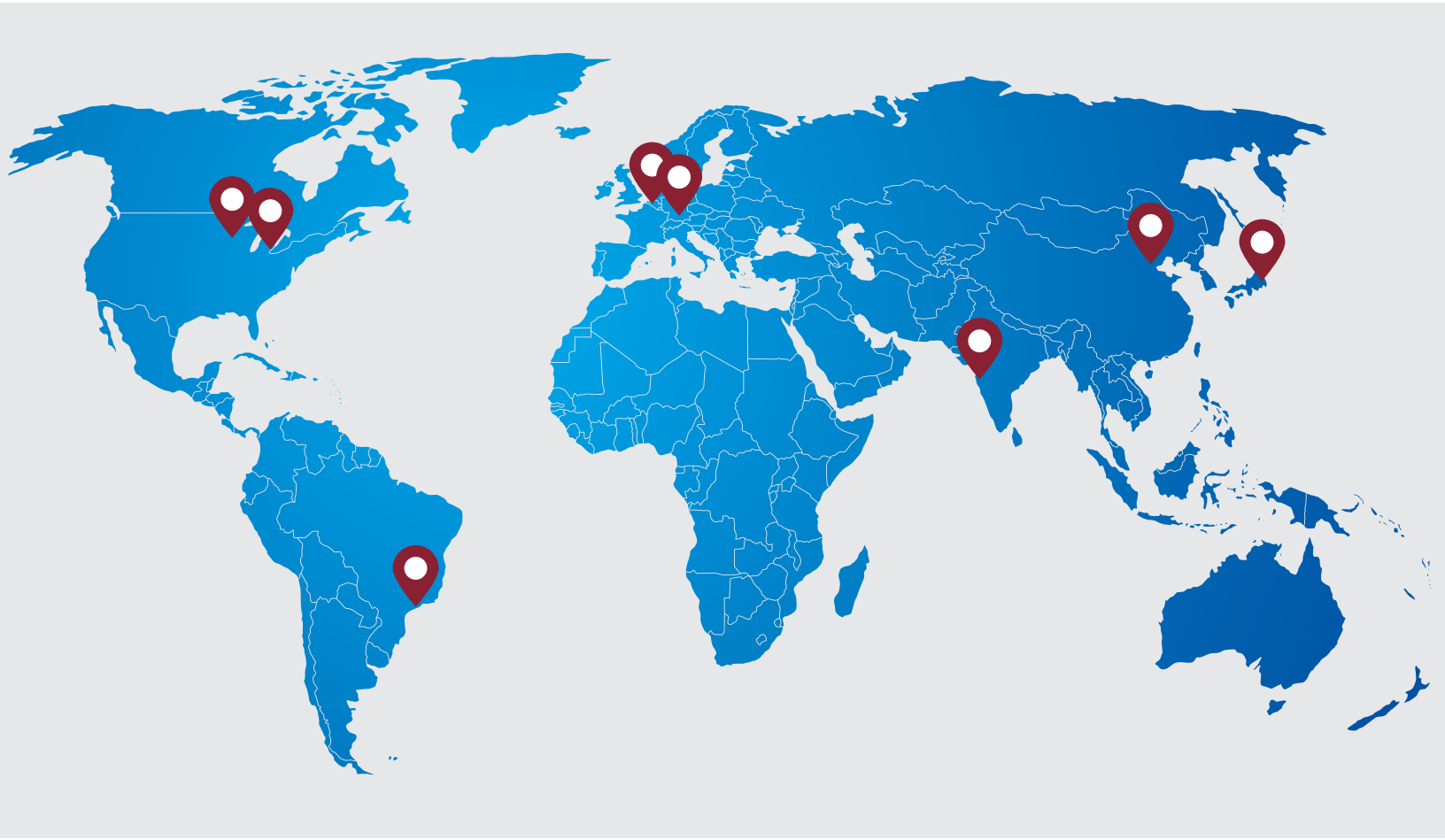
What makes this truly odd, is that the North American hydrogen transit bus market is nowhere near large enough for 500 new buses. In fact, 2023 was a peak at 288 units and since then the market has declined to just 15 units last year.

**Source:** *CleanTechnica* **Read The Article**

**PSR Analysis:** What is truly puzzling about this deal is that hydrogen still lacks the necessary infrastructure to support full bus transportation. California has led the way in USA for hydrogen but only has 61 hydrogen fuel stations of which 11 are nonoperational. This compares to a massive 1million public/private charging points for EVs. **PSR**

## A Final Note

**Cruz Battery Metals** reports an estimate of 161kt of lithium at Nevada site – **Click Here**… 100% of **Copenhagen's City Buses** are now electric - **Click Here**… **Tesla** sends Canadian Model 3 inventory to the US as it expects Chinese EVs back - **Click Here**… Solid-state EV battery patent reveals **CATL's** ambitious plans - **Click Here**. **PSR**



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## About Power Systems Research

Power Systems Research (PSR), established in 1976, is the leading source of data, analysis and forecasting on the global production of engines and engine-powered equipment, including class 8 vehicles. One of its databases, EnginLink,™ includes production figures down to the model level for OEMs in key market segments, such as commercial vehicles. PSR's global research network includes eight offices and stretches across 200 countries and four continents.

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