

A Clean Energy Revolution

Carlotta Bradley:

A clean energy company in Silicon Valley says it's on the verge of a revolution.

K.R. Sridhar:

Bloom Energy server is the equivalent of your mobile phone without a wire, compared to the landline telephone that had copper wires.

Carlotta Bradley:

These may look like giant file cabinets, but they actually contain fuel cells, and Bloom Energy's CEO says the boxes produce more energy than other technologies and do less environmental damage at the same time.

K.R. Sridhar:

Today's businesses need to make hay when the sun doesn't shine. Today's businesses need to sail when the wind is not blowing. We need a 24/7/365 renewable power source.

Carlotta Bradley:

The system is already in place on Ebay's San Jose campus.

Libby Reder:

They take about fifty percent of the energy that we would ordinarily use in this building off the grid; and on a campuswide basis, it's about fifteen percent of the energy that we use, or, the energy needs of about one in every six employees on this campus.

Carlotta Bradley:

Energy and technology watchers say real-world applications, like the one on Ebay's campus, are notable, but it's another feature that really has their attention.

Michael Kanellos:

They're saying that this can produce power for nine to ten cents per kilowatt-hour, and that includes maintenance, repair work, the gas, everything.

Carlotta Bradley:

But Bloom has its skeptics. Right now, customers are getting some major tax breaks on the seven-hundred-thousand-dollar piece of equipment. Once the rebates and federal help fade, its price may not be as attractive. Others say they're concerned Bloom's boxes haven't been around long enough to determine how reliable they really are. Still, the company's CEO says he's looking ahead to cutting the price by a few thousand dollars and making his brand of fuel technology available in homes across the U.S.

Carlotta Bradley:

Carlotta Bradley, The Associated Press.

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