

# [***Current Climate: A Watershed Moment For U.S. High-Speed Rail***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69V5-7XX1-DXVP-50M6-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** This week s Current Climate, which every Saturday brings you the latest news about the business of sustainability.

**Body**

**This week s Current Climate, which every Saturday brings you the latest news about the business of sustainability.**

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Japan debuted its**shinkansen**bullet trains six decades ago, and high-speed rail now connects major cities across Europe, South Korea, Taiwan and especially China, which has a sprawling 26,000-mile system. New train lines also race across Morocco, the Saudi Arabian desert and Indonesia s Java island at 180 miles per hour or more. The U.S., by comparison, is a high-speed rail laggard, with only Amtrak s Acela on the Northeast Corridor network between New York and Boston able to haul passengers at relatively fast.

That s changing this week with the Biden Administration doling outmore than $6 billionfor bullet train projects in California and Nevada. One of those, private equity billionaire Wes Edens Brightline West, could be particularly impactful as it s to be up and running between Las Vegas and Southern California before the Los Angeles Olympic games in 2028, at speeds of up to 200 mph. The electric train is getting a $3 billion federal grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, while Edens is raising about $9 billion more in private funds to build 218 miles.

It's a public-private partnership that gets built fast, White House infrastructure coordinate Mitch Landrieu told**Forbes**. Union labor is a major part of it. It's got great climate projections. It goes really, really fast. People are gonna love it. And when people see that, they re gonna go: I want more of that.

**The Big Read**

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GUERIN BLASK FOR FORBES

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**Why The Residential Solar Industry Is In Danger Of Imploding**

This $30 billion industry is built on a shaky foundation of cheap money, questionable accounting and aggressive claims for federal tax credits. With money no longer cheap, subsidies a matter of ***politics*** and swirling allegations of fraud, a collapse could be coming soon.

Read more here.

**Sustainability Deals Of The Week**

**Hydrogen:**Symbio, a joint venture between Forvia, Michelin and Stellantis to build hydrogen fuel cell systems,announced its first gigafactoryearlier this week.

**Electric Boats:** Arc, which is manufacturing luxury electric boats,announced the openingof its 150,000 square foot factory & HQ in Los Angeles.

**Electrodes**: Dry electrode manufacturing company AM batteries announced that it raised a$30 million series B roundled by Toyota Ventures.

**Carbon Removal:** Montreal-based carbon removal company Deep Sky announced it spartnering withU.K. based carbon capture company Airhive to deploy a project in Canada.

**Battery Swap:**Auto manufacturer Stellantisis partneringwith battery company Ample for a fleet of EVs capable of battery swapping.

**The Big Transportation Story**

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Tesla via YouTube

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**The Business Case For Musk s Tesla Cybertruck Isn t Bulletproof**

Elon Musk made a lot of noise last week with the unveiling of his long-delayed Cybertruck, the billionaire s reinterpretation of the traditional pickup. Dubious environmental benefits aside, the polarizing EV could be a strategic misfire for Tesla given its high price, big R&D costs and murky sales outlook.

Read more here.

**Other Sustainability News**

Nuggs CEO and cofounder**Ben Pasternak**isstepping down from his role. It s the latest shakeup in the fake meat industry.

Global**carbon emissions**reached another record high in 2023 even after both the U.S. and E.U. cut fossil fuel emissions, according to arecently published study.

EPA estimates for the range of an**electric vehicle**don t always hold true in the real world. Some models see less range butothers see more.

**What Else We re Reading This Week**

Nikola Sinks on Plan to Offer New Shares, Convertible Notes (Bloomberg)

China car sales growth speeds up in November as price war intensifies (Reuters)

Hydrogen Industry Signals Alarm Over Proposed US Tax Credits (Bloomberg)

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