



Europe to cut use of Russian fuel

The European Union (EU) has announced a plan to speed up a transition to renewable energy and reduce its use of oil and gas from Russia. The EU is a group of 27 countries, mostly in Europe, that work and trade together. The plan is a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has driven energy costs higher.

The REPowerEU Plan calls for 45% of the EU's energy to come from renewable sources, such as solar and wind power, and a reduction in overall energy use by 13% by 2030. It is expected to cost nearly \$221 billion. The EU will have to continue using coal as a source of energy in the short term. When burned, coal, like oil, produces greenhouse gases (gases that remain in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat, causing the planet to warm up).

Frans Timmermans, an EU official involved with the organization's green energy efforts, said that making the transition quickly will lower energy bills for European families. The move will also prevent Russia from using EU funds in its war against Ukraine.



Wind power turbines



Starliner's arrival at the ISS

EARTH TRAVEL
Boeing is the leading maker of commercial jetliners, with more than 10,000 planes in service around the world.

Boeing launches spacecraft to the ISS

On May 20, a private spaceship made by Boeing, an airplane manufacturer, successfully docked at the International Space Station (ISS, a lab that orbits 254 miles above Earth's surface). The Starliner spacecraft had launched the day before from Florida, carrying 500 pounds of cargo. The landing was a major milestone for Boeing as it prepares to send astronauts into space.

There was no one aboard Starliner, which will continue to fly without any crew until it passes more tests. After it does, Boeing will become the second private company to work with NASA (the US space agency) to carry crews and cargo to and from the ISS. SpaceX, another company, has launched four crewed missions to the ISS.

The Boeing flight faced challenges. Two of its 12 thrusters failed shortly after liftoff, but its backup

thruster automatically kicked on and kept the flight on track. Previous Boeing missions to the ISS had also experienced setbacks. In 2019, Starliner launched but was forced to abandon a planned docking at the ISS because of a software problem. In 2021, another flight was scrapped due to mechanical problems found before launch.

Starliner returned to Earth on May 25, touching down in New Mexico. Boeing engineers studied the spacecraft to see how it did during the voyage. Its first mission with people aboard could happen before the end of 2022, with the crew expected to be announced this summer.

NASA and Boeing officials said they were pleased with Starliner's progress and eager for the next mission. "There's a lot of work ahead of us," said Suni Williams, a NASA astronaut.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HOPE FOR A SPECIES

Amur leopard cubs were born at the St. Louis Zoo in Missouri for the first time since 2010. Amurs are one of the world's most endangered cats and "each birth is extremely important," a zoo worker said. The two cubs are named Anya and Irina.



The leopard cubs



The climbers

AN EPIC CLIMB

An all-Black team climbed Mount Everest for the first time in history. The international group of seven climbers and eight guides is called the Full Circle Everest expedition, and their goal is to open doors for more Black adventurers. "We're stronger together," said climber Manoah Ainnu.

SOARING VINYL SALES

In the era of streaming music, vinyl records are making a major comeback—to the tune of \$1 billion in sales in 2021. Sales increased 61% over the previous year, due to popular vinyl records by artists such as Olivia Rodrigo, Taylor Swift, and Billie Eilish. In May 2022, Harry Styles' new album broke a vinyl sales record set in 1991.



A vinyl record

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