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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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publication**Allen Matkins**
attorneys at law

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[Congress down but not out on climate debate next session](#)

Greenwire/New York Times - Oct 18

Congress will not sit out the climate change debate next year. With Congress almost certain not to enact climate legislation this year, environmentalists and industry have shifted their attention to the courts and U.S. EPA as it prepares to implement a rule next year to limit greenhouse gas emissions on stationary sources under the Clean Air Act. Opponents of EPA climate regulation will look to pre-empt any action by the courts or the agency through the legislative process, especially if the Republicans take the majority in the House after the November election. Annual spending bills will be prime targets for lawmakers looking to slash at EPA's authority. Lawmakers still hope to pass some sort of climate and energy bill next session, although perhaps a slimmer version or in a piecemeal fashion.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Five renewable energy issues at stake in the midterm elections](#)

Reuters - Oct 21

Voters will decide which federal and state politicians to keep and which to send packing during midterm elections. Polls have shown that some voters are disenchanted with the Democrats and many voters remain undecided. The anticipated power shift could affect some of the policy decisions for which renewable energy industries have been lobbying in recent months, while other questions will go directly to voters in state elections. A list of hot issues and challenges facing cleantech advocates going into the midterm elections includes: carbon cap-and-trade; premium for renewable; state vs. federal roles; California's landmark climate law; and extending stimulus programs.

[Solar now fastest growing energy industry](#)

GetSolar - Oct 19

Solar power is now the fastest-growing energy industry in America, writes Rhone Resch, the president and chief executive officer of the Solar Energy Industries Association. Resch says solar jobs now employ almost 100,000 Americans, and many firms are aggressively recruiting and expanding. The goal of the SEIA is to install enough new solar capacity to power 2 million homes every single year from 2015 onwards - an ambitious target of 10,000 megawatts. The industry added 441 MW of new solar capacity in 2009, and it's on track to put in over a gigawatt by the end of 2010.

[Solar jobs to rise 26% in coming year](#)

SolarToday - Oct 20

Solar jobs in the U.S. totaled 93,000 in August, and are forecast to grow 26% in the coming year, according to the "[National Solar Jobs Census 2010: A Review of the U.S. Solar Workforce](#)." The report, released by The Solar Foundation, found that more than half of solar employers nationally plan to increase their workforce in the next year. As of August 2010, the census identified more than 16,700 solar employment sites and 93,000 solar jobs in all 50 states. This rate is higher than the expected 3% net job loss in fossil fuel power generation and the economy-wide expectation of two percent growth over the same period. The survey examined employment along the solar value chain, including installation, wholesale trade, manufacturing, utilities and all

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[The Metropolitan Water District](#)

other fields and includes growth rates and job numbers for 31 separate occupations.

[More time given to California for stimulus funds](#)

California Energy Commission - Oct 20

The Energy Commission received approval from the Department of Energy (DOE) to extend an Oct. 21 deadline for encumbering federal stimulus funds. The Energy Commission explained this new information in a supplement filed to the California Court of Appeal. Concerned with the looming federal deadline to encumber the funds, Energy Commission Chairman Karen Douglas spoke with DOE officials and received a verbal assurance from them that they are not contemplating any immediate action to rescind the \$33 million. The federally mandated April 30, 2012, deadline to spend the monies awarded under the Recovery Act cannot be modified and each passing day increases the likelihood that all the contractors and subcontractors will not be able to timely perform all of the tasks required under the Energy Upgrade California contract.

[Energy Commission awards more than \\$1.2M for research](#)

California Energy Commission - Oct 20

The California Energy Commission today approved \$1.2 million for research including developing methods for efficiently filtering CO2 from industrial emissions and lowering the cost of operating data centers. The four research projects are funded by the Commission's Public Interest Energy Research program. UC San Diego will receive a \$500,000 grant to help improve the predictability of forecasting photovoltaic output. The Commission also approved a grant of \$115,397 to Porifera for a project to research and develop carbon nanotube membranes to efficiently separate carbon dioxide from industrial emissions. Two research grants were approved for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to document the energy savings of two projects to cool large computer rooms more efficiently.

[Purple wind turbines may be solution to deter insects, birds](#)

DigitalJournal - Oct 15

Researchers in the U.K. have determined bright white wind turbines lure great numbers of insects. The insects attract foraging bats and birds which may be struck by the rotating blades. The researchers laid out colored cards next to a three blade wind turbine outside Leicestershire County, then recorded the number of insects attracted to each one. Yellow drew the greatest number of insects; white and light grey had the next highest counts. Researchers said a major conclusion was paint color could have a significant impact on the attraction of insects to wind turbines, both during the day and at night. Purple was found to be the least attractive color to the insects.

[Utility to test power storage unit with California wind farms](#)

Brighter Energy - Oct 21

Southern California Edison has secured a \$25 million federal stimulus grant to develop a battery storage system to help smooth the variability of wind power generation. SCE has agreed with the Department of Energy to conduct a "comprehensive" demonstration of a lithium-ion battery storage system linking up with wind turbines. The company will set up the demonstration in the Tehachapi region of Southern California, with the hope that the technology could help integrate more wind generation into the grid. SCE and its partners will match the federal grant with \$29.9 million, including a \$1 million grant from the California Energy Commission, to meet the overall \$54.9 million project cost.

[DOE promotes pumped hydro as option for renewable power storage](#)

[of Southern California's Request for Proposals for Power Purchase Agreement](#)

[Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Request for Proposals for Development of CleanTech Manufacturing Center](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

Greenwire/New York Times - Oct 15

U.S. promoters of renewable energy want to change how the country stores green power. Among the American boosters of pumped hydro storage is Energy Secretary Steven Chu, who maintains that water-based storage could help ease the integration of renewable power into the electrical grid. Using pumped hydro to store electricity costs less than \$100 per KWH and is highly efficient, Chu told his energy advisory board during a recent meeting. By contrast, he said, using sodium ion flow batteries -- another option for storing large amounts of power -- would cost \$400 per KWH and have less than 1% of pumped hydro's capacity.

[Tidal power advances predicted](#)

New York Times/Green - Oct 20

Over the next few years, huge advances are expected in cleantech's ability to harness power from the ocean's waves and tides, predicts a [new report](#) from IHS Emerging Energy Research, a Cambridge, Mass., consulting firm. Until recently, that sector has had limited popularity and mixed success, even as the number of installations generating power from other renewable resources like the wind, sun and biomass has grown rapidly. More than 45 wave and tidal prototypes are expected to be ocean-tested in 2010 and 2011 compared to nine tested in 2009.

[15 algae fuel start-ups profiled](#)

Earth2Tech/Gagaom - Oct 22

Earth2Tech presents this updated 2010 version of its original 15 algae fuel start-ups, which are bringing pond scum to fuel tanks. Topping the group is Solazyme, one of the leaders in the algae fuel industry. The company has amassed more than \$125 million in funding from high profile investors and wants to commercialize its fuel technology in the 2012-13 timeframe. Others on the list include California companies, including Aurora Algae, originally developed at the University of California at Berkeley; Synthetic Genomic of La Jolla; and General Atomics, a San Diego-based nuclear power research company that has been working on algae fuel technology for the past couple of years.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Power-One to ship first U.S.-made solar inverters](#)

Bloomberg - Oct 15

Power-One Inc., the California-based maker of electrical inverters whose stock has more than quadrupled in a year, plans to ship its first U.S.-made units to solar power developers December 1, anticipating growth in its home market. The manufacturer, whose production is largely in Italy, is hiring workers and expanding factory capacity there and in the U.S. and China to profit from surging demand for the equipment that connects solar panels and wind turbines to utility grids. The Camarillo-based company expects to boost its capacity to 6,000 MW next year.

[BioSolar launches white renewable backsheet for solar modules](#)

BrighterEnergy - Oct 18

Bio-based materials developer [BioSolar](#) has unveiled a new bright-white back sheet made from plants, which could reduce the cost of solar modules. The California-based company says that the solar photovoltaic modules are also more eco-friendly. Previously available as a translucent sheet, the firm said its white version could improve efficiency, and came in response to demand from customers.

[SCE building solar PV array in San Joaquin Valley](#)

Sunpluggers - Oct 19

Southern California Edison has begun constructing a 6.7 MW solar photovoltaic power plant it will own at a site in the San Joaquin Valley. The construction project is expected to create about 125 jobs for Central and Southern California workers, the company said. The solar array will include 29,400 modules and will be located on 32 acres of city land adjacent to the Porterville, Calif., airport. At peak times, the electricity it generates could serve as many as 4,300 average homes, the company said. The new solar PV installation will join SCE solar plants already operating in Fontana and Chino, and six others now under construction, all in Southern California's Inland Valley. During the next five years, the utility plans to install a total of 250 MW of solar generation capacity at up to 100 sites.

[Perpetual Energy Systems completes 1.1 MW solar project at Caltech](#)

SolarIndustryMagazine - Oct 22

Perpetual Energy Systems, a national power purchase agreement provider and financier of solar energy systems, has activated a 1.1 MW solar energy system at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena. The system, which marks the achievement of the university's goal of 1.3 MW of solar power installed by 2010, is projected to generate an estimated 1,646,668 KWH of energy in its first full year of operation. More than 4,500 solar panels are included in the system, which will generate electricity from the rooftops of seven structures on the Caltech Campus.

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