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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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[Companies call for better home energy monitoring](#)

Businessweek - Apr 5

A group of 47 companies and organizations, including several in the IT sector, have asked President Obama to take new steps that would allow homeowners and businesses to better monitor their energy use. In a letter to Obama, the group asked the president to encourage energy customers to purchase and install technologies and devices that will help them measure their energy use in real time. The group -- including AT&T, Comcast, Hewlett-Packard, Verizon and Best Buy -- asked Obama to convene a summit on empowering energy customers with better information and tools to measure energy use. The group also asked to require the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies to include useful energy consumption tools as criteria in grants and other energy programs.

Renewable Energy Focus

[L.A. Business Council releases solar feed-in tariff study](#)

Inhabitat - Apr 5

As the City of Los Angeles currently wages a debate over funding for future renewable projects at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the [Los Angeles Business Council](#) (LABC) released a [study](#) shedding light on an approach to local solar energy generation through solar feed-in tariffs (FIT). The report investigates L.A.'s solar potential and proposes design guidelines for FIT programs in Los Angeles County. According to the findings, a well-designed FIT program would produce considerable economic benefits while generating clean energy.

[California solar rebates decreasing as planned](#)

GetSolar - Apr 6

[The California Solar Initiative](#) manages solar incentives for the state's three investor-owned utilities: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). PG&E and SDG&E just met their last CSI goals for residential solar capacity and have scaled their rebates back accordingly, from the previous \$1.10/w to the current \$0.65/w. The CSI lays out 10 different levels of financial incentives for residential and commercial solar installations. The two classes of projects are tracked separately. As soon as a predetermined number of megawatts are installed in each class within a utility's service territory, the utility is required to move on to the next "step" of the CSI for that customer class. PG&E and SDG&E are now making the transition to Step 7 out of 10.

Related News:

[PG&E's proposed new rates cause worry to some of California's solar market](#)

[Proposed grid could boost offshore wind power's reliability: study](#)

Associated Press - Apr 6

Offshore wind turbines, if spread out and connected to a power grid, could potentially produce enough electricity to meet global needs, says a new [study](#). A grid that connects turbines could eliminate the unsteadiness that is currently wind power's biggest drawback, according to the study. Researchers looked at five years of wind speed data from 11 monitoring stations -- buoys and towers -- along the U.S. East Coast from Florida to Maine. They used this data to estimate the power output from a hypothetical five-megawatt offshore turbine. Each turbine showed the expected power ups and downs, reflective of local weather patterns. "But

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2002 - 2009

Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009.

[A summary can be found here.](#)

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on

when we simulate a power line connecting them [...] the output from the entire set of generators rarely reaches either low or full power, and power changes slowly," the study says. The authors recommend a coordinated approach for siting and connecting wind turbines.

[**Wind towers foul up radar: Air Force**](#)

Energy Central - Apr 8

Air Force Gen. Gene Renuart told the House Armed Services Committee that wind farms and towers can disrupt U.S. military and civilian radar systems, a problem that is growing along with the popularity of wind energy. The general also commands the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), which monitors air and space traffic worldwide. He told the House panel that NORAD is establishing an evaluation team to scrutinize potential problems with the location or operation of wind farms and towers. Wind towers can interfere with radar in two ways: their height and their spinning blades.

[**AWEA annual report sees manufacturing growing, but at slower rate**](#)

AWEA - Apr 8

The U.S. wind energy industry is expanding as industry leaders maintain their top position and manufacturing continues to grow albeit at a slower rate than in 2008, according to the [annual wind industry market report](#) released by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). This year's report features new categories for offshore wind power and educational and training programs, as well as expanded information under previously existing categories such as manufacturing and project updates.

[**SunReports reveals new solar monitoring technology**](#)

Cleantech - Apr 6

San Francisco-based [SunReports](#) is launching a new product, Apollo1, which it says is the industry's first performance monitoring device designed for photovoltaic and solar hot water. Its technology is targeted at the residential energy monitoring space including installers and end-use customers, the company said. The product's launch follows the California Solar Thermal Initiative, which allocates more than \$350 million in new financial incentives for solar hot water installations in the state. Apollo1 is an on-site energy monitoring device that can simultaneously measure PV and solar hot water, or solar pool heating system performance.

[**First Solar exploring new panels in Silicon Valley**](#)

Reuters - Apr 8

[First Solar Inc.](#) has set up a Silicon Valley lab for a thin-film technology with the potential for higher efficiency at a lower cost, sources said. A big move toward panels based on CIGS, or copper indium gallium diselenide, technology would mark a major shift for First Solar into an area pioneered by others and would also lend support to critics who see limited room to improve the efficiency of the company's current cadmium telluride panels. The company has said its cad-tel panels can exceed 11% efficiency in converting sunlight to electricity, and it aims to improve that further.

[**Energy storage market to hit \\$44B by 2015**](#)

Sustainable Business - Apr 6

The market for batteries, supercapacitors and fuel cells targeting transportation and smart grid applications will more than double from \$21.4 billion in 2010 to \$44.4 billion in 2015, according to a new report. The report analyzes prospects for several technologies, including batteries, supercapacitors, fuel cells in transportation and storage, distributed generation, and transmission and distribution technologies on the power grid. One key finding of the report is that electric vehicle storage technology markets will nearly double from \$7.7 billion in 2010 to \$14.5 billion in 2015.

[**Renewable Energy Project Finance**](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

[**Upcoming Events**](#)

[**AWEA Windpower 2010 Conference and Expo**](#)

Dallas, TX

May 23-26, 2010

[**ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design**](#)

Scottsdale, AZ

October 12-14, 2010

[**Recent Opportunities**](#)

[***NEW* UC Regents' University of Irvine Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Project Request For Proposals**](#)

[**Southern California Edison 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program's Request For Proposals From Independent Power Producers**](#)

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

[**City of Willows Opportunity**](#)

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

[Solar plan proposed in south valley](#)

Modesto Bee - Apr 4

About 30,000 fallow acres in western Kings and Fresno counties could return to productivity as home to a massive installation of solar power panels. Westlands Water District has a lease contract with Westside Holdings, a private investment group with plans for a 5,000-megawatt solar power plant. If built, it would be one of the largest installations of solar photovoltaic panels in the world, generating enough electricity to meet the demands of 2.5 million to 4 million homes.

[Netezza selected by DOE for \\$178M Northwest smart grid project](#)

Netezza - Apr 6

The U.S. Department of Energy [has selected](#) a Pacific Northwest team including [Netezza](#) to conduct a regional smart grid demonstration project designed to expand upon existing electric infrastructure and test new smart grid technology with up to 60,000 customers in five states. The Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project was the largest of [16 awards](#) announced by DOE. The team combines energy providers, utilities, technology partners and research organizations. The total estimated cost for the project is \$178 million. DOE will provide half the funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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