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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

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## [New wind resource maps wind potential estimates for the U.S.](#)

*WindPoweringAmerica - Feb 19*

New resource maps and wind potential tables were developed through a collaborative project between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and AWS Truewind. The [resource maps](#) for the contiguous United States, and separately for each state, show the predicted mean annual wind speeds at 80m height. This is the first comprehensive update of the wind energy potential by state since 1993. NREL has worked with AWS Truewind for almost a decade on updating wind resource maps for 36 states and producing validated maps for 50-meter height above ground.

### Renewable Energy Focus

#### [California invests \\$90 million in clean energy manufacturing](#)

*Energy Efficiency News - Feb 25*

The \$90 million Clean Energy Manufacturing Program will provide financing to manufacturers in the form of grants, loans, loan guarantees, tax-exempt financing, production incentives, sales tax incentives and credit enhancements. Using the state's remaining American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, \$30.6 million will be made available for businesses improving or expanding their energy efficiency or renewable energy manufacturing facilities in the state. A further \$59.5 million in state funding will be open for companies developing alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies under the Energy Commission's existing Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. The fuel and vehicle program is focused on four areas – biomethane (\$21.5 million), ethanol (\$6 million), vehicle and components (\$19 million) and advanced biofuels (\$13 million).

#### [Bloom unveils 'game-changing' fuel cell](#)

*BusinessWeek - Feb 24*

Silicon Valley start-up [Bloom Energy Corp.](#) has unveiled a fuel cell designed to enable individual homes and businesses to generate their own power. Bloom showed off its Bloom Energy Server, which is being billed as a game changer for the clean energy industry. The solid oxide fuel cell is built to generate electricity with a mixture of oxygen and renewable or traditional fuels -- all without creating any emissions. A company official said 20 [corporate leaders](#), including FedEx, Wal-Mart, Staples, eBay and Google already are using Bloom Boxes.

Related News:

[Bloom box challenges: Reliability, cost](#)

[Bloom Energy unveils 'power plant in a box'](#)

[Bloom vs. Solar: Which one is better?](#)

#### [Lab analyzes renewable energy needed to provide hypothetical 33% of West's electricity](#)

*ACORE - Feb 25*

An [analysis](#) of the potential renewable resources and transmission that would be required to provide a hypothetical 33% of the West's annual electricity from areas identified as being suitable for large-scale renewable energy development was released by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Across all of the analyses included in the report, transmission costs made up 10-19% of the total cost to build new renewable resources and deliver renewable power to load centers throughout the West.

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### 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

## [More U.S. communities use landfills to produce energy](#)

*Associated Press - Feb 25*

Across the U.S., the number of [landfill gas projects](#), which convert methane gas from rotting garbage into power, jumped from 399 in 2005 to 519 last year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program, which provides technical help to develop them, says the projects power homes, buildings and vehicles. The organization says they are popular because they control energy costs, limit odor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## [Biofuel options expand as science taps new sources](#)

*EERE - Feb 24*

Scientists are making progress in developing biofuels with a range of methods and an assortment of feedstocks. Among the promising alternatives is an algae photo-bioreactor that grows algae in municipal wastewater to produce biofuel developed by NASA. The company hopes to integrate the technology into biorefineries to produce renewable energy products, including diesel and jet fuel. Researchers are also testing the use of tobacco as a biofuel feedstock. Recently, researchers from the Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories at Thomas Jefferson University identified a way to increase the oil in tobacco plant leaves, making them a better potential source for biofuel production. In another novel approach, a team at UCLA has genetically modified a strain of cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, to consume carbon dioxide and produce the liquid fuel isobutanol, which holds potential as a gasoline alternative.

## [DOE produces first-of-its-kind report on ocean power](#)

*Sustainable Business - Feb 25*

The Department of Energy has released [a report](#) examining the potential environmental impacts of ocean energy development. The sector, which includes wave, tidal and river hydrokinetic technologies, is still in development stages, and includes dozens of untested designs that could have a range of impacts on marine life and environments, according to the report. The report finds no conclusive evidence that marine and hydrokinetic technologies will cause significant environmental effects and highlights areas where further information and research is needed.

## [Interview: How the stimulus bill has ignited innovation in the renewables sector](#)

*L.A. Times - Feb 19*

In this question-and-answer form interview, Matt Rogers of the Department of Energy discusses how \$36.7 billion from the Recovery Act is helping to define the future of green power -- and the agency itself stimulus recovery act renewable energy conservation department of energy.

## [The long road to an alternative-energy future](#)

*Wall Street Journal - Feb 22*

Blame it on technology, infrastructure or policy: this Wall Street Journal feature contends it's going to take many years for new technologies to make much of a dent in the current energy mix. The feature outlines the attributes and challenges faced by solar, wind, carbon capture and storage, algal biofuels, and electric vehicles.

## [Reid demands climate bill ASAP](#)

*Washington Post - Feb 25*

Senate Majority Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has instructed Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) to produce a revamped climate bill as soon as possible, according to sources, a task Kerry intends to accomplish within two weeks. The marching orders could represent the best chance advocates will get to pass a climate and energy bill before the November elections. Kerry has been working with Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Joseph I. Lieberman (I-

[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**

## [Recent Opportunities](#)

[\\*NEW\\* The National Park Service's Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Equipment Installation at Yosemite National Park](#)

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

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

[Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals](#)

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Conn.) on drafting a measure that could attract bipartisan support, but it remains unclear what combination of policies would draw enough votes to win passage.

### **[EPA budget hearings to serve as battleground for climate policies](#)**

*Greenwire - Feb 22*

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson is defending the White House's request to increase funds for climate regulations by testifying before House and Senate panels. Jackson appeared before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and at the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to discuss President Obama's \$10 billion budget request for EPA. The fiscal 2011 request would cut the agency's total funding by about \$300 million from 2010 levels while allotting \$56 million -- including \$43 million in new funding -- for regulatory programs to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The recommended boost comes as EPA prepares to regulate stationary and mobile emissions of greenhouse gases an effort that has drawn the ire of many Republican and some Democratic lawmakers who say EPA climate rules will cripple the already struggling economy.

### **[Valley businesses like 'green' tax break plan](#)**

*Fresno Bee - Feb 20*

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is proposing a corporate tax break that could siphon millions of dollars from the state treasury. Democrats typically cringe at such ideas, but they are taking a close look at the sales tax exemption because it targets the environmentally friendly "green economy." Valley business leaders like the plan because they hope to lure equipment manufacturers to a region emerging as a solar farm hotbed. The tax break "definitely changes our ability to attract someone to Fresno County or the Valley," said the president of the Fresno County Economic Development Corp. Under Schwarzenegger's proposal, plant equipment purchased by manufacturers of alternative energy components would be exempt from the state sales tax.

### **[California bill could offer statewide solar financing option](#)**

*GetSolar - Feb 26*

A new [bill](#) in California could soon give home- and business-owners access to a statewide loan program that would help them finance solar installations and other renewable energy projects. The bill would create a program to standardize Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs across California and authorize a \$50 million PACE fund to be used as "credit enhancements for qualified PACE financing programs to further lower financing costs."

## **[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)**

### **[California solar project gets \\$1.4B guarantee](#)**

*Reuters - Feb 22*

The U.S. has given its biggest backing yet to a renewable energy project, guaranteeing \$1.37 billion in loans for a California development by BrightSource Energy Inc that uses the sun's heat to power a steam turbine. BrightSource's proposed solar thermal plants are expected to generate about 400 megawatts of electricity and power about 140,000 California homes, giving it the heft to compete with plants fueled by coal and natural gas. The sector has seen projects being launched and agreements being signed with utilities, who count on solar thermal to meet California clean energy goals, but construction has yet to start on a large scale for the solar thermal industry.

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