

July 20, 2010

[AWEA announces new offshore wind coalition](#)

AWEA - Jul 14

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) has announced the formation of the Offshore Wind Development Coalition (OffshoreWindDC), which will focus on advocacy and education efforts to promote offshore wind energy. The new coalition, which will be based in Washington, DC, will be headed up by Jim Lanard, formerly the Managing Director for Deepwater Wind. Offshore wind projects totaling more than 5,000 megawatts (MW) have been proposed and are in the planning or development stages in the U.S. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that of the 300,000 MW of wind power that could generate 20% of U.S. electricity by 2030, 50,000 MW would likely be offshore.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Some parts of California solar market sizzle, other segments lag: report](#)

Sunpluggers - Jul 10

California's 10-year, \$3.3 billion incentive program to increase solar adoption is achieving some key goals while lagging in others, according to [a report](#) prepared for the state legislature. In the territories of the state's three investor-owned utilities, which serve about three-fourths of California's electricity customers, the state has reached 42% of the solar goal of its "general market program" after three years, the California Public Utilities Commission reported. During recent months, non-residential solar applications in megawatts, which cover commercial, governmental and nonprofit installations, have soared far beyond those of any previous years.

Related News:

[CPUC report shows continued success of solar program](#)

[New rules may cloud outlook for biomass](#)

New York Times - Jul 9

Biomass is facing tough new regulatory hurdles that could ultimately hamper its ability to compete with renewable power sources like wind and solar. Dozens of biomass power plants are already in operation in a variety of states, like California, Michigan and Maine. In most cases, those plants have qualified for some form of renewable energy tax incentives or other benefits, as states used them to diversify their power portfolios. But a debate in Massachusetts questioning the environmental benefits of biomass has culminated in new rules that will limit what sorts of projects will qualify for renewable energy incentives there. This article discusses how if other states — or even Congress, which is writing energy legislation of its own — follow suit, it could have wide implications for biomass developers, as well as for states trying to meet renewable energy production targets.

[Halt on California solar incentives stuns schools, nonprofits](#)

Contra Costa Times - Jul 14

The California Public Utilities Commission has stunned public officials and the solar industry by suspending lucrative rebates to school districts, cities and

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Upcoming Events

[Energy in California](#)
San Francisco, CA
September 13-14, 2010

other government agencies that install solar panels on public buildings. Commission officials said the suspension, which also affects nonprofit groups, is temporary while the agency decides how to deal with its rapidly depleting solar budget, but some public officials said the delay could scuttle plans to install panels.

[Nanocrystalline ink to boost mainstream solar cell efficiency to 20%](#)

GreenTechMedia - Jul 14

[Innovalight](#) says it will be able to double the solar potency of its nanocrystalline silicon ink as early as 2011. By 2012, additional improvements should push the efficiency of a mainstream crystalline solar cell using the ink to above 20%. Conrad Burke, Chief Executive of the Sunnyvale company, said its silicon ink currently adds one percentage point to the efficiency of a mainstream solar cell; next year, the ink will add two percentage points to overall efficiency, and in 2012, the target is three. That should push the 18% crystalline cell to 20% next year. This boost should interest solar cell makers fighting for each tenth of a percentage point gain -- and challenge efficiency leader SunPower -- the company says.

[California to get \\$22 million in DOE clean-tech grants](#)

Mercury News - Jul 13

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded \$92 million for 43 clean-energy research projects across the country, including 11 projects in California that will receive a total of \$22 million. The projects include \$1.6 million to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for energy storage and more than \$5 million to HRL Laboratories in Malibu, California, to develop low-cost battery chargers for electric cars. The funding comes from the DOE's ARPA-E program, which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. ARPA-E, or Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, is modeled on DARPA, the research and development arm of the U.S. Department of Defense.

[EPA proposes 2011 renewable fuel standards](#)

EPA - Jul 12

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the 2011 percentage standards for the four fuels categories under the agency's Renewable Fuel Standard program, known as RFS2. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) established the annual renewable fuel volume targets, reaching an overall level of 36 billion gallons in 2022. Based on analysis of market availability, EPA is proposing a 2011 cellulosic volume that is lower than the EISA target. EPA will continue to evaluate the market as it works to finalize the cellulosic standard in the coming months. Overall, EPA says it remains optimistic that the commercial availability of cellulosic biofuel will continue to grow in the years ahead. The proposed 2011 overall volumes and standards are listed [here](#).

[LABC proposes Los Angeles solar feed-in tariffs](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Jul 15

The Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) has released a [report](#) calling for a modest solar photovoltaic (PV) feed-in tariff program in the city. This second of two reports by UCLA's Luskin Center lays out a detailed economic proposal for creating a multi-tiered system of feed-in tariffs (FIT) for solar PV that would result in 600 MW of solar PV within 10 years. The proposal's objective will contribute only 3% of the city's electricity supply in 2020. LABC's proposal considers only solar PV and not any other form of renewable energy. However, the study itself weighs the costs and benefits of a program installing up to 1,000 MW of solar PV by 2020, the equivalent of 5% of electricity supply under

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA
September 29-30, 2010

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

Scottsdale, AZ
October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA
October 12-14, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA
January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[Municipal Water District's Palo Verde Renewable Energy Development Opportunity Request for Proposals](#)

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

[Los Angeles World Airport's Request for Concepts and Qualifications For the Potential Lease for Development of Renewable Energy Project at Palmdale](#)

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

conditions in southern California.

[California AG sues feds over renewable energy loans](#)

Associated Press - Jul 14

State Attorney General Jerry Brown sued the federal government, asking a judge to stop government-sponsored mortgage buyers from blocking a program that lets homeowners pay for energy-efficient improvements through increased property taxes. Brown's lawsuit argues that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's opposition is forcing California counties to back off plans to provide the incentives. He sued the buyers and their regulatory agency, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, in Oakland U.S. District Court. The voluntary Property Assessed Clean Energy program would encourage homeowners to install solar panels, better insulate their homes and take other steps to improve energy efficiency, Brown said.

Related News:

[California seeks to lift federal block on energy-saver program](#)

[SolarCity to join with Lancaster to offer reduced-price solar](#)

Sunpluggers - Jul 13

Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris and other officials announced a planned [partnership](#) with [SolarCity](#) to provide lower-priced solar electricity to homeowners and businesses through discounted cash sales, leases and power-purchase agreements. The program with SolarCity, if approved by the city council, will allow residents of Lancaster and other communities in the Antelope Valley north of the San Gabriel Mountains to receive a discount if paying for a solar system with cash or to pay nothing down for a solar lease or power-purchase agreement. Any of the chosen methods should lead to lower electricity prices than property owners are now paying, according to company and city officials.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[California regulators approve Edison-Solar Millennium deal](#)

GetSolar - Jul 9

The utility Southern California Edison got approval from state regulators at the California Public Utilities Commission to buy almost 500 MW of solar power from Solar Millennium's solar-thermal facilities in a 20-year contract. The solar thermal facilities, in Blythe, are expected to be online and operational by 2014. Each one will generate 242 MW of power.

[First Solar buys NextLight, nets Arizona Solar Plant](#)

GetSolar - Jul 14

First Solar has [purchased](#) NextLight Renewable Power, a solar development firm, for \$300 million. Included in the purchase will be a 2.2 GW pipeline of utility-scale solar projects across the U.S. Among the projects from NextLight's development portfolio is the 290 MW Agua Caliente Solar Project in Yuma County, Arizona. While the solar installation will be based in Arizona, much of the power generated will be sold in California. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on June 3 approved the project's 25-year power-purchase agreement (PPA) with PG&E. Construction of the plant is slated to begin this year.

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