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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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publicationAllen Matkins
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[Spurred by report, California Assembly approves clean energy bill](#)

Public News Service - May 20

California lawmakers have approved legislation that would provide incentives to large industrial energy customers for installing on-site clean energy generators such as solar panels at their manufacturing facilities. [Assembly Bill 864](#) passes next to Congress; the bill's supporters say it gives big businesses a government-sponsored opportunity to improve the environmental sustainability of their operations. A [report](#) on climate change by the National Academy of Sciences commissioned by Congress encouraged Assembly legislators to approve the bill, according to Public News Service.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Report: Renewables, updated grid necessary to reduce GHGs in California](#)

ElectricNet - May 25

California is capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to below 1990 levels by 2050 but the feat will require dramatic policy and societal changes, according to a [report](#) from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. "California's Energy Future - The View to 2050" illustrates how California can use renewable energy, adoption of smart grid technology, electrification, enhanced efficiency, and carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology to attain its emission targets. While 60% of the 80% reduction in GHG emissions sought by the state are achievable with current technology, the report notes that the remaining 20% will have to be reached through advancements in such technologies as artificial photosynthesis, fusion energy, more efficient and sustainable biofuels, and hydrogen fuel.

[Analysis: California could generate 7% of its electricity with distributed geothermal](#)

Grist - May 25

Data analysis underwritten by the California Institute for Energy and Environment in conjunction with CPUC shows that California could cover 7% of its electricity demand by employing 244 geographically-dispersed geothermal power plants, 75% of which produce 20MW or less. By building its geothermal portfolio, California could provide a source of base load generation to compliment intermittent renewables such as wind and solar while adding another source of renewable energy to feed-in tariff policy likely to be instated in the near future by Gov. Jerry Brown, writes Paul Gipe in Grist.

[GE: Solar could be cheaper than fossil fuels, nuclear power in five years](#)

Bloomberg - May 26

Continuous innovation in the solar power industry will make solar energy cheaper than fossil fuels or nuclear power, according to GE's global research director Mark Little. "If we can get solar at 15 cents a kilowatt-hour or lower, which I'm hopeful that we will do, you're going to have a lot of people that are going to want to have solar at home," Little said in an interview with Bloomberg. GE plans

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Upcoming Events

[RETECH 2011: The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition](#)
Washington, DC
September 20-22, 2011

[Solar Power International 2011](#)
Dallas, TX
October 17-20, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)

[San Diego Gas and Electric Company's 2011 Eligible Renewable Resources Request for Offers](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)

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

to open a manufacturing plant for its ultra-efficient thin-film PV panels in 2013. Little also noted that smart grid integration will also help drive down the cost of solar power, although full adoption of smart grid tech is still a relatively distant goal.

[California carbon law can proceed mostly unaffected by court ruling](#)

New York Times - May 23

Most of the California Air Resources Board's plan to institute greenhouse gas regulations in the state will be allowed to proceed despite a Superior Court judge's [decision](#) to block the agency's proposed cap-and-trade system, according to the New York Times. San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Ernest Goldsmith ruled that ARB had failed to explain its decision to opt for a cap-and-trade system as a means of reducing carbon emissions and must stop all rulemaking activity on the subject until it complies with the law. Observers of the case say the judge's ruling does not present a large obstacle, and ARB representatives say they are working as fast as possible to satisfy the legal requirements for instituting the cap-and-trade program.

[CalISO approves renewable-friendly transmission plan](#)

CalISO - May 19

The California Independent System Operator's board has approved the agency's [2010-2011 transmission plan](#), most of which demonstrates CalISO's current focus on integrating renewable energy projects into the grid. The strategy includes \$1.2 billion in policy-driven upgrades and 33 grid-reliability upgrades, most of which are directed at meeting the state-mandated renewable energy portfolio standard of 33% by 2030. The system operator's plans for thousands of miles of transmission lines, many of which are designed to distribute power generate by remote renewable energy facilities, are currently being considered for approval by CPUC.

[Group sues SLO county officials over Carrizo Plain solar project](#)

New Times - May 25

San Luis Obispo County planning officials, renewable energy SunPower, and other stakeholders have been hit with a lawsuit filed by environmental groups and activists aimed at stopping the construction of SunPower's planned 250MW California Valley Solar Ranch PV installation on the Carrizo Plain. The suit accuses county officials of failing to adhere to the California Environmental Quality Act by expediting approval for the project without giving adequate consideration to the project's Environmental Impact Report; critics say the solar farm presents a threat to several endangered species living on the nearly 5,000 acres earmarked for the project. County officials said they have just begun to review the lawsuit; SunPower declined to comment on it.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Google, Citigroup to invest \\$55M each in California wind farm](#)

Wall Street Journal - May 25

Google and Citigroup have announced plans to invest \$55 million each in the Alta Wind Energy Center currently being built by TerraGen Energy in the Mojave Desert, according to the Wall Street Journal. Mountain View, Calif.-based Google has so far invested over \$400 million in renewable energy projects in an effort to offset the energy consumed by its data centers. The Alta Vista project is projected to produce 1,550MW of power when completed; the five phases of the wind farm finished so far produce 720MW of electricity.

[Vestas gets 217MW wind turbine order in California](#)



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Vestas - May 27

Vestas has received an order for 73 V90 3MW wind turbines to be used for a 300MW expansion of the Alta Wind Energy Center in Tehachapi, Calif. The order expands on an order for 27 of the turbines placed in 2010 by TerraGen Power subsidiary Alta Wind Holdings. The deal includes Vestas' delivery and commissioning services; delivery is set to commence in fall 2011 and commissioning is due to be finished in late 2011.

[SolarReserve gets \\$737M DOE loan guarantee for Nevada solar project](#)

Digital Trends - May 20

Santa Monica, Calif.-based solar developer SolarReserve has been granted a \$737-million loan guarantee from the DOE for its planned 110MW solar thermal plant in Tonopah, Nevada. The technology used for the project is expected to allow the facility to produce energy 24 hours a day, as opposed to most solar plants, which can only produce electricity in the daylight hours. The Crescent Dunes Solar Project is expected to create 600 jobs in Nye County, Nev. and 4,000 jobs nationwide.

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