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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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attorneys at law

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[Solar numbers around the globe show healthy gains](#)

The Street - Jan 28

[Recent data](#) provided by Lux Research shows some healthy growth profiles for solar around the globe. The growth of all the big publicly traded solar companies, from U.S. leaders First Solar and SunPower, to the competition from China in the form of Yingli Green Energy, Suntech Power and Canadian Solar, is a market share struggle predicated on a growing solar capacity. Recent reports of big cutbacks in solar incentives from Germany and Italy have shown how quickly the outlook can change for solar companies. The biggest growth also illustrates the biggest growing pains for solar. For the period between 2000 and 2013, the Lux Research shows Italy and California with the largest rates of growth. Italy will grow by 76.5%, while California's solar market grows by 72.6%.

Renewable Energy Focus

[U.S. renewable electricity standard would create 274,000 jobs](#)

Renewable Energy Focus - Feb 5

A U.S. national renewable electricity standard (RES) of 25% by 2025 could create thousands of jobs and help fledgling industries like wind grow, as short-term tax benefits expire. A national renewable electricity standard would support the cumulative equivalent of 2.36 million job-years of work, compared with no national policy and the 274,000 renewable energy job estimate is significantly higher than the expected jobs supported in the current House and Senate provisions under consideration in Congress, according to the [study](#). The study also notes that, without stronger near-term targets than currently envisioned, industries like wind energy will experience flat job growth and long-term stagnation, while the US biomass industry could collapse completely.

[Converting coal plants to biomass a competitive move](#)

GreenInc. - Feb 1

Converting coal plants to burn wood chips and other biomass is a cost competitive way to reduce reliance on coal, a [new study](#) suggests. Coal-powered generating stations retrofitted to run on a mixture of coal and dried wood pellets can produce cost-competitive, emission-reduced electricity even without the advent of a cap-and-trade system, according to a new biomass life cycle analysis published in the Journal of Environmental Science and Technology. For utilities under pressure to meet renewable portfolio standards, biomass should be considered along with wind, solar and small-scale hydro, according to the study.

[Renewables in vogue at Obama's DOE](#)

Greenwire - Feb 2

Nuclear, solar and wind power are popular at the Energy Department, while oil, gas and coal are taking a back seat. When he sent his proposed spending plan to Congress, President Obama recommended subsidizing new nuclear plants with loan guarantees and shoveling more money at wind and solar research. Overall, the \$28.4 billion request for DOE would be an increase of 6.8% for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. But Energy Secretary Steven Chu noted that the National Nuclear Security Administration, which is not subject to Obama's proposed freeze, gets a 14% increase. Aside from NNSA, Obama is proposing a 2.8% increase.

[DOE, EPA create State Energy Efficiency Action Network](#)

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Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)



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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

Sustainable Business - Feb 4

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have created the [State Energy Efficiency \(SEE\) Action Network](#). This network is meant to help states achieve maximum cost effective energy efficiency improvements in homes, offices, buildings and industry by 2020. Through the SEE Action Network, DOE, EPA and other member organizations will assist states with their energy efficiency initiatives, including residential efficiency programs, financing solutions, and improving availability of energy usage information. The SEE Action Executive Group will meet for the first time in early March.

[Obama: U.S. 'can win the race' for clean energy economy](#)

Associated Press - Feb 3

President Obama told a bi-partisan group of governors he is "convinced that America can win the race to build a clean energy economy -- but we're going to have to overcome the weight of our own politics." The president who supports legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions said he is also willing to explore new offshore drilling for oil and gas, as well the possibilities of "clean coal" technology. Obama also discussed new steps to boost production of bio-fuels. China is making major advances on new energy sources, Obama reminded the governors, and the U.S. cannot afford to finish behind other countries "in what will be the most important economic engine in the future."

[California establishes greenhouse gas monitoring network](#)

BusinessGreen - Feb 4

The state of California has begun to build a state-wide network of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission quantification and tracking stations -- the first state to do so -- with the purchase of seven [Picarro](#) gas analyzers. The analyzers are scheduled to be installed in the next six months and other states are expected to follow suit in establishing regional GHG measurement networks set up in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other government and scientific organizations. The analyzers will be used by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to measure methane emissions as part of the fulfillment of the Board's mandate under California State Law AB 32.

[Planned California power plant would be nation's first with GHG emissions limits](#)

Greenwire - Feb 4

Calpine Corp. is poised to build the first U.S. power plant with federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions in California after clearing a final regulatory hurdle. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District granted the Houston-based utility its final air quality permit, allowing the company to proceed with the planned construction of a 600-megawatt natural gas-fired Russell City Energy Center. The 15-acre project site is in Hayward, just east of the San Francisco Bay. The Russell City plant will produce 50% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than even the most advanced coal-fired plants, Calpine said, and will emit 25% fewer heat-trapping gases than the California Public Utilities Commission's standard. Construction on the facility plant is expected to begin later this year.

[Report documents innovations, savings from smart grid](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Feb 3

Smart grid advocates have long talked up the energy-saving opportunities. [The Smart Grid: An Estimation of the Energy and CO2 Benefits](#), from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), documents how innovations and the energy savings they allow mean significant greenhouse gas emissions (GhG) reductions. The PNNL report finds a smart grid will cut GhGs at least 12% by 2030.

[Greentech lists 100 'movers and shakers' of the smart grid](#)

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

Upcoming Events

[Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo POWER SHIFT](#)

Austin, TX

February 23-25, 2010

[AWEA Windpower 2010 Conference and Expo](#)

Dallas, TX

May 23-26, 2010

Recent Opportunities

[*Extended RFP deadline*](#)

[Inland Empire Utility](#)

[Agency's Request for](#)

[Proposals for Wind Turbine](#)

[Power Plant](#).

[California Public Utilities](#)

[Commission's Grant](#)

[Proposal Solicitation for](#)

[Improved PV Production](#)

[Technologies and](#)

[Innovative Business Models](#)

[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](#)

GreentechMedia - Feb 3

The smart grid market continues to grow quickly -- if not in market size, at least in the number of movers and shakers that are entering the space. Greentech has compiled [a list of 100 people](#) who are influencing this market daily, be it through innovating, regulating, evangelizing, planning, deploying, benchmarking, architecting, standardizing, investing, developing and beyond.

[PG&E spending millions to block local utilities](#)

Mercury News - Feb 3

PG&E is spending millions of dollars on a statewide initiative that would make it tougher for customers to get power from anyone else. The initiative, one of several appearing on the June 8 ballot, would require two-thirds approval from local voters before cities or counties could choose an alternate energy provider. PG&E says it merely wants to guarantee that taxpayers have a voice if their local governments decide to spend public dollars to get into the power business. But critics say the utility is trying to sabotage communities eager to buy more power from renewable energy sources like wind and solar. At stake is "community choice aggregation," known as CCA. Established by the Legislature in 2002, CCA gives cities and counties the authority to buy electricity on the wholesale market on behalf of customers within their jurisdictions.

[San Bernardino proposes clean energy agency](#)

San Bernardino Sun - Jan 30

Officials working for San Bernardino, Redlands and San Bernardino County are attempting to create a new agency to make loans for people seeking to install solar panels or take on other projects related to energy conservation. San Bernardino officials have asked the state for a \$2.75 million grant to pay for startup costs of a proposed new joint powers authority to be called the San Bernardino Valley Clean Energy District. The city's grant application to the California Energy Commission projects that the proposed Clean Energy District will be able to finance loans through an initial \$39 million bond sale.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[California power provider to purchase 100% of power from new solar energy facilities](#)

Cooler Planet - Feb 3

Southern California Edison has agreed to purchase 100% of the solar energy from three separate solar projects in the state that will be built and operated by Recurrent Energy. The three projects, which will consist of photovoltaic ground-mounted solar panel power systems, will generate a combined peak output of 50 megawatts of DC power. Two of the projects will be located in the state's Kern County, while the third station will be built in San Bernardino County. The projects will begin construction in 2012 and are currently slated to be completed by early 2013.

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