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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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[California wind farm endangers protected bird species](#)

Los Angeles Times - Jun 6

Nearly 70 endangered golden eagles have been killed every year over the past three decades by flying into wind turbine blades at the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area near San Francisco, raising concerns that California's push for renewable energy could prove hazardous to California's wildlife. State wildlife officials say the East Bay Regional Park District would need 167 breeding pairs of golden eagles to mitigate the deaths caused by wind turbines, though only 60 breeding pairs live in the area. Thousands of bats and about 440,000 birds are killed due to wind turbine collisions nationwide each year, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[California utilities top solar power rankings](#)

Solar Electric Power Association - Jun 10

California utilities placed first in all applicable categories in the Solar Energy Power Association's (SEPA) [2010 Utility Solar Rankings](#). Pacific Gas & Electric topped the list of utilities providing the most solar energy, with 157.3MW, while Silicon Valley Power took first place in the Watts per Customer category with 39.9w in 2010. Southern California Edison took the top position in the cumulative solar MW category with 578.3MW, and also placed first in the cumulative solar watts-per-customer category, with 119w. Northern California municipal utility Roseville Electric claimed top position for the most solar systems installed per 1,000 customers.

[SunPower CEO expects profits to shrink as solar prices plunge](#)

Reuters - Jun 8

Tom Werner, CEO of San Jose-based solar manufacturer SunPower, said the company is bracing for a significant drop in profits as intense competition for sales in the solar industry could force prices down by as much as 20%, according to Reuters. Germany and Italy have both cut subsidies for solar projects, which will likely cut deeply into SunPower's bottom line, as the company does nearly 30% of its business in Italy and is shifting from utility-scale solar projects to lower-profit residential and commercial-scale rooftop solar installations.

[Protesters gather at California solar project site](#)

Salem News - Jun 6

Protesters representing environmental and Native American groups rallied in Blythe, Calif. to decry the alleged destruction of two culturally significant geoglyphs that occurred due to construction work on the 1,000MW Blythe Solar Project by German energy firm Solar Millennium. The groups said the project and others like it threaten as many as 17,000 such sites in Southern California. A lawsuit against the BLM's permitting procedures for the Blythe facility and other solar projects in the region filed by Native American and environmental groups is pending in U.S. District Court.

[Sunpower launches ultra-efficient solar panels](#)

Sunpower - Jun 8[Subscribe](#)[Past issues](#)**Have a suggestion?**[Tell us what you think](#)**Editors**[William R. Devine](#)[Patrick A. Perry](#)[Emily Murray](#)**FOLLOW US****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**[County of Santa Clara Fuel Cell Request for Proposals](#)[County of Santa Clara Request for Qualifications for Energy Efficiency Services and Projects](#)[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](#)

Sunpower has launched its E20 series of solar panels, which the company claims are the most efficient commercially-available panels in the world. According to SunPower, the 96-cell panels were tested by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as having total area efficiencies of 20%. The panels, which are available in 333w and 327w models, feature positive power tolerance rating and comprehensive inverter compatibility. The E20 panels were developed with financing from the DOE's [Solar America Initiative](#).

[DOE releases \\$70M in funding for geothermal projects](#)

DOE - Jun 8

DOE has announced the availability of \$70 million in funding for projects aimed at developing geothermal technologies and reducing its cost. The funding will support the agency's ongoing partnerships with industry, national laboratories, and academia to advance several key areas: advanced exploratory drilling technologies; advanced well completion technologies; tools to isolate fracture zones within a well; observation tools and data collection system for reservoir stimulation; and geophysical exploration technologies; as well as geochemistry and rock-fluid interactions.

[SDG&E submits smart grid plan to CPUC](#)

Smart Meters - Jun 7

SDG&E has submitted its \$3.6-billion [strategy](#) for deploying smart grid technology to CPUC. The plan takes into account consumer demand for real-time data on power consumption and rates, as well as having the nation's largest number of rooftop solar installations and electric vehicles, representatives of the utility said. The plan requires SDG&E to modernize its grid by 2020, the same year in which state law requires utilities to obtain 33% of their energy from renewable sources.

[EDF releases criteria to evaluate smart grid performance of California utilities](#)

Environmental Defense Fund - Jun 6

The Environmental Defense Fund has released a set of [criteria](#) in order to critically evaluate the smart grid implementation plans of California's three largest utilities. SDG&E, SCE, and PG&E are due to submit the plans to CPUC by July 31, after which the EDF will take one month to evaluate them. The central principles of the EDF guidelines are the utilities' smart grid plans: empower customers to save energy and money; enable integration of large- and small-scale renewable energy projects to meet the state's 33 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard and distributed generation goals; and incentivize electric vehicles to charge when electricity is cheaper and cleaner.

[Nevada Energy to launch Renewable Transmission Initiative](#)

Nevada Energy - Jun 7

Nevada Energy will roll out a renewable energy transmission program aimed at evaluating the level of interest renewable developers, load-serving entities, and energy stakeholders have in receiving transmission service from Nevada's renewable energy zones for markets in California and the Desert Southwest. The utility could ultimately build as much as 570 miles of transmission lines depending on the level of market interest ascertained through the [Renewable Transmission Initiative](#). The website enables interested parties to submit comments on the project and allows people to register for information sessions to be held on Aug. 10 and Aug. 12.

Related News:

[Nevada Energy transmission project could cost customers \\$1B](#)

[Request for Offers](#)

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



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[GE to invest in California solar thermal company](#)

Wall Street Journal - Jun 7

GE has invested an undisclosed amount of money in Burbank, Calif.-based solar-thermal power developer eSolar, according to the Wall Street Journal. GE will become a minority shareholder in the company, which has also attracted a \$30 million investment from Acme Group of India in addition to investments from Google, Oak Investment Partners, IdeaLab and Quercus Trust. In a statement to the press, GE said it plans to use eSolar's technology in hybrid solar and gas-fired projects it plans to market internationally.

[Cenergy, Greenleaf team up for Kern County solar project](#)

Cenergy / PR Newswire - Jun 3

Cenergy Power has partnered with Greenleaf-TNX management to fund, develop, and build a 1.75MW solar power plant in Kern County, Calif. The 'Nickel 1' facility will employ a small distributed solar model to take advantage of the state's Feed-In Tariff program. Construction on the project will start in summer 2011 and it is expected to be connected to the grid and producing power by early 2012.

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