

September 6, 2011

[Biden calls for new clean energy policy for U.S.](#)

Associated Press - Aug 30

Vice-President Joe Biden, speaking at a clean energy summit in Las Vegas, told alternative technology supporters that the U.S. needs to change its clean energy policy to be a leader. Biden said that if policies don't change, the country will trade its dependence on foreign oil for a dependence on foreign clean energy technology. Biden said the future will demand cities that produce all the energy they consume; battery-powered cars able to travel great distances and bacteria that converts sunlight directly into fuel, among other innovations.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Gov. Brown seeks to extend California energy surcharge](#)

Los Angeles Times - Aug 25

In an effort to create more high-tech jobs, Gov. Jerry Brown is sponsoring legislation to extend a state program that collects about \$400 million a year from utility customers and invests it in renewable energy and efficiency programs. The surcharge, added to monthly electric bills since 1997, is set to expire at the end of the year.

[RETECH 2011](#)

Washington, D.C. - Sept. 20 - 22

[Patrick Perry](#) and [Emily Murray](#) will be attending [RETECH 2011](#): The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition in Washington, D.C., on September 20 - 22. If you would like to arrange an introduction or a meeting while at the conference, please [contact us](#).

[NextEra upgrades Altamont wind farm for birds](#)

energydigital - Aug 29

The Altamont Pass Wind Farm features wind turbines ranging in age, with the oldest being nearly 30 years old. The only problem with these aging turbines, apart from the fact that only about half of the 4,000 featured at the farm actually work, is that they tend to kill birds. The small multiblade turbines claim the lives of nearly 2,000 raptors each year along with 8,000 other birds and bats. NextEra Energy, who owns roughly half of the wind turbines at Altamont, seeks to address the growing concern over bird deaths by replacing old turbines with large-scale Siemens turbines that are far less likely to maim flying animals.

[California finalizes unique renewables auction program](#)

Industrial Fuels and Power - Sep 1

Calif. regulators are bringing in a new financing technique to stimulate the immediate development of small-scale renewable energy project. The so-called renewable auction mechanism (RAM) is expected to bring 1000MW of green power online over two years. The idea is for developers to submit bids to utilities for 1.5-20MW projects. The proposals must be able to complete within 18 months at the lowest cost possible. While auction models exist in India, France and South Africa, RAM is the "trailblazer" in terms of its scope, said Adam Browning, executive director of the San Francisco-based advocacy group Vote Solar.

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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

[AWEA WindPower 2012](#)
Atlanta, GA
June 3-6, 2012

Recent Opportunities

[City of Atwater's Request for Qualifications for Solar Photovoltaic System](#)

[Request for Offers for Photovoltaic Energy Power Purchase Agreements](#)

[Request for Offers for Development of Sacramento Solar Highways](#)

[Request for Proposals for the Purchase and Operation of Agua Mansa Generation Plant in the City of Colton](#)

[Ivanpah solar plant closer to completion](#)

Contra Costa Times - Aug 29

Sitting on 3,600 acres of public land near the Nev. state line, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Station has been under construction for nearly a year. Its backers say that upon completion in 2013, the solar plant will be capable of providing electricity to some 140,000 homes. "This is one of the crown jewels that we have in our growing solar energy program," John O'Brien, a senior VP for NRG Energy, said. BrightSource Energy, based in Oakland, is the Ivanpah project's designer and developer. The company has hired San Francisco-based Bechtel to build the power plant.

[U.S. saw \\$1.9B in net exports of solar energy in 2010](#)

Sustainable Business - Aug 30

Sustainable Business reports that in 2010, the U.S. was a net exporter of solar energy goods with a trade flow of \$1.9 billion. Photovoltaic components accounted for more than 99% of the year's exports, with solar heating and cooling claiming the remainder of the positive balance, according to a [report](#) produced for the Solar Energy Industry Association.

[Solar startup Solyndra files for bankruptcy](#)

Reuters - Sep 1

Solar startup Solyndra, succumbing to pressure from lower-cost Chinese rivals, said it has suspended operations and plans to file for bankruptcy, 15 months after President Obama visited a company factory in Fremont, Calif., that was to be expanded with the help of a federal loan guarantee. The Chapter 11 filing will make Solyndra the third U.S. solar company to seek bankruptcy protection in the last month. Former Wall Street high flyer Evergreen Solar Inc filed for Chapter 11, followed by SpectraWatt, a private company that was backed by Intel.

Related news:

[U.S. solar company bankruptcies a boon for China](#)

[Obama stands by renewable-energy aid after panel maker Solyndra's failure](#)

[Governors urge White House to extend supportive policies for wind industry](#)

Sustainable Business - Aug 26

A coalition of 24 governors -- including Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown -- is asking the Obama administration to provide a more favorable business environment to further develop the wind industry in the U.S. The governors sent a letter to the White House discussing how important it is that supportive policies remain in place. In particular, they want a seven-year extension of the Production Tax Credit and the Investment Tax Credit to provide stable, low tax rates for wind-generated electricity and to encourage further investment.

[California home solar system prices fall slightly](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - Aug 31

The price of solar panels has plunged in the last four years. But the price of a complete home solar system hasn't kept pace. Factories in China have flooded the market with solar modules, driving down panel prices by about 40%. The amount Calif. homeowners pay for a rooftop solar system has dropped by a more modest amount, somewhere between 12% and 17%. Analysts blame timing on this phenomenon. "There is a lag," said Galen Barbose, principal scientific engineering associate at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, who studies solar prices. "You've got these upstream cost reductions that take months to ripple down to the consumer."

[August was a big month for California's SunPower](#)

EnergyBoom - Aug 29

Solar manufacturer and developer SunPower's stocks rose after the company

[Ventura County Water Works' Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant Photovoltaic Electrical Generation System Request for Design-Build Qualifications](#)



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven offices throughout California. Some of the areas of focus at Allen Matkins include green and sustainable construction, construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

announced that France's Akuo Energy had agreed to purchase 75,000 of its solar panels. SunPower will deliver the solar panels to two solar farms being developed by Akuo Energy's subsidiary Akuo Solar. The power plants are located in the South of France, in the Provence-Alps-Cotes d'Azur Region. When installed, the SunPower E19/320 watt high efficiency panels will combine to generate 24 MW of renewable energy. The EnergyBoom article also describes other recent business wins by the company.

[Solar Millennium seeking a minority stake sale, bank loan to grow](#)

Bloomberg - Aug 30

Solar Millennium, a German developer of solar-thermal power plants, is looking to sell as much as 25% to a strategic investor to finance growth. The company is targeting a sale of 10-25% to "one or two anchor shareholders," CEO Christoph Wolff said. Potential buyers include technology companies and talks will be "pushed over the next 6-12 months," he said. Solar Millennium is also in talks with banks to secure bridge financing within two to six weeks. The move is aimed at plugging a gap left by a delay to 2012 in the financial close of the company's biggest project, the 1GW plant near Blythe, Calif.

[Falling prices has solar companies looking for consolidation](#)

Business Week - Aug 30

The global solar-equipment industry is beginning a consolidation that's already the biggest in at least two years as plunging prices for photovoltaic systems force weaker companies to team with competitors or close shop. Mergers and acquisitions announced so far this year total \$3.3 billion, up 33% from the \$2.47 billion in all of last year, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

[Gov. Brown signs renewable energy legislation that could mean jobs](#)

Imperial Valley Press - Aug 31

A renewable energy bill that could push clean-energy development and green jobs in the state's desert regions was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. The law ABx1 13, sponsored by Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez, streamlines the permitting process for renewable energy projects within the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, according to a news release. The DRECP covers all Southern California and it identifies and maps areas appropriate for renewable energy development, said Andy Horne, deputy county executive officer for natural resources. The DRECP also sets aside areas intended for long-term conservation, the DRECP website reads.

[California, Colorado homes offered no-money-down solar power](#)

BrightEnergy.org - Aug 30

Solar power company Real Goods Solar is now offering new financing and purchasing options for homeowners throughout Calif. and Col. The company said its PowerSavings Plan means all the benefits of solar power can be obtained with typically no upfront investment. The plan provides flexibility that makes going solar easier and more affordable -- but unlike solar leasing plans, it offers homeowners an option to own the system after six years. Real Goods Solar said cost was often cited as one of the key reasons U.S. consumers are resistant to embracing renewable energy.

[California city to become one of world's first 'Net Zero Cities' aided by Beautiful Earth Group](#)

Marketwire / Beautiful Earth Group - Sep 1

The City of Lancaster, Calif. has taken a step toward becoming one of the first "Net Zero Cities" in the world. The Lancaster City Council unanimously approved a MOU with Beautiful Earth Group for the development of a partnership to establish Lancaster as a Net Zero City. Net Zero Cities produce as much energy

from sustainable sources, such as solar energy, as they consume. This dramatically reduces their carbon emissions. New technologies such as energy storage, supply and demand management and the "smart grid" are used to save energy and money.

[Work starts on first hybrid power plant in Nevada](#)

Bloomberg Business Week - Aug 30

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid says construction on the world's first hybrid geothermal and solar power plant is starting in northern Nevada. Reid said that Enel Green Power North America's geothermal plant in Churchill County is adding a solar project.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Gradient breaks ground on Nevada geothermal project: PPA signed with Sacramento Municipal Utility District](#)

Geothermal News - Aug 29

Geothermal power plant developer Gradient Resources, Inc. has broken ground at the site of its 60MW geothermal power project located within Churchill County, Nev. The Patua Project will proceed in phases, the first being 60MW with a goal of up to 120MW to be delivered to Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The company has a signed 20-year PPAs with Sacramento Municipal Utility District and is currently negotiating additional PPAs with other regional utilities.

[NextEra agrees to sell four gas plants to LS Power for \\$1.05B](#)

Wall Street Journal / Dow Jones - Sep 1

NextEra Energy agreed to sell its stake in four natural gas-fired power plants to an affiliate of LS Power Group for \$1.05 billion. The divestiture comes as NextEra, the largest renewable energy provider in the U.S., plans to spend up to \$5.8 billion to build new wind and solar farms over the next three years. NextEra said it will sell its interests in natural gas plants in Ala., Calif., S.C. and Va.

[Ram Power terminates geothermal PPA with SCE](#)

Renew Grid - Sep 1

Ram Power, a geothermal development company, says it has terminated its power purchase agreement (PPA) with Southern California Edison (SCE) for the sale of power from Ram Power's Orita project, located in Southern California. The PPA was terminated because Ram Power was not able to meet the critical milestone schedule outlined in the contract for development of the project, according to the company, which expects to have its approximately \$1-million security deposit returned by SCE.