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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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[Renewable energy permitting bill passes California Assembly](#)

Imperial Valley News - Mar 7

A proposed law intended to streamline development of renewable energy projects in California's desert areas has passed the California Assembly by a vote of 57-15. The bill, introduced by Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez (D-Coachella), would extend permitting and siting streamlining measures currently only offered to large solar projects to wind and geothermal projects.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Record-keeping for DOE renewable energy loan guarantees target of GOP scrutiny](#)

Bloomberg - Mar 8

Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.) says an investigation should be begun into the DOE's record-keeping of loan guarantees for renewable energy projects. Upton, head of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, made the remarks following the release of a report from the DOE's inspector general that says the agency's loan guarantees do not meet federal bookkeeping standards.

[The United States joins the International Renewable Energy Agency](#)

U.S. Department of State - Mar 4

The United States joined the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), becoming the 63rd member. IRENA was formed in 2009 in response to growing international interest in the adoption of renewable energy technologies to meet the challenges of sustained economic growth, energy security and climate change.

[California among best in nation for renewable energy: ACORE study](#)

ACORE - Mar 9

California's status as a national leader in the renewable energy sector has been further confirmed by the findings of an American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) [study](#). Texas, California, and Iowa contributed most to the 50GW of added power capacity from renewable sources in the U.S., with California topping for most value from disclosed asset finance transactions over the past two years for newly built projects.

[Study: U.S. solar industry boomed in 2010](#)

Silicon Valley Mercury News - Mar 9

The domestic solar industry grew to \$6 billion in 2010, a 67% increase over 2009, and is garnering increased interest from the global solar energy business community for its rapid growth and innovation, according to a [report](#) from the Solar Energy Industries Association and GTM Research. While California is the clear leader in current and planned solar power capacity, the report says that all 50 states are generating solar energy and contribute to the nation's growing presence in the international renewable energy market.

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**Upcoming Events**[Fortune Brainstorm Green](#)

Laguna Niguel, CA

April 4-6, 2011[American Wind Energy Association \(AWEA\) Windpower 2011](#)

Anaheim, CA

May 22-25, 2011[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**[Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Release 2011 Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

[Renewable energy industry stands to benefit from oil price surge](#)

L.A. Times - Mar 11

Public environmental concerns, surging oil prices, and increased government funding for alternative energy projects could combine to generate permanent, widespread use of renewable energy, industry experts and analysts say. Speculation that oil prices could reach \$200 per barrel and the political and economic insecurities of the oil market are predicted to spark a reversal of the nation's energy consumption habits.

[AWEA to hold WINDPOWER expo in Anaheim](#)

American Wind Energy Association - Mar 7

The American Wind Energy Association will host the WINDPOWER Conference and Exhibition 2011 in Anaheim, California from May 22-May 25. The event will feature displays of wind energy industry products and services from over 1,000 exhibitors, guest speakers, and demonstrations of wind-related technology in an outdoor equipment and demonstration area. Related News: [Sauer Energy to exhibit at WINDPOWER 2011](#)- Sauer Energy / Marketwire

[Report: Frivolous lawsuits hurt California economy](#)

Legal Newsline - Mar 9

Lawsuit abuse is harming the California economy by shutting down or stalling businesses and developments that generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars, according to a [report](#) by advocacy group California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA). The report, part of CALA's [Bad Lawsuits Cost Good Jobs](#) campaign, cites environmental and native lawsuits against renewable energy projects in the Imperial Valley as examples of lawsuit abuse.

[Laser technique aims to improve efficiency, lower cost of solar cells](#)

Purdue University - Mar 8

Researchers at Purdue University's Center for Laser-Based Manufacturing are developing a technique for making solar cells with an ultrafast, pulsing laser that could lower manufacturing costs and improve the cells' efficiency. Backed by a \$425,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the research team uses a special laser to cut microchannels in thin film PV materials with far greater accuracy than mechanical scribing.

[Study: Geothermal capacity could more than double by 2020](#)

Pike Research - Mar 7

Global geothermal capacity has the potential to increase by as much as 134% by 2020 as countries seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by opting for energy from renewable sources, according to a [report](#) from Pike Research. A more conservative business model predicts 34% market growth for geothermal over the next decade.

[Renewable energy issues to be discussed at Energy Storage Summit](#)

Business Wire / IQPC - Mar 8

The [4th Annual Energy Storage Summit](#) will be held in San Francisco on March 28-30. The event includes lectures from a number of energy industry leaders in the both the private and public sectors, including: Matthew Deal, director of CPUC's policy and planning division; William V. Torre, SDG&E's Chief Engineer;



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and Venkat Srinivasan, staff scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[SDG&E signs deal for 150MW SoCal solar farm](#)

Reuters - Mar 10

SDG&E has signed a contract with renewable energy project developer Tenaska Solar Ventures to build the Imperial Solar Energy Center West, a 150MW concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar energy facility in southern California. The terms of the 25-year power purchase deal require Tenaska Solar, a subsidiary of natural gas company Tenaska, to develop and build the facility. Related News: [Soitec to provide for CPV cells for California solar plant](#) - PR Newswire

[SunPower agrees to buy 83MW of German-made solar cells](#)

Bloomberg - Mar 8

San Jose-based solar panel manufacturer SunPower has agreed to buy 83MW worth of solar cells from the North American subsidiary of German firm Q-Cells. While financial details of the deal were not revealed, SunPower said it will use the cells to manufacture solar panels for commercial and utility-scale projects. QCells North America will start selling its solar cells in the U.S. in the second half of 2011.

[Prudent Energy starts solar power storage initiative with CPUC, PG&E](#)

PR Newswire - Mar 9

Energy storage firm Prudent Energy has partnered with CPUC, DOE, PG&E, and SunPower on a solar energy battery storage initiative that is part of CPUC's California Solar Initiative Research, Development, Deployment, and Demonstration program. Under the terms of the partnership, Prudent will build and operate one of their VRB-ESS battery storage systems to operate with SunPower's PV systems.

[California buys renewable energy credits from Colorado utility](#)

Denver Post - Mar 9

Colorado utility Xcel sold \$33.6 million in wind-energy credits to California last year, the Denver Post reports. The utility is currently negotiating how to spend the windfall with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Last year, Xcel returned 54% of the proceeds from sales of wind-energy credits to California to its customers. Xcel has proposed returning 80% of future profits to customers while retaining 20% and using some of the money to fund renewable energy programs.

[Colorado State University, NREL collaborate to research utility business models for energy efficiency and renewable energy](#)

Solar Thermal Magazine - Mar 5

With a grant from the Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis, Thomas Bradley, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Colorado State, and Michael Callahan, NREL senior project leader, will lead a team to evaluate the costs of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs for utilities and how incentives could be structured to positively impact customers as well as utilities.

[Some EV charging stations might be solar powered for new company project](#)

Clean Energy Authority - Mar 8

[ECOality](#) received a \$115 million grant from the United States Department of Energy to install electric vehicle charging stations in communities where the Nissan Leaf and the [Chevrolet Volt](#) are being released. The project is aimed at developing necessary infrastructure for a transition away from internal combustion engines and toward electric vehicles that can draw power from renewable sources like solar.

[GridPoint renewable energy solution selected for United States' largest zero-energy school](#)

Solar Thermal Magazine - Mar 6

Irving Independent School District has announced that it has selected GridPoint, Inc., an established leader for smart energy solutions, to design, engineer and install a 582KW solar panel system on Lady Bird Johnson Middle School. Set to open August 2011, the school will be the largest net zero-energy school in the United States.

[BlueChip Energy signs agreement to acquire land for 40 Megawatt solar farm in Florida](#)

Electric Energy - Mar 8

BlueChip Energy, a provider of solar energy solutions for residential, commercial, government and utility applications, announced that it has signed an agreement to acquire land in Central Florida for the development of a 40MW solar farm. The largest photovoltaic solar plant in the State of Florida and the third largest in the United States when completed, the 40MW Sorrento Solar Farm will generate an estimated 64 million kilowatt hours annually.

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