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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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attorneys at law

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[Top 10 cleantech promises to watch for in 2010](#)

Cleantech Group - Dec 23

If companies make good on their promises for 2010, it could be a banner year for the renewable technologies movement, according to the Cleantech Group. There's a lot of work in store for high-profile clean technology vendors with big claims that we've collected below, which range from small startups to billion-dollar corporates. Some of the promises are incremental, but others could be game changing. Here are [10 of the most interesting developments](#) chosen by Cleantech.

Renewable Energy Focus

[Smart-grid spending to hit \\$200 billion by 2015](#)

CNET - Dec 28

Governments and utilities are expected to ramp up their investments in the electrical smart grid, spending a total of \$200 billion worldwide from 2008 through 2015, says a [new Pike Research report](#). Technologies to automate the grid are expected to win around 84% of that \$200 billion. Smart metering systems to track and analyze the usage of electricity, gas, and water will grab 14%, while systems to power electrical cars will garner the remaining 2%. Though the grid has seen some technological advancements, it still suffers from a lack of intelligence and automation that would provide greater efficiency and cost savings, according to Pike. Four key goals will drive higher investments in the grid: improving reliability and security; improving operating efficiencies and costs; balancing power generation supply and demand; and reducing the overall electrical system's impact on climate change.

[Greentech Media lists its Top 10 Solar Trends of 2009](#)

Greentech Media - Dec 28

During a year of drama for the solar industry, solar panel makers and their suppliers and customers had to scramble to draw up survival plans. Now it looks like the worst is over. Or, at least that's what companies are hoping for. Greentech Media lists the top 10 solar trends of 2009, including pricing, outsourcing, government stimulus, and manufacturing trends.

[Greentech looks back at energy storage highlights of 2009](#)

Greentech Media - Dec 30

It was a year of electric vehicles boost lithium-ion batteries, DOE dollars for grid storage, ice-making air conditioners, and a smart grid to rule them all. Greentech Media [looks back](#) at 2009's push into energy storage – from batteries for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to the slower development of a variety of technologies for storing power on the electricity grid.

[More than 200 alternative energy projects proposed in California](#)

Central Valley Business Time - Dec 30

There are 244 renewable energy projects proposed in California, according to a list provided by the governor's office. While the bulk of the largest would-be power generators are massive solar projects in the California desert, there are many wind projects also on the list, with Kern County being a favored location. If all the projects were to be built, they would generate almost 70,000 MW of clean energy annually. Currently California facilities produce just more than 8,000 MW of renewable energy annually. In addition to the solar and wind projects, other alternative energy projects

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Chambers and Partners
2002 - 2009

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

include geothermal, biomass and small hydro facilities. The projects are listed [here](#) and [here](#).

[**SDG&E to install 300,000 smart meters**](#)

San Diego Union-Tribune - Dec 29

As it sets out to replace its 1.2 million electric meters with computerized smart meters, San Diego Gas & Electric will make energy usage information available to customers on their computers, their phones and dedicated dashboards. The company is installing 7,000 meters a day and recently topped 300,000 meters overall. Beginning in January, customers with smart meters will be able to track usage information online. SDG&E has teamed up with Google for a free service called the [Google PowerMeter](#), which will allow users to see how they used power the day before, how their usage compares with their neighbors and get a bill estimate.

[**PG&E customer revolt may threaten rollout of smart grid**](#)

Bloomberg - Dec 30

Consumer backlash and cost concerns may cause delays in the nationwide rollout of smart utility meters at the center of the Obama administration's \$8 billion push to update the U.S. electricity grid. PG&E Corp. halted meter installations in Bakersfield after hundreds of customers complained that readings weren't accurate. The meters, part of a smart-grid initiative billed as clearing the way for more renewable-energy use, are designed to help consumers conserve power during periods of peak demand. PG&E says its meters are accurate and hot weather and increased rates led to higher bills than consumers expected. The state Utilities Commission ordered an independent study of billing accuracy.

[**City, state and federal grants, tax breaks are making 'going solar' more affordable in area**](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - Dec 27

Politicians and business owners have long been fond of talking up the virtues of solar power, but for most homeowners, installing solar panels simply isn't financially realistic. [GoSolarSF](#) began in July 2008 to make the move more affordable for residents. Homeowners can now apply for city-funded cash grants -- from \$500 to \$7,000 -- to subsidize purchases of home solar equipment. The maximum income level for a one-person household to participate in the program is \$63,350. It's \$72,400 for a two-person household and \$81,450 for a three-person home.

[**New financing schemes make solar more affordable for Californians**](#)

Mercury News - Dec 28

A number of Bay Area solar companies -- including Akeena Solar, SolarCity, Sungevity and SunRun -- are pioneering new business models and creative financing mechanisms to make rooftop solar more affordable, and local and state governments, as well as Washington, are poised to help. The White House is promoting a new form of financing generically known as PACE, or [Property Assessed Clean Energy](#), that allows private property owners to pay for renewable projects like solar and energy efficiency upgrades through an addition to their property tax bill.

[**Solar panel theft becoming common in California**](#)

KQED - Dec 29

KQED, a public radio station in San Francisco, reported that as the cost of scrap metal has fallen, thieves have turned to solar panels. According to the story, California has more than 34,000 solar installations and one of the highest solar-panel theft rates in the nation. Many wineries that have the systems have become favored targets. Solar-cell theft is such a problem that Congressman Mike Thompson, who represents Napa Valley, added a provision to the Solar Technology Roadmap Act that would create a national registry of solar panels and require the secretary of energy to come up with

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

Upcoming Events

[AWEA Wind Project Profitability and Reliability Workshop](#)

San Diego, CA

January 19 – 20, 2010

[Clean-tech Investors Summit](#)

Palm Springs, CA

January 20-21, 2010

[2010 VerdeExchange Green Marketmakers Conference](#)

Los Angeles, CA

January 24-25, 2010

[Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition \(RETECH\)](#)

Washington, D.C.

February 3-6, 2010

[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

[*NEW* Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Qualifications for Renewable Energy Projects](#)

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

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

[New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program](#)

[Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals](#)

a plan to deal with theft.

[Algal biofuels lost a decade in the race to replace oil](#)

Wired - Dec 29

For nearly 20 years, National Renewable Energy Laboratory scientists found and isolated around 3,000 species of algae from construction ditches, seasonal desert ponds and briny marshes across the country in a major bioprospecting effort to find the best organisms to convert sunlight and carbon dioxide into fuel for cars. Despite meager funding, the Aquatic Species Program, initiated under President Jimmy Carter, laid the scientific foundation for making diesel-like fuel from the fat that microscopic algae accumulate in their cells. [This article](#) examines the legacy of the program that sought to develop a new biofuel.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[Canon plays novel pre-pay approach for wind power project](#)

Renewable Energy World - Dec 28

[Canon Power Group](#) closed a \$178 million financing deal with Siemens Financial Services, allowing it to expand an existing wind generation project in southern Washington State. Canon combined a government grant with a pre-pay agreement involving a public power authority to complete the financing. The firm plans to use proceeds to pay down previous project debt with HSH Nordbank and build another 60 MW of capacity using 26 turbines. Canon structured the financing with the Siemens financial group based on a "pre-pay" power purchase agreement structure combined with federal stimulus money.

[Navajo Nation advances toward large wind project](#)

Recharge News - Dec 30

The Navajo Nation is going forward with a two-phase, 235-megawatt wind development. It would be the nation's first green energy project and potentially the largest to be owned by a Native American tribe. The Navajo Nation Council voted nearly unanimously to approve two leases for the Big Boquillas wind project on state and tribal lands in northwest Arizona. The first phase of the project, anticipated to be 48 turbines with a capacity of 85MW, is scheduled to begin construction by December 2010.

[Solar Southwest harnesses sun to store wind](#)

GreenInc. - Dec 28

Solar Southwest Technology is going at the problem of energy storage with a new twist. The idea is to take surplus energy at any hour of the day, and from any source, and use it to pump air into a subterranean cavern. Then, when electricity is needed, the air can be bled from the cavern to spin a turbine. The turbine spins a generator and puts power on the grid on demand, rather than at the whim of sun or breeze. Solar Southwest's project is at an early stage. The company set up a prototype solar dish and turbine in Phoenix near the airport, convenient to engineers and potential investors.

[Company to revive California geothermal project](#)

Associated Press - Dec 26

A San Jose-based energy company plans to revive two steam-generating wells in The Geysers geothermal project, which straddle Sonoma and Lake counties. The U.S Department of Energy is contributing nearly \$6 million, about half the estimated cost of the project to begin next summer. Mike Rogers, vice president of [Calpine](#)'s geothermal project, says water will be injected into one well to add to natural underground steam. The second well will help trace the steam's source, movement and effects. Then the roles of the two wells in the 30-square-mile steam field will be switched. Calpine already operates other electricity-generating wells at The Geysers.

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