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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

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attorneys at law

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## [Six renewable energy sources judged to be best prospect for future: report](#)

*Renewable Energy Focus - Nov 18*

The best prospects for large-scale renewable energy production and net-energy performance remain wind and certain forms of solar, according to a study released by two California-based think tanks. "[Searching for a Miracle: Net Energy Limits & the Fate of Industrial Society](#)" is the first major analysis to use the new research tools of full lifecycle assessment and net-energy ratios to compare future scenarios for how industrial society can face its long term future. The report analyzes 18 power alternatives, from traditional fossil fuels and nuclear, through renewable energies such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and biomass, to identify their net-energy ratios (amount of energy that must be invested in them versus the amount of energy they will be able to produce, as well as their environmental, social and geopolitical impacts).

## Renewable Energy Focus

### [U.S. Democrats aim for climate bill by early 2010](#)

*Reuters - Nov 16*

Democrats in the U.S. Senate will attempt to pass a climate-change bill in "early spring" of 2010, Senator John Kerry said, further complicating prospects for an international summit on global warming next month. Many countries are looking to Washington to take a lead in the drive for an international agreement, but this depends on action in Congress. The House of Representatives has passed a bill already, but the issue is moving slowly in the Senate. Kerry said Democrats would try to pass a bill to reduce U.S. carbon dioxide emissions early in the year after approving legislation to revamp the U.S. healthcare system and financial industry.

### [DOE and USDA hand out more than \\$24M for biomass projects](#)

*Cleantech Brief - Nov 16*

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy (USDA, DOE) have awarded grants worth \$24 million for biomass research and development projects. Grants were awarded in three categories. The first, Biofuels and Bio-Based Products, included funding of \$1.6 million for Irvine, California-based GE Global Research to develop kinetic models of biomass gasification. In the second category, Biofuels Development Analysis, grants included \$932,000 for Purdue University to analyze the global impacts of second-generation biofuels. In the third category, Feedstock Development, grants included \$1.9 million for Medford, Massachusetts-based Agrivida to develop new crop traits eliminating the need for expensive pretreatment equipment and enzymes.

### [Electricity executives need to get 'smart' about power](#)

*The San Diego Union-Tribune - Nov 17*

Something has to change for utilities dealing with increased power usage, demands from customers and regulators for green energy, and an aging infrastructure, electricity executives were told in San Diego. "Our current system is not up to the task," said Guido Bartels, who oversees IBM's global utilities consultant group. At the start of a weeklong meeting of executives from around the world, who were in San Diego to discuss how to implement "smart grid" technologies, Bartels said upgrades to electrical systems alone won't do the job. That means changing the way business is

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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

done.

## [\*\*Analyst measures whether there is tradeoff between economics, environment\*\*](#)

*The Energy Collective - Nov 19*

California's RETI process lends insight into the near-term prospects of Solar, Wind, Geothermal, and Biomass. In September, California's Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) released its [Phase 2A report](#), which outlined potential transmission corridors to collect renewable energy from Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) that had been identified in previous phases. The Phase 2A report also screened each CREZ for environmental impact and the potential difficulty of obtaining land for renewable energy development. This article charts the economics of each type of renewable energy in each CREZ against the expected environmental impact of that CREZ.

## [\*\*Californians could Save \\$31B, cut GHG emissions by living in smart-growth communities\*\*](#)

*PR Newswire - Nov 19*

The study [Windfall For All: How Connected, Convenient Neighborhoods Can Protect Our Climate And Safeguard California's Economy](#) finds that residents of the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego who have access to the best public transportation options are not only emitting far fewer greenhouse gas emissions on average, they are also spending billions less on transportation than residents who live in communities where public transportation is scarce. It notes that if all of the residents in the four regions studied lived in transportation-friendly communities, Californians would save \$31 billion per year on transportation costs and emit an average of 34% less greenhouse gases.

## [\*\*No sunny skies for two solar projects in Texas, California\*\*](#)

*Environmental Leader - Nov 19*

Major solar projects in Texas and California are at a standstill -- one over contract renewals and the other due to environmental concerns. NRG Energy's plan to build Texas' largest solar plant near its natural gas plant has halted over contract renewals. The City of Houston had agreed to buy all the power the plant produces for the next 25 years, but the City wants to renew the contract annually rather than enter into a 25-year agreement. Meanwhile, a solar project in San Bernardino County is also faced with a no-go, but in this case it is due to environmental concerns.

## [\*\*San Bernardino County supervisor opposes solar-energy project in Mojave Desert\*\*](#)

*L.A. Times - Nov 18*

A solar-energy project proposed for development on public land in the Mojave Desert would create jobs mostly for Las Vegas and electricity for San Francisco at the expense of the relatively pristine area of east San Bernardino County where it would be built, County supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt said. Mitzelfelt said that BrightSource's proposed 440-megawatt, 4,000-acre Solar Electric Generating System "should not go forward." The system is among 130 renewable-energy applications to build wind and solar projects on more than a million acres of public land under review by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and California Energy Commission.

## [\*\*McCain Valley wind farm plan irks activists\*\*](#)

*The San Diego Union Tribune - Nov 15*

A remote corner of eastern San Diego County is shaping up as a battleground between companies pushing wind farms and activists who view them as a blight on the landscape. It has put environmentalists in the position of opposing renewable energy because, they say, it's in the wrong place. Drawing the most attention is a plan by the Spanish conglomerate

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

### **Upcoming Events**

[\*\*Green Technology Green California Schools Summit\*\*](#)

Pasadena, CA

**December 9-11**

[\*\*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**

### **Recent Opportunities**

[\*\*Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Qualifications for Commercial Development Opportunity in La Verne\*\*](#)

[\*\*Inland Empire Utilities Agency Request for Proposals For Fuel Cell Installation at Regional Plant 1 in Ontario, California\*\*](#)

[\*\*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\*\*](#)

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Iberdrola to build about 100 skyscraper-sized towers in and near the McCain Valley, a federal conservation area abutting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The project, called Tule Wind, would produce about 200 megawatts when the wind is blowing favorably. Iberdrola wants to start construction late next year if it gets past the federal and state approval process.

### **[Amargosa Valley solar plant to use less water](#)**

*Las Vegas Sun - Nov 17*

A California-based solar developer has abandoned plans to use one of the most water-intensive technologies at a solar thermal power plant it has planned for Amargosa Valley. Solar Millennium is undergoing the environmental review process on its plans for two 242-megawatt concentrated solar thermal power generators along the main road through Amargosa Valley. If the plant had gone forward with wet-cooled technology, as the company at first proposed, it would have used about 20,000 acre feet of water per year -- about 2.6 million gallons per megawatt generated. Dry-cooled solar thermal technology uses far less water -- about 130,340 gallons per megawatt.

### **[Green Wave Energy trying to make small wind power accessible](#)**

*L.A. Times - Nov 17*

Green Wave Energy Corp. plans to catch the potential for profit in wind energy. Among its secret weapons is an 11-foot-tall prototype generator that produces as much as 11 kilowatts of electricity using gusts of wind. The device could make do-it-yourself wind power a reality, Chief Executive Mark Holmes said. A model version recently stood amid yachts in a Newport Beach shipyard before being disassembled for updates, but Holmes envisions it moving soon into the backyards and rooftops of homes and businesses.

### **[PG&E looks at compressed air to meet RPS target](#)**

*Cleantech Group - Nov 19*

Pacific Gas & Electric Company says new innovation, including technologies such as compressed air, could help it meet California's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 20% of its electric portfolio to come from renewables in 2010. PG&E's Fong Wan, Senior Vice President, Energy Procurement, said that the company is at 14%, but still needs to add 16,000 gigawatts to meet the goal. The California utility has said that it expects to meet its RPS target, but some renewable sources may not come online by the 2010 deadline.

## **[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)**

### **[Atlumin begins solar materials manufacturing in California](#)**

*Solar Industry - Nov 20*

[Atlumin Energy Inc.](#) has opened a manufacturing facility in Sunnyvale, California. The company plans to ship its first products -- customer-specific rotary sputtering targets for solar module manufacture -- from this new facility in January 2010. The plant will ultimately manufacture a full range of products for solar module manufacturers.

### **[California thin-film solar company begins commercial shipments](#)**

*SustainableBusiness - Nov 19*

California thin-film solar manufacturer MiaSolé announced that it has started shipping its CIGS thin-film modules from its California production facility. The firm says it has now shipped modules to 30 customer sites in Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Portugal and various locations in the U.S. Earlier this year MiaSolé announced the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory verified that the company is producing modules exceeding 10% efficiency.

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