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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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[U.S. wind power sector grows 15% in 2010: AWEA](#)

AWEA - Apr 7

The U.S. wind energy sector grew by 15% in 2010 and accounted for more than a quarter of all new U.S. electric generating capacity, according to AWEA's [2010 Annual Market Report](#). There are currently 40,181 megawatts of wind power installed in the U.S., with the potential to power more than 10 million American homes. Observers say competitive, lower costs as compared to other sources of power and the extension of the Treasury Department's Section 1603 tax credit program have spurred the wind industry's growth.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[BrightSource raises \\$201M amid IPO rumors](#)

EcoSeed - Apr 4

BrightSource Energy raised \$201 million in its latest funding round, bringing the total amount of venture capital investment in the company to \$530 million and fueling rumors that the California-based company is planning an IPO for 2011. Company representatives say they will use the money to help develop planned solar energy projects totaling 2.5GW, including their 392MW Ivanpah facility in California. BrightSource's proven ability to secure financing from the public and private sectors is the main contributor to talk that the company will go public in 2011, EcoSeed reports.

[DOE issues \\$50M in SunShot grants to two California solar companies](#)

Central Valley Business Times - Apr 5

The Department of Energy has awarded \$25 million grants to both SVTC Technologies of San Jose and the Bay Area PV Consortium, which is co-managed by Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley as part of its SunShot initiative to boost the competitiveness of U.S. in the global solar market. SVTC will use their grant to provide much of the up-front capital they need to build a fee-for-service PV manufacturing facility. The Bay Area PV Consortium will put their money into R&D projects and programs related to high-volume PV manufacturing.

[San Diego County solar project connects to grid](#)

GetSolar - Apr 1

The Helix Water District in San Diego has announced that its recently-installed, 290-kW solar system has been activated. The project was developed as a cooperative effort between Borrego Solar and the [California Center for Sustainable Energy](#), with a \$463,000 rebate from the California Solar Initiative. Borrego Solar estimates the installation will offset 11.9 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over the 20-year span of its power purchase agreement, the equivalent of 18,000 barrels of oil or 107 acres of trees.

[Study: East Coast solar market gaining on California](#)

Renewable Energy World - Apr 6

While California is still the undisputed national leader in solar installations, its

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Upcoming Events

[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

[Santa Clara Solar Photovoltaic Energy System at Tasman Drive Parking Structure Request for Proposals](#)

[Two New Solar Energy Opportunities](#)

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

market dominance is fading as East Coast and other domestic markets take up an increasingly large slice of the solar industry, according to a [study](#) from GTM Research. California occupied 80% of the U.S. solar market in 2005, the report shows, but its share has slipped to 30% as the market becomes increasingly diversified. Led by New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina, the East Coast solar market installed more solar than California in 2010, a positive trend that indicates the strength and growth potential of the U.S. solar industry.

[Solar power cost to drop 50% in a decade, analysts say](#)

Bloomberg - Apr 6

The cost to build utility-scale solar projects will be \$1.45 per watt by 2020, half the current price, according to estimates from Bloomberg New Energy Finance. The price of solar power is already close to grid parity with coal-generated energy, Bloomberg reports, and is likely to continue to drop as improved technology, cheaper panels, and more efficient manufacturing processes make utility-scale solar power an affordable option in more areas around the world. In addition, public perception of solar as an expensive energy source will fall concurrently with the cost of residential and small commercial PV, leading to a boom in smaller installations, industry experts predict.

[Senate shoots down GOP anti-EPA legislation](#)

Boston Globe / Associated Press - Apr 7

The Senate voted 50-50 to reject legislation proposed by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) that would have blocked the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions. The bill needed 60 votes to pass. President Obama had stated his intent to veto the bill if it passed the Senate vote. Four Democrats supported the bill, while one Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, voted against it.

Related News:

[EPA's greenhouse gas regulations survive Senate vote](#)

[Audit finds Los Angeles utility had no coherent plan to meet renewable energy goals](#)

Los Angeles Times - Apr 7

Luck played a greater role than planning and policies in helping the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) achieve its goal of a 20% renewable energy portfolio, according to an audit of the utility by City Controller Wendy Greuel. The audit found that while the utility clearly stated its goals for renewable energy, it failed to take note of the program's costs. "Our auditors estimate that the DWP only achieved a 20% renewable energy portfolio due to abnormally cool temperatures and higher than expected wind at department-owned wind farms," Greuel wrote in a letter issued with the audit. LADWP General Manager Ron Nichols said that regardless of the audit results, the utility deserves praise for meeting its 20% renewable energy goal.

[Analysis: California faces difficulty wooing renewable energy firms](#)

Silicon Valley Mercury News - Apr 5

Cash-strapped California towns and cities are finding it increasingly difficult to convince businesses to set up shop in their areas and the situation is unlikely to improve in the short term, according to Chris O'Brien in the Silicon Valley Mercury News. O'Brien cites the city of Stockton's recent attempt to entice AQT Solar to build a factory in the area that would have created about 1,000 jobs. The company, which is headquartered in California, chose to locate the factory in North Carolina instead after N.C. state and local government offered millions more in tax breaks and other incentives than were available to Stockton. With Gov. Brown aiming to phase out enterprise zones and redevelopment agencies intended to create jobs in economically hard-hit areas, O'Brien predicts the



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situation will worsen before it improves.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[California firm joins Hawaii wind project](#)

Honolulu Star-Advertiser - Apr 4

San Francisco-based Pattern Energy will partner with Molokai Properties (MPL) to develop a 90MW, 200-turbine windpower project in Hawaii after MPL was unable to reach an agreement with its previous partner, First Wind. MPL broke off its partnership with First Wind in late 2010 due to First Wind's alleged failure to satisfactorily inform the local community about the project. Both MPL and Pattern representatives say they are confident in Pattern's ability to keep the community informed on the project through all stages of development.

[SolFocus, Bechtel partner on Central Valley's first CPV facility](#)

Business Wire - Apr 1

Mountain View-based concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) developer SolFocus has partnered with Bechtel Power Corp. to build a 1MW solar installation on a pistachio farm in Hanford. The Bechtel-designed system, which is composed of 119 8.8kW SolFocus SF1100S CPV systems, is the first of its kind to be built in the Central Valley region. The facility is located on six acres next to Nichols Farms' processing plant and connects to transmission lines serviced by SCE. SolFocus representatives say the project is a pioneering step toward using more renewable energy in agribusiness.

[Sacramento city partners with SolarCity on three solar projects](#)

Sacramento Bee - Apr 2

Sacramento city officials have signed a deal with San Mateo-based SolarCity to install 8,000 solar panels on City Hall, the Richards Police Facility, and the city's corporate yards. A spokesman for SolarCity said the project would create 20 jobs in the city. The installations are part of the city's drive to develop a reputation as a national leader in renewable energy use. Sacramento officials are also currently in talks with German solar firm Conergy to build a solar farm on 172 acres of reclaimed landfill that would generate enough electricity to power 16,000 homes.

[Verengo to expand PV installation business to Fresno](#)

Verengo Solar Plus / Marketwire - Apr 5

Orange County-based [Verengo Solar Plus](#) plans to expand its residential solar PV business into Fresno County. Verengo, which claims to be the largest business of its kind in Southern California, will offer financing, design, and installation services, including its "\$0 down" financing option. Verengo executives characterize the county's potential for PV installation growth as "huge", citing the region's sunny climate and currently high electricity prices as driving factors.

[SCE to buy power from City of Industry PV project](#)

Clean Energy Authority - Apr 5

Southern California Edison has signed a 20-year power purchase deal for a planned 2MW carport PV array in the City of Industry as part of its Utility Scale Solar Rooftop Project. City officials said 15 or 16 companies have expressed interest in building the \$10-million installation, which will be fitted on the roof of a 1,000-unit carport. Construction on the project is scheduled to start in summer 2011 and conclude in Feb. 2012.

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