

September 29, 2009

## **Biomass should be counted as part of green plan: advocate**

*San Francisco Chronicle - September 21*

Gregg Morris, director of the Green Power Institute, and president of Future Resources Associates Inc., writes in this editorial that as California struggles to meet the renewable energy goals set by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the state ought to embrace biomass. Burning agricultural waste or forest residue to generate electricity releases no more carbon dioxide than if those materials simply decayed, he says. Adding biomass energy reduces the need to burn fossil fuels, and the less fossil fuel we burn the more we reduce our carbon footprint.

### Renewable Energy Focus

#### **Solar Power International Conference**

**Anaheim, CA - October 27-29**

Allen Matkins will be attending! [Please let us know if you will be there.](#)

Allen Matkins will be attending and exhibiting  
**Solar Power International 2009**  
October 27 - 29, 2009 in Anaheim, California  
Please come visit our Booth: 3171

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## **Business leaders urge solar power support**

*San Francisco Chronicle - September 25*

Executives from Pacific Gas and Electric Company and San Francisco-based NextLight Renewable Power joined others in urging the House Select

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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

Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming to promote solar power with federal tax incentives, spending and policy. Solar power currently makes up about 1% of the nation's electricity supplies, according to the Energy Information Administration. It has been hampered by the nation's aging electric transmission system, construction costs and, in some cases, environmental barriers to constructing solar installations.

## [Desert solar warrants a surge in investor appetite: report](#)

*Solve Climate - September 22*

The market for desert solar farms is poised for breakaway growth, according to a [new report](#) by Swiss bank UBS on the state of concentrating solar thermal power (CSP). "The CSP market is on the point of taking off. After a long period of stagnation, the market is now evolving more dynamically. Interestingly, for regions in the sun belt, CSP offers similar opportunities as large offshore wind farms in Europe," the report says. UBS says that growth rates of 35% over the next few years could add 20,000 MW of solar farms by 2020. Current installed capacity is just around 500 MW.

## [Sacramento warming to solar power](#)

*Sacramento Bee - September 20*

Falling prices, rising utility rates and new government incentives may finally be driving serious growth in the region's market for residential solar power. In August, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District received applications for 422 kilowatts of residential solar-panel systems — more than three times as much as in any previous month, according to data from the utility. While demand for residential solar appears to be picking up among SMUD customers, utility officials still have modest expectations for the technology. By 2020, SMUD forecasts that roughly 3,000 of its ratepayers' homes will have been retrofitted for solar electricity. The utility now has 522,000 residential connections.

## [Solexant to take on First Solar on cost: CEO](#)

*Reuters - September 21*

Solar cell developer Solexant Corp is starting a new financing round that it hopes will bring its thin-film solar panels to market and take on First Solar Inc. San Jose-based Solexant is looking to raise \$50 million by the first quarter of 2010. That will finance a 100-megawatt production line planned to come online in 2011. The company already had raised \$22.5 million from two rounds of financing from its investors -- X/Seed Company, Trident Capital, Medley Partners and Firelake Capital. Solexant, founded in 2006, has developed nanocrystal technology for thin-film solar panels that will undercut industry leaders.

## [Smart grid standards roadmap unveiled](#)

*GreentechMedia - September 24*

The federal government released its [draft of smart grid standards](#), laying out specific standards utilities and vendors will be expected to meet in smart grid deployments, as well as 14 "priority" areas and an ongoing cybersecurity standards-setting process it hopes to complete by 2010. It's the next stage in a process to rush a standards development process that might otherwise take several years into a months-long timeframe. The 90-page report is now open for a 30-day comment period and is meant to lead eventually to a certification and testing process required of all smart grid technologies deployed in the nation.

## [Few alternatives for state utilities](#)

*L.A. Business Journal - September 21*

successful panel discussion at JDSUPRA™  
on [Renewable Energy Project Finance](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### [2nd Renewable Energy Finance Forum – West](#)

San Francisco, CA  
**September 29 & 30**

### [2009 Algae Biomass Summit](#)

San Diego, CA  
**October 7-9**

### [ICSC Retail Green \(Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design\)](#)

Hollywood, CA  
**October 14-16**

### [Solar Power Project Development](#)

San Diego, CA  
**October 22**

### [Solar Power International](#)

Anaheim, CA  
**October 27-29**

### [Urban Land Institute 2009 ULI Fall Meeting and Urban Land Expo](#)

San Francisco, CA  
**November 3-6**

### [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

### [Los Angeles Unified School District's Request for Qualifications For Solar Photovoltaic Systems Installation](#)

### [City of Willows](#)

Southern California Edison faces a daunting challenge in meeting state deadlines for getting its power from alternative energy sources. So much so that the utility admits it probably won't meet the first one. State utilities must get 20% of their power from renewable sources by the end of next year. SCE said it will likely fall short, although it will be above the average of other utilities statewide. Southern California Edison, along with the rest of the state's utilities, must also draw 33% of their power from renewable sources by 2020. Failure to make a good-faith effort to meet the 2010 deadline could result in fines as high as \$25 million per year. The biggest challenge has been trying to find sites and then building transmission lines to connect the remote renewable power plants to SCE's customer base.

### **[L.A. may drop plans for controversial transmission line](#)**

*L.A. Times - September 22*

Los Angeles officials said the city may abandon plans to build a highly controversial "green" power transmission line through unspoiled desert and wildlife preserves on a route east of the San Bernardino Mountains, focusing instead on alternative pathways mostly along an interstate highway where high-voltage lines already exist. The Department of Water and Power's proposed 85-mile-long Green Path North transmission line has faced opposition from more than a dozen community and environmental groups. The proposed transmission line, which is about to undergo federal and state environmental review, is designed to bring electricity generated by solar, geothermal, wind and nuclear power to Los Angeles from the southeastern California deserts and Arizona.

### **[California's appetite for green power could boost rates in Northwest](#)**

*Seattle Times - September 20*

California may come hunting soon for large amounts of wind power from the Pacific Northwest, and that has many Washington utilities worried about increased competition and higher electric bills for consumers. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order requiring California to get 33% of its energy from green sources by 2020. One government estimate says California would need an additional 5,700 average megawatts of renewable energy. Washington utilities, by comparison, are projected to need an additional 1,000 average megawatts of renewable energy by 2020 to meet their own requirements mandated by Initiative 937. Several utilities -- including Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power, which serve more than a half-million customers combined, worry that California will try to snap up large amounts of the Northwest's limited supply.

### **[Oakland solar firm hits desert swarm](#)**

*Mercury News - September 24*

BrightSource Energy has encountered some storm clouds in its quest to bring a solar future to large stretches of the western U.S. The Oakland-based developer of solar farms has been forced to scuttle its plans to build a solar energy plant in the Broadwell Dry Lake area of California's Mojave Desert. Plus, BrightSource must deal with environmental fears linked to its plans to build a solar energy field in the Ivanpah section of the Mojave. But the company believes it will ultimately prevail in its efforts to build a three-plant solar electricity complex at Ivanpah that could ultimately generate 440 megawatts of power.

### **[Applied Materials sees solar unit profit in 2010](#)**

*Reuters - September 21*

Applied Materials plans to improve efficiency to cut the cost of producing solar panels below \$1 per watt in three years and is on track to post profits at its environmental unit next year. The firm also laid out plans for SunFab

Opportunity Document hosted at JDSUPRA™

<http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=79eb69d9-9c01-4981-a3f4-02c82794dbde>

**[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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panels with 12% conversion efficiency and module costs below \$0.70 per watt by 2012. Applied Materials is relying on its solar equipment cannot bolster sales and growth as its traditional chip business falters. Thin-film equipment has been hit by tightening credit and cutbacks in some government subsidies. Thin-film panels are less efficient than crystalline at converting sunlight into electricity but are typically cheaper to manufacture because they use less silicon.

### **Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals**

#### **[Montana, Wyoming wind power sought for \\$3B lines](#)**

*Associated Press - September 23*

A Canadian company is seeking wind power developers to move electricity along a pair of \$3 billion transmission lines in Montana and Wyoming -- potentially spurring a major increase in renewable power exported from the Rockies to the Southwest. The two lines would move 3,000 megawatts of power from each state. Alberta-based TransCanada says the lines would extend more than 1,000 miles each to the Eldorado Valley near Las Vegas. They would connect to markets in California, Nevada and Arizona. TransCanada has been planning the lines for several years, but earlier this year had delayed its search for potential customers.

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