

June 9, 2009

California utilities lead solar power charge

Solar Electric Power Association - May 28

Three California utilities top the list for the adoption of solar power last year, according to a new annual report issued by the [Solar Electric Power Association](#). Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) was the most solar-integrated utility for the year 2008, interconnecting 85 megawatts of new capacity, more than 44 percent of the total reported by the 92 utilities surveyed. With almost 30,000 photovoltaic systems installed, PG&E has connected more solar customers to the electric grid than any other utility company in the country -- about half of the installations across the country. Sempra Generation's 10 megawatt solar power-generation facility in Nevada, with 167,000 solar panels on 88 acres, is the largest thin-film, solar-power project in North America, generating enough electricity to power 6,400 homes. Ranked second and third were Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric.

Renewable Energy Focus

Edison sees difficulties boosting renewable energy

Bloomberg - May 29

Edison International, owner of California's largest electric utility, says it will be difficult to keep increasing its use of renewable energy as the latest goal set by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger stretches limits on the ability to manage such power sources. Under a November proposal that may become law this year, Schwarzenegger said utilities should derive 33 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020. California regulators already are considering allowing use of tradable renewable energy credits to help utilities meet a 20 percent renewables mandate by the end of next year. The 2020 target would place even heavier reliance on wind and sunlight, intermittent sources that may be expensive to manage without blackouts, said Edison Chief Executive Officer Ted Craver. Edison's Southern California Edison utility probably won't meet a 2010 mandate of 20 percent because generators and power lines needed to meet the goal still need regulatory approval, he said.

Coalition sees bigger role for concentrating solar power

New York Times - June 3

In a new [report](#), solar advocates have increased their forecasts for the amount of electricity that could be supplied by a technology known as concentrating solar power, saying that C.S.P. may be able to deliver up to 7 percent electricity demand worldwide by 2030 and up to a quarter of those needs by mid-century. The report was prepared by Greenpeace, the European Solar Thermal Electricity Association, and SolarPACES, an organization of national experts that works under the umbrella of the International Energy Agency. Previous forecasts by those groups suggested that C.S.P. could supply up to 5 percent of electricity around the world by 2040. C.S.P. technology often uses hundreds of mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays to a temperature typically between 400 and 1,000 degrees centigrade to drive electricity-generating turbines.

Subscribe

Have a suggestion?
[Tell us what you think.](#)

Editors

[William R. Devine](#)
[Patrick A. Perry](#)
[Emily Murray](#)

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

Upcoming Events

[Tribal Energy in California Conference](#)
Cabazon, CA
June 22 & 23

[South Coast Air Quality Management District "Green Tech Connect Forum"](#)
Pasadena, CA
August 3-4

[Energy In California](#)
San Francisco, CA
September 14 & 15

[Developing Wind Power Projects in California](#)
Marina del Rey, CA
Sept 17 & 18

Recent Opportunities

[LADWP & City of Willows](#)

[Inland Empire Utilities Agency Extends Deadline for Fuel Cell Power Generation Systems Design-Build RFP](#)

[U.S. Navy and Marine Corps and Marin Energy Authority Renewable](#)

[Nobel laureate pans wind power for Europe](#)

The Times (U.K.) - May 27

Europe should scrap its support for wind energy as soon as possible to focus on far more efficient emerging forms of clean power generation including solar thermal energy, one of the world's most distinguished scientists says. Professor Jack Steinberger, a Nobel prize-winning director of the CERN particle physics laboratory in Geneva, said that wind represented an illusory technology -- a cul-de-sac that would prove uneconomic and a waste of resources in the battle against climate change. Instead, he said, technologies such as solar thermal power represent a more promising way of supplanting fossil fuels.

[Five geothermal firms to watch as funds come down](#)

CBS bnet - May 29

Geothermal energy, which uses the planet's sub-surface heat to generate electricity, is a valued resource because it doesn't emit greenhouse gases and can provide baseload power. With \$350 million in funding from the Obama administration, interest in the industry is growing, although it's still unclear where the Federal money will land. Experts list the following as players to watch -- and perhaps among the first to benefit: Ormat Technologies; Calpine; U.S. Geothermal; Raser Technologies; and AltaRock Energy.

[U.S. House puts climate bill on quick pace for passage](#)

Reuters - June 4

Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives have put major environmental legislation on a fast-track, boosting chances a climate change bill will pass this month or next, leading lawmakers say. In May, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved a bill requiring reductions of industrial emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases of 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050, from 2005 levels. The climate change bill and healthcare reform are top priorities of President Barack Obama, and House Democrats hope to approve both initiatives before an August recess. Pushing ahead after the Energy and Commerce committee's action, House leaders are placing strict deadlines for other panels to review the controversial legislation in the hope of passing it quickly in the full House.

[Renewables took bulk of global energy investment in 2008: U.N.](#)

The Guardian (U.K.) - June 3

Wind and solar power rather than traditional energy won the lion's share of global investment in power generating capacity last year despite the credit crunch, a new report from the United Nations has revealed. More than \$140 billion was injected into renewable electricity production in 2008 a total power investment of \$250 billion. China and other Asian countries ramped up spending as investment faltered slightly in Europe and the U.S. due to the economic crisis. But with the U.N. calling for \$750 billion to be spent worldwide between 2009-11 to help meet climate change targets, 2009 has started with a 53-percent slump in first quarter renewables investment to \$13.3 billion, according to the latest annual Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment report.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[SolarCity launches tax equity fund](#)

Sustainable Industries - June 4

One of the country's largest residential solar installers is planning to expand its capacity with the establishment of a new financing stream.

Energy Opportunities hosted at JDSUPRA™

<http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=87daf8ad-d8c8-4739-a7ff-79353622d2e2>

[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](#)

About Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)



Allen Matkins
#1 Real Estate Law
Firm in California
Chambers and Partners
2002 - 2008

SolarCity and U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corp. have created a tax equity fund to finance residential and commercial projects. The fund is expected to bolster Foster City-based SolarCity's SolarLease program, which allows residential customers to finance home solar systems through monthly payments without a large initial investments. The company's SolarLease program, which is available in California, Oregon and Arizona, is one of several strategies public and private entities are using to remove the hurdle of upfront costs to solar installations, such as finding solar systems through property tax assessments.

[EPA honors tribe for complete reliance on renewable energy](#)

The Press-Enterprise - June 1

Eleven years after the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians began a quest to bring electricity to their reservation near Anza, the small tribe has received an award from the Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest Region for achievement in protecting the environment. Over the years, the tribe has built an off-grid system that relies totally on renewable energy. It received funding from the Department of Energy, Housing and Urban Development and other federal agencies.

[FuelCell Energy to power government buildings in Sonoma County](#)

FuelCell Energy - June 5

[FuelCell Energy, Inc.](#) has announced the sale of Direct FuelCell (DFC) power plant to California's Sonoma County to supply 100-percent of the baseload electricity needed to operate a county jail and county office buildings in Santa Rosa. The DFC1500 power plant will generate 1.4 megawatts of ultra-clean electricity and its byproduct heat will be recovered and used to replace approximately half the natural gas the County currently purchases to make hot water for space heating, cleaning and cooking. Overall, the County of Sonoma expects significant energy cost savings during the first year of operation. The DFC power plant is scheduled to be in operation in spring of 2010.