

July 27, 2010

[Economists say blocking California's clean energy law will be costly](#)

North American Windpower - Jul 23

More than 100 economists with expertise in California energy and climate issues have released an open letter, warning against any delay in the implementation of California clean energy policies. The letter was organized by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The 118 economists who signed the letter support A.B.32 and the clean energy policies it requires, stating that these policies can "stimulate innovation and efficiency," "help the state become a technological leader in the global marketplace," "improve our energy security, create new business opportunities and more jobs," and "provide immediate benefits to the health and welfare of residents by reducing local pollutants."

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Schwarzenegger asks California regulators to delay 33% RPS](#)

Greenwire/New York Times - Jul 21

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has quietly asked state regulators to delay final action on a 33% renewable portfolio standard to give legislators in Sacramento more time to pass a bill that would give the mandate more strength as standing law. The governor sent a letter to Mary Nichols, chairwoman of the California Air Resources Board (ARB), requesting that the agency postpone a scheduled vote this month until its September board meeting. The agency had been expected to consider the RPS rule before July 31. "In light ... of ongoing discussions with legislative leaders to develop a bill that I can sign, I am requesting that the Air Resources Board postpone consideration of the proposal," the governor wrote in the letter to Nichols.

[SDG&E wind plan 'concerns' group](#)

San Diego Union-Tribune - Jul 21

A San Francisco consumer group says it has "serious concerns" about a proposal by San Diego Gas & Electric to invest up to \$600 million in a Montana wind farm. The biggest problem is that the power generated by the turbines in northern Montana won't actually be delivered to California customers, but will instead go to Canada, said Matthew Freedman, a lawyer with TURN, The Utility Reform Network. SDG&E plans to use the wind farm to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard requirement that utilities get 20% of their power from wind, solar and other renewable sources.

[\\$1.2B in place for next phases of largest U.S. wind project](#)

BrighterEnergy - Jul 22

Terra-Gen Power has sealed \$1.2 billion in financing for four phases of its Alta Wind Energy Center, located near Tehachapi. The company has also ordered 190 wind turbines from Danish manufacturer Vestas for the 570 MW of new capacity it is planning. It represents the largest order for a single site for Vestas, with the project set to become one of the largest wind farms in the U.S. Delivery is scheduled for late 2010, with the first 50 turbines expected to be commissioned by the end of the year, with remaining machines commissioned in the first half of 2011.

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Upcoming Events

[Energy in California](#)
San Francisco, CA
September 13-14, 2010

[Solar trade groups calls for broad adoption of feed-in tariffs in U.S.](#)

Sunpluggers - Jul 22

Saying that feed-in tariffs are "long overdue" in the U.S., state and regional solar industry trade groups are calling for widespread U.S. adoption of this form of incentive for renewable energy development. Feed-in tariffs have been widely used in Europe and Asia to promote the development of the solar industry in particular. A handful of relatively small feed-in tariff programs have been tried in the U.S., most recently in Oregon, where a pilot program sold out almost immediately when it opened to the public July 1. The California trade association was joined by others from across the country in calling for broad use of feed-in tariffs when the groups met recently at the Intersolar North America trade show in San Francisco.

[U.S. Senate drops key measures in energy bill](#)

Business Green - Jul 23

The U.S. Senate has abandoned plans to include a carbon cap and a base level for renewable energy generation in the energy bill brought by Democrat senators Joe Lieberman and John Kerry. Renewable energy groups are up in arms about the failure of these key measures. The development is also seen as a political blow to President Obama. No Republican senators have backed the bill which they label as an energy tax. The bill requires a 60% majority to pass. Publicly Lieberman and Kerry remain confident that carbon cap-and-trade legislation will be passed eventually. The bill may be reintroduced in September, after the Senate's August recess, but it is unlikely that Lieberman and Kerry can garner additional support.

Related News:

[Democrats abandon sweeping energy plan](#)

[AWEA statement on Reid's energy bill](#)

[On the death of the climate bill](#)

[New climate change bill will not include RES, carbon caps](#)

[Renewables Global Status report examines current state of industry](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Jul 21

The Renewables Global Status [report](#) provides a snapshot of where and how renewables are being developed around the world by sector. The report was released by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, also known as REN21, and it provides an upbeat picture for renewable. Although wind and solar are scaling up the fastest, the REN21 report shows other industries are making some good gains as well.

[New climate, energy policies could create 2.5 million jobs, hold down energy costs: study](#)

Center for Climate Strategies - Jul 21

New greenhouse gas emissions and energy policies at the Federal level could generate as many as 2.5 million new jobs and \$134 billion in economic activity in the U.S. while keeping energy costs down, according to a new report from the Center for Climate Strategies, published with Johns Hopkins University. The report is based on economic impacts of climate policies developed by 16 states and calls for adoption of 23 specific policy approaches that have the potential to reduce pollution, are cost effective, and improve energy, health, environment, and economic development.

[Venture capital funding in California gains steam, clean energy picking up](#)

L.A. Times - Jul 19

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA

September 29-30, 2010

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)

Scottsdale, AZ

October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

October 12-14, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA

January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[Municipal Water District's Palo Verde Renewable Energy Development Opportunity Request for Proposals](#)

[Request for Proposals](#)

[Request for Proposals](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

[Offers](#)

[Los Angeles World Airport's Request for Concepts and Qualifications For the Potential Lease for Development of Renewable Energy Project at Palmdale](#)

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

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Venture capital investment reached almost \$4 billion in California during the second quarter of this year, a 51% gain from the same period last year and the most since the third quarter of 2008. The number of companies they are funding also rose — up more than 8% to 296 compared with a year earlier, according to Dow Jones VentureSource, which collected the data. Historically, venture capital investment has leaned toward technology and healthcare companies, but the data for the latest quarter shows funding is increasingly going to the energy sector. In California, renewable energy accounted for just 21 of the deals — not even 10% of the total — but represented \$1 billion, or about a quarter, of the money invested, an analyst noted.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Google buys wind power, first deal for Google Energy](#)

GigaOm/New York Times - Jul 20

“Google Energy,” Google’s subsidiary that was approved to buy and sell electricity on federally regulated wholesale markets, has its first deal. Google said that starting on July 30, Google Energy will begin buying clean power from 114 MW of wind energy via a wind farm in Iowa owned by NextEra Energy Resources. Google says it won’t actually be using the clean energy in Iowa to power any of its operations, but plans to instead sell that power back to the grid operator there in exchange for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). Google can then use these RECs (which are commodities that can be traded on markets) to offset its carbon emissions from its operations, and help with its pledge to become carbon neutral.

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