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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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[Report: U.S. solar PV pipeline to hit 17GW](#)

Solarbuzz - Jul 6

The U.S. pipeline of non-residential solar PV projects planned to be built between 2011 and 2015 has grown to 17GW, according to research conducted by analysis firm Solarbuzz. The company has identified 601 major solar PV projects ranging in size from 50kW to 500MW that are set to be installed by 2015, almost two-thirds of which are located in California. First Solar, SunPower, and Suntech are the three module suppliers expected to benefit the most from the boom in utility-scale solar development. The Solarbuzz research indicates the increase in large-scale solar development is due to the DOE's loan guarantee program for renewable energy projects.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[UN report: Global green energy investment rose to \\$211B in 2010](#)

United Nations Environment Programme - Jul 6

Spurred largely by wind farms in China and the European solar energy boom, global investment in green energy rose 32% to \$211 billion in 2010, according to a report from the United Nations Environment Programme. The report claims a 540% increase in overall investment in renewable energy since 2004, with the amount invested in developing countries rising about 25% to \$72 million in that period, overtaking green energy investment in developed countries for the first time. The Middle East and Africa showed the sharpest percentage increase in renewables investment worldwide, with a 104% increase in 2010.

[Gov. Brown: 33% renewable energy mandate 'just a start'](#)

Reuters - Jul 1

California's mandate to get a third of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 is 'just a start', according to Gov. Jerry Brown. "I think 40 percent, at reasonable cost, is well within our grasp in the near future," said Brown. The administration is studying if the 40 percent target is feasible, as well as the possibility of installing many rooftop solar installations across the state that could provide as much as half of the energy needed to meet Brown's goal. The state is planning to build transmission infrastructure and develop an efficient means of storing energy to cope with the often-remote locations of wind and solar farms and the intermittent nature of some forms of renewable energy.

[Permitting, transmission lines could slow California's progress to 33% renewable energy goal](#)

California Independent Voter Network - Jul 7

California's push to obtain 33% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 could be hindered by a number of issues, according to analysis from Bob Morris for the California Independent Voter Network. The state's notoriously sluggish permitting process for renewable energy projects, the need for \$12 billion worth of transmission lines, and frequent litigation from citizens', environmental, and native groups all provide significant stumbling blocks to the progress of the 33% mandate. Morris asserts that the mandate's biggest challenge is whether California will be able to have enough renewable energy generation facilities built to meet the 2020 deadline.

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Upcoming Events

[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

[County of Santa Clara Request for Qualifications for Energy Efficiency Services and Projects](#)[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)[San Diego Gas and Electric Company's 2011 Eligible Renewable Resources Request for Offers](#)[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)[San Francisco Public Utilities](#)

[Judge rejects challenges to Sunrise Powerlink transmission lines](#)

East County Magazine - Jul 2

U.S. District Court Judge Roger T. Benitez has dismissed complaints against the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line project from three East County groups that alleged the BLM and FWS violated federal law by providing inadequate environmental review. The judge ruled that the complainants did not challenge a final decision by the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) regarding the BLM issues, and that plaintiffs therefore lost legal standing in federal court regarding the BLM issues.

[UK scientists develop 'plastic wrap' solar cells](#)

STFC - Jul 4

Researchers at the UK-based Science & Technology Facilities Council claim to have developed solar cells that can be made into layers of flexible material similar to plastic wrap and deposited over large areas to create efficient solar cell structures. The scientists found that a solution containing a mixture of complex molecules produces an efficient solar cell when spread on a surface. Those involved in the project say the discovery has the potential to radically reduce the cost of solar cell manufacturing.

[Analysis weighs whether California should adopt German solar model](#)

Grist - Jul 6

Solar energy costs significantly less in Germany than it does in California thanks to a feed-in tariff program, and the state stands to reap considerable economic benefits by emulating the German model, according to analysis from Grist's Paul Gipe. Californians would only pay \$0.24/kWh with a German-style feed-in tariff in place, compared to the \$0.34/kWh they pay with the current system. Gipe suggests that CPUC's failure to implement [SB32](#), a feed-in tariff voted into state law in 2009, is preventing California's residents from enjoying considerable savings on solar energy.

[L.A. utility considers relaunch of solar incentive program, proposes revamped solar FIT](#)

LADWP - Jul 6

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has issued a proposal to re-launch its solar incentive program, which was shut down in May due to processing backlogs. The utility has also introduced a proposal for a solar feed-in tariff that would enable third parties to sell solar power back to the LADWP's electrical grid. The FIT program is looking to initially install 75MW of distributed renewable power, beginning with a 5MW pilot project to begin this fall.

[KB Home opens Antelope Valley's first solar home community](#)

Business Wire - Jul 6

Through a partnership with the City of Lancaster, California, KB Homes opened the first community in the Antelope Valley in which all homes have solar-power installations as a standard feature. The Arroyo community is the first of 11 such communities KB Homes is planning to open throughout Southern California. Homes in the community start at \$200,000 and are each situated on a half acre of land.

[Antelope Valley renewable energy projects meet resistance from locals](#)

[Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)



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Los Angeles Times - Jul 4

Windpower and solar energy developers have big plans for California's Antelope Valley, with two solar projects already approved and eight other renewable energy projects having been proposed. Some local residents are requesting that local officials place limits on the amount of renewable energy development in the area with the reasoning that an abundance of such projects, especially wind farms, would ruin views, generate noise and lower property values. "We believe the area can support some industrial-scale solar panels, but we don't believe the whole western Antelope Valley should be covered with them, and we don't believe wind turbines belong anywhere out there," said local activist, Margaret Rhyne.

[Residents oppose planned Kern County wind farm](#)

Bakersfield Now - Jul 6

Advocacy group Friends of Sand Canyon is expressing opposition to Helo Energy's plan to build a 20MW wind farm on 300 acres near the Kern County community. Safety concerns, such as fires or the possibility of blades flying off the windmills, topped the group's list of concerns about the project. Helo spokesperson, Diane Oglesby, said the company is making efforts to communicate and compromise with the community, and says there is some flexibility as to the size, number and location of the turbines.

[DOE, Georgia Tech develop tidal energy resource database](#)

Georgia Tech - Jul 6

A research team at Georgia Tech Savannah has launched the [first database](#) to map the quantities of tidal energy available from U.S. tidal streams. The database was developed by Dr. Kevin Haas, the school's principal investigator and assistant professor of civil engineering, via a \$459,000 grant from the DOE. The school is touting the database as "an important step towards providing information to improve performance, reduce costs and accelerate deployment of innovative water power technologies." The database includes tidal energy information for the coasts of the mainland U.S., as well as those of Alaska and Puerto Rico.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[San Diego firm to invest \\$2.5B in Mexico wind farms](#)

Reuters - Jul 7

San Diego-based Cannon Power Group will invest \$2.5 billion in 300MW of wind energy projects in Mexico, Reuters reports. The company will develop wind farms in Baja California, where it already has a wind project in development, the central state of Zacatecas and Qunitana Roo. Mexican President Felipe Calderon said Cannon's investment would push total foreign investment over \$100 million. Calderon is pushing for Mexico to source 26% of its energy from renewable sources by 2012.

[California solar firm withdraws from Ohio project](#)

The Columbus Dispatch - Jul 4

Sunnyvale, California-based solar-products company Calisolar has backed out of plans to open a manufacturing facility in a former GM stamping factory in Ontario, Ohio. Company representatives said Calisolar would not be able to meet the requirements for the \$275-million loan guarantee it had received from the DOE if it built in Ontario. Ontario-area officials expressed disappointment in Calisolar's decision, but have vowed to continue to seek out other prospects. The Calisolar project had been anticipated to create as many as 2,000 jobs in the area.

[San Mateo company wins \\$100K award for solar windows](#)

Mercury News - Jul 3

San Mateo, California-based Pythagoras Solar has won an innovation award from GE worth \$100,000 for its solar energy-producing windows. The windows consist of solar cells between dual panes of glass; prisms concentrate the sunlight into the cells and also filter the light, reducing the need for air-conditioning.

[Bloom Energy to open factory in Delaware, looks to keep California incentive program running](#)

Contra Costa Times - Jul 2

Silicon Valley-based fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy will move its east coast manufacturing operations to a 200,000 square-foot abandoned factory in Delaware upon receipt of a generous incentives package from the Delaware government. At the same time, company lobbyists are pushing California lawmakers to extend the state's Self-Generation Incentive Program through which Bloom received \$200 million in 2010; CPUC has suspended the program while the Legislature is debating whether to extend or eliminate the program.

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