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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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October 5, 2010

[Sen. Graham's plan for clean-energy bill could drain RES support](#)

New York Times/Greenwire - Sep 29

Backers of bipartisan Senate legislation establishing a renewable electricity standard hit a stumbling block as Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) made plans to introduce an alternative energy measure that could draw Republican supporters. Graham plans to float a new bill that would establish a mandate requiring utilities to source a percentage of their electricity from clean energy sources, including renewables, nuclear and "clean coal." The measure could draw supporters away from a measure sponsored by Sens. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) and Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) that would require utilities to draw 15% of their electricity from renewable sources, like solar, wind and geothermal. Graham's measure could draw away support from the Bingaman-Brownback bill, especially luring Republicans from states that generate large amounts of electricity from nuclear and coal.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Obama remains committed to climate change strategy](#)

New York Times - Sep 30

President Obama remains committed to action on energy and climate change despite the recent failure of a major cap-and-trade bill to clear the Senate, he says in a Rolling Stone [interview](#). This policy shift may have to be accomplished in "chunks" rather than by passing "comprehensive omnibus legislation," he added. Asked whether he would "throw the whole weight of the presidency behind" climate legislation, Obama said he would. "Yes. Not only can I foresee it, but I am committed to making sure that we get an energy policy that makes sense for the country and that helps us grow at the same time as it deals with climate change in a serious way."

[Allen Matkins at Solar Power International](#)

Solar Power International - Oct 12 - 14

We will be at the Solar Power International Conference October 12-14, 2010, at Los Angeles Convention Center and would like to connect with you. [Please click here to email us if you are going to be there too.](#)

[World Bank appoints renewable energy specialist from UC-Berkeley](#)

Reuters/Sustainable Business - Sep 24

The World Bank has announced the creation of a new position to provide strategic leadership on the policy, technical, and operational issues concerning renewable energy and energy efficiency. Daniel M. Kammen of the University of California, Berkeley will serve as the first Chief Technical Specialist for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. The World Bank said the position will improve the operational impact of its renewable energy and energy efficiency activities while expanding the institution's role as an enabler of global dialogue on moving energy development to a cleaner and more sustainable pathway. The appointment comes amid unprecedented demand from developing countries for World Bank support in their efforts to address development and

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Upcoming Events

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)
Scottsdale, AZ
October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)

climate change as interlinked challenges.

[DOE portal aims to connect technologies with entrepreneurs](#)

Sustainable Business - Sep 30

DOE has created a new [web portal](#) aimed to connect investors and entrepreneurs with renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The Technology Commercialization Portal gives access to more than 200 technology marketing summaries, as well as thousands of patents and patent applications. The site also allows users to browse technologies and intellectual property available for licensing that were developed by DOE laboratories and participating research institutions. Technologies are divided into 14 categories.

[Clean Energy Patent Growth Index Q2 results announced](#)

Clean Edge News - Sep 29

Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti announced results for the quarter for the [Clean Energy Patent Growth Index](#) (CEPGI) by the firm's Cleantech Group. The CEPGI tracks the granting of patents in the Clean Energy sector and monitors technological breakthroughs in this field. The index provides an indication of the trend of innovative activity in the Clean Energy sector since 2002 in the U.S., along with Leading Patent Owners and Leading Country and State information. Results from the second quarter of 2010 reveal the CEPGI to have a value of 437 granted U.S. patents which is the highest quarterly value since the tracking of the CEPGI began, along with being up 58 (more than 15%) from the first quarter and up almost 60% from a value of 274 in the second quarter of 2009.

[California's push for renewables could ripple across West](#)

Associated Press - Sep 25

California's push to get a third of its power from renewable sources is expected to spur a significant expansion in alternative energy projects across the West. The state's Air Resources Board adopted a new standard mandating that utilities get 33% of their power from wind, solar, and other renewables by 2020. The agency said most of that could come from new generation planned inside the state, but experts say homegrown electricity alone will not be enough to feed the entire state. The result could be a boon for wind developers in Montana and Wyoming; solar entrepreneurs in New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada; and companies planning major transmission lines that would crisscross the region.

[California enacts energy storage law to help prepare for more solar, wind](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep. 30

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed a law believed to be the first in the country requiring utilities to begin planning for ways to store electricity that could be dispatched as needed. The measure is considered to be an important step in preparing for the future integration of large amounts of solar and wind energy into the state's electricity grid. The new law requires the California Public Utilities Commission to begin proceedings by March 1, 2012, to consider targets for all but very small electricity providers to procure "viable and cost-effective energy storage systems." Private electric companies would have to adopt a procurement target by Oct. 1, 2013, and reach a first-stage goal by Dec. 3, 2015. Publicly owned utilities would have to set a target by Oct. 1, 2014, and reach a first-stage goal by Dec. 31, 2016.

Related News:

[California energy storage bill AB 2514 signed into law](#)
[In California, a grid storage mandate](#)

Los Angeles, CA
October 12-14, 2010

[FutureBuildLA 2010](#)
Los Angeles, CA
October 19, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)
Los Angeles, CA
January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[*NEW* Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Request for Proposals for Development of CleanTech Manufacturing Center](#)

[Southern California Edison Company's Renewables Standard Contracts Program Request for Offers from Generating Facilities Not Greater than 20 MW](#)

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

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

[The challenge of storing energy on a large scale](#)

New York Times - Sep 29

Renewable energy sources like solar power and wind have been in the spotlight, as have ways to improve control of the power distribution system through information technology. But another crucial component of developing a climate-friendly, secure and affordable supply of electricity — large-scale storage — has received little attention, according to this New York Times feature. Now incentives from the Energy Department, increased interest from venture capitalists and policy shifts at the state level, where utilities are regulated, are laying the groundwork for bringing energy storage capability to the electricity grid. If renewable sources are to contribute a greater share of the energy mix, then the declining proportion of fossil fuel power available to smooth out the peaks and troughs of output will make storage technology essential. Recent research suggests that storage technology could respond faster to supply and demand shifts than fossil fuel plants.

[1,000 MW of solar power approved for California desert](#)

L.A. Times - Sep 29

The California Energy Commission approved nearly 1,000 MW of solar installations for the desert, adding to a growing list of such projects. Commissioners unanimously approved NextEra's 250 MW Genesis Solar Energy Project and Tessera's 709 MW Imperial Valley Solar Project, making them the fifth and sixth plants to get the go-ahead in the last five weeks. Since late August, the regulatory agency has cleared plants totaling nearly 3,000 MW across the desert regions. All projects are rushing to break ground before the end of the year in order to qualify for federal stimulus funding; most are still waiting for the Bureau of Land Management to begin approving construction on public land in October.

Related News:

[California regulators approve NextEra, Tessera solar plants](#)

[Mojave Desert solar plan halved to save desert tortoise](#)

The Associated Press - Sep 29

The size of a solar project in the Mojave Desert has been cut nearly in half to save habitat for the endangered desert tortoise. The Calico Solar Project now will stretch over 4,600 acres of public land near Barstow. Tessera Solar reduced the project this month from 8,230 acres after a wildlife survey showed 104 protected tortoises on the site. Only 10 of the animals were found in the smaller area. The project would produce 663.5 MW of electricity.

[Solar pilot program for Coachella Valley may come from summit](#)

Desert Sun - Sep 29

A plan to blanket Coachella Valley rooftops with solar panels, and pay residents for the extra power they produce, could emerge from a meeting of top utility and state and local government officials set for Oct. 28-30 in Palm Desert. The meeting will be aimed at hammering out details for a feed-in tariff pilot program that eventually could provide the valley with 350 MW of solar power, about half the electricity used by Southern California Edison customers in the valley, said Palm Desert Mayor Pro Tem Jim Ferguson. Ferguson reported on the pilot project and the solar summit at the Executive Committee meeting of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. Ferguson would like to see a tariff of 28 cents per kWh for the pilot.

[NREL releases biomass mapping application](#)

Renewable Energy World/NREL - Sep 28

NREL has developed a new web portal that may lead to more bioenergy developments across the U.S. The tools, called BioPower Atlas and BioFuels Atlas, help users gather data about biopower and biofuels potential in North America. Users start with a blank map of the country, then overlay this image with biomass feedstocks to see where certain products can be harvested, then overlay that information with ethanol and biodiesel plants both active and idle, existing transportation infrastructure, power plants, fueling stations, refineries and more. The project was made possible with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Blue Skyways Collaborative and DOE's Biomass Program.

[Belkin launches Gateway to bring smart meter data into the home](#)

GreenBiz - Oct 1

Electronics manufacturer [Belkin](#) released the latest in its Conserve line of energy-saving products. Belkin's new Conserve Gateway is a wireless router that connects to a home or business's smart meter, and gives users real-time insight about energy use through a web-based interface. As utilities across the country rolled out smart meters for their customers, some areas have seen a backlash attributable to a combination of at-times faulty technology and poor education by utilities about the potential benefits of smart meters. In California in particular, politicians and individuals have begun putting the brakes on smart grid expansions. But Belkin's new router brings that smart data into the building, giving residents or employees the ability to see exactly how much energy they're using at a given moment.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Florida solar power developer aims for California](#)

GetSolar - Sep 28

Florida-based solar power project developer [Solar Park Initiatives \(SPI\)](#) aims to build a 20 MW solar installation in California. While the exact location and cost of constructing the park has not been released, SPI has signed a letter of intent to develop the photovoltaic park on 285 acres of land and sell the clean energy to the local utility company through a long term power purchasing agreement. The project is expected to generate \$70 million in revenue, according to company executives.

[NRG, Eurus to build California solar plant](#)

The Associated Press - Sep 24

A subsidiary of NRG Energy Inc. and Eurus Energy America plan to start construction on a 45 MW solar power facility in Kings County. NRG Solar said the solar photovoltaic facility will be constructed in three projects in Avenal, 50 miles southwest of Fresno. The facility will provide enough power for 36,000 homes at peak capacity when it is fully operational in mid-2011. The companies have signed 20-year agreements to sell the power to Pacific Gas & Electric.

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