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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication**Allen Matkins**  
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## [Scientists: Desert energy projects should tread lightly](#)

*The Press-Enterprise - Sep 14*

Eight large solar developments proposed in the California desert would cover 59 square miles of public land untouched by plows or bulldozers -- the type of land a panel of science advisers says should be preserved. In a report to federal and state agencies, the scientists say big solar, wind and other energy projects should be built on "disturbed land," such as denuded former farms or on the land along roads, canals and power lines; such places already have been damaged to the point where protected species have been driven out. Energy developers say the advice from scientists isn't practical and that public land is needed to meet clean-energy goals.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

## [ACORE Releases a State-by-State Report on Renewable Energy](#)

*Renewable Energy World - Sep 15*

The American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) released a report that compiles data on renewable energy developments, resource potentials, and financial, market, and policy information on a state-by-state basis. The state summaries show the wide range of renewable energy development in the U.S., ranging from Louisiana, with only 200 KW of grid-connected solar power and production capabilities for 1.5 million gallons of biofuels per year, to California, with 2.7 GW of wind power, 2.6 GW of geothermal power, 1.1 GW of grid-connected solar power, 705 GW of biomass power, and production capabilities for nearly 200 million gallons of biofuels per year. ACORE says it will provide quarterly updates for the online, interactive report, titled Renewable Energy in America.

## [DOE award aims to boost solar thermal power storage technology](#)

*Sunpluggers - Sep 10*

A new technological approach to solar thermal power involves storing the heat energy in tanks of molten salt. The stored heat can still be used after sundown to make steam that is fed through a conventional turbine-generator. The U.S. Department of Energy, which has been promoting efforts to lengthen solar thermal power production to as long as 18 hours or more a day, has announced a grant of \$2.4 million to the University of California, Los Angeles, to study the use of a "supercritical" fluid that would be even more effective than molten salt. A team led by UCLA will develop and test a fluid-based thermal energy storage system that could perhaps increase energy density by more than a factor of two compared to a two-tank molten salt system, with a cost less than 70% of the molten salt system.

## [California ISO approves small-generator interconnection reforms](#)

*Solar Industry - Sep 10*

The California Independent System Operator Corp. (ISO) Board of Governors has approved a plan to streamline the process for studying small power projects into a new process for hooking up large generators to the grid. The ISO is charged with studying the grid impacts of new generation projects. Developers submit requests for ISO engineering studies as part of the initial process to advance

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### Upcoming Events

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum  
\(REFF\) West](#)  
San Francisco, CA  
**September 29-30, 2010**

their projects. Collectively, these solar, wind and geothermal resource projects produce the same impact to the grid as a single large generator, the ISO says. The ISO intends take into consideration clusters of new generation projects, both small and large, to speed the projects through the study process, as well as minimize overbuilding and undue costs associated with transmission expansion. The ISO will now seek Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval for the unified interconnection process.

## [Rise in solar, other renewable energy prompting changes for California's grid](#)

*Sunpluggers - Sep 15*

The rapid rise in solar and other renewable energy production has prompted the organization that operates California's wholesale electricity grid to reform the process for connecting smaller power plants to the grid. The board of the California Independent System Operator has approved changes that also now must be cleared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In years past, the system operator received about 15 to 20 interconnection requests a year for smaller power plants with peak rated generating capacities of 20 megawatts or less. That number has risen to 150 in the past two years, including 96 already this year, said Keith Casey, ISO vice president of Market and Infrastructure Development, in a news release.

## [AB 32 could save billions in energy costs](#)

*PR Newswire - Sep 13*

California's clean energy and clean air standards could save the average household up to \$670 in 2020 if oil and natural gas prices spike, according to a new study by three economists. The U.S. economy has experienced five price shocks in the last 30 years when crude oil prices rose an average of 179% in just one year. This study analyzed how much more Californians would pay if wholesale crude oil and natural gas prices doubled at the start of 2020 and stayed there for a year. The study calculates the savings from added protections against energy price spikes achieved from implementing AB 32 through effective standards adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

## [Federal agencies outline plans for curbing fossil fuels, emissions](#)

*New York Times/Greenwire - Sep 10*

The White House released federal agencies' sustainability plans, providing the first detailed glimpse of how the government plans to decrease its greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 years. The basics among the 50-plus government agencies and offices are similar: Many plan to cut direct emissions by making infrastructure improvements, reducing fossil fuel use and implementing better maintenance practices. But some agencies are planning to go further. The Interior Department, for example, aims to install renewable energy systems at wildlife refuges and other lands under its control, while several agencies will consolidate their data centers. Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) called the plans a "great first step" that will need to evolve under Congress' watch. The reduction goals -- which range from the single digits to 30% -- are "pretty ambitious," he said.

## [Clean energy and the fight for funding](#)

*Associated Press - Sep 9*

The climate bill stalled in Congress, and at the recent National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas, the conversation centered around the lack of available financing for new projects. This article describes perspectives spun out of the talks. First, wind and solar power face a price disadvantage to fossil fuel. Boone Pickens said that wind power can't compete unless natural gas is at \$6, nearly twice where it is now. But Philippe Cousteau, CEO of EarthEcho International and grandson of Jacques Cousteau, says we don't recognize the full cost of fossil fuels. Meanwhile, Mitchell Dong is developing the Hualapai Valley Solar Project, the largest solar power plant in the world, to be located in the middle of the

[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**

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

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

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### Recent Opportunities

[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](#)

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desert between Nevada and California. Dong is managing director of Mojave Sun Power, which has partnered with Spain's ACS Cobra to bring Spanish technology—and Spanish capital—to the U.S. But he has to complete the vast permitting process and win a \$2 billion loan from the U.S. government.

#### **NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS**

##### [Cannon closes \\$547M power sales transaction with Southern California Public Power Authority](#)

*PRNewswire/EnergyCentral - Sep 9*

Del Mar-based Cannon Power Group announced the closing of the sale of a 20-year block of renewable power to Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) for \$547 million. This is believed to be the largest transaction of its kind in the power industry. The power will be provided from Cannon Power Group's 262 MW Windy Flats wind project in Goldendale, Washington under a long-term power purchase agreement entered into last year by the parties. The transaction involves SCPPA "pre-paying" for a 20-year block of power representing over 70% of the project's expected annual production. In return for such pre-payment, SCPPA obtained a discounted power price. The balance of the power from the project also will be sold by Cannon Power Group to SCPPA at a formula-based price. As part of the transaction, SCPPA also received an option to purchase the project after five years.

##### [SunPower, energy storage companies to collaborate on the rooftop](#)

*SustainableBusiness/Reuters - Sep 13*

Sunpower Corp. will use a grant from the state to research photovoltaic (PV) energy storage for large commercial applications. The \$1.8 million grant from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the second round of funding from the California Solar Initiative Research, Development, Deployment and Demonstration (CSI RD&D) Program. SunPower will partner with three energy storage companies, Ice Energy, Xtreme Power and ZBB Energy, to establish a pilot program for demonstrating the integration of advanced energy storage systems in combination with existing PV systems for commercial customers. Working with a "major retailer," SunPower plans to demonstrate the economic and operational benefits of combining PV with each of the partners' storage devices.

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