

August 24, 2010

[Blending wind and solar meets peak energy demands](#)

USAgNet - Aug 13

In parts of Texas and California, a good match between renewable energy production and peak energy demands could be obtained by combining wind power with solar power, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist. A better blending of solar and wind power, combined with a way to store excess energy, should increase the use of renewable energy for California, Texas and the rest of the nation. According to a study, in the Texas Panhandle and West Texas, as well as in northern and southern California, there is almost an exact mismatch between wind power production and peak energy demands over a 24-hour period. In these locations, at the heights of modern wind turbines, winds are lowest at mid-day, when power demands are greatest.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Grid limitation arising as utilities meet state RPS](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Aug 19

As utilities are introducing significant new programs to meet state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), the reality of grid limitation is quickly coming into focus, according to this feature. As part of its 500 MW solar program, Southern California Edison (SCE) has created a map of places within their distribution system where "wholesale" distributed generation PV (500 kW to 10 MW) will be easier to connect. Speculation is that SCE doesn't think that areas outside the red boxes can handle the addition of variable PV power. If SCE won't approve requests for PV outside the preferred areas, it narrows the playing field for PV developers. A working group trying to tackle this problem is the new Renewable Distributed Energy Collaborative (Re-DEC), launched by the State of California.

['Big solar' struggles to find home in California](#)

NPR - Aug 18

A fight over where to build large clean-energy projects is slowing California's green revolution. Debates over land use are playing out across California, and that has created a juggernaut of big solar and wind proposals -- more than 200 are waiting approval. Michael Picker, the governor's renewable energy adviser, is trying to hurry the process in order to obtain billions of dollars in subsidies.

[Seventh solar power plant in desert nears final decision on 'fast track'](#)

Sunpluggers - Aug 13

The federal Bureau of Land Management has issued a final Environmental Impact Statement for another planned solar power plant in the Southern California desert, one of a spate of projects undergoing a "fast track" permit process. This plant, the seventh nearing a final decision by state or federal officials, would be a 45-MW solar photovoltaic installation, using modules similar to the types typically installed on rooftops. It would be constructed by Chevron Energy Solutions in the Mojave Desert, and is being called the Lucerne Valley Solar Project. If built, it would be the largest photovoltaic installation near an urban area in Southern California.

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Upcoming Events

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

[California should approve NextEra Genesis solar plant: committee](#)

Reuters - Aug 20

The California Energy Commission sitting committee has recommended approval for NextEra Energy Inc.'s planned 250-MW Genesis solar thermal power project in Riverside County. Even though the committee found Genesis will "have significant impacts on the environment," it still recommended the project because, "The benefits [...] override those impacts." Over the past month, the Energy Commission said it has issued proposed decisions recommending approval for more than 2,100 MW of solar power, including Genesis. If approved, the Commission said NextEra could start construction in the fourth quarter of 2010 with commercial service by the second quarter of 2013.

[Permit approved for 75 MW Washington State solar project](#)

Clean Edge News - Aug 16

The Kittitas County Board of Adjustment recently approved a permit for Teanaway Solar Reserve, a 75-MW project, located 90 miles east of Seattle, which will be one of the largest photovoltaic solar facilities in the world. The decision was made after formal presentations by the Kittitas County Office of Community Development and the applicant, and public testimony both in favor and in opposition to the project.

[Clarian Power creates a plug-and-play solar array](#)

New York Times - Aug 16

[Clarian Power](#) is developing a "plug-and-play" solar appliance called the Sunfish that will generate clean solar electricity for the home. Typical roof-mounted solar power systems start at \$10,000 and increase depending on the amount of electricity generated and the home's location. The bigger and more expensive systems can meet most of a house's energy needs and even put electricity back on the utility grid, essentially turning the meter backwards. Clarian is hoping to simplify the installation process through the use of its patented micro-inverter, which does not require a dedicated panel or circuit. The system can handle up to five solar panels with the purchase of add-on kits, which would bring the retail price to between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

[Spray-on film turns glass into solar panels](#)

CNET - Aug 20

Norwegian company [EnSol](#) has patented a prototype thin film solar cell technology designed to be sprayed onto any glass surface, turning it into a solar panel. The company says plans are afoot for a thicker solution to coat exterior walls or be used in the form of "clip-together" solar roof tiles. Unlike traditional silicon-based solar cells, EnSol's film uses metal nanoparticles embedded in a transparent composite matrix. Ensol's collaboration with the University of Leicester's Department of Physics and Astronomy could have the product launched by 2016.

[Clean-power projects turn landfills' methane into electricity](#)

L.A. Times - Aug 14

FlexEnergy, an Irvine company, has launched a pilot generator that converts previously unusable methane gas seeping from a Riverside County landfill into 100 KW of electricity. The company envisions its generators being installed at many of the country's 2,300 currently operating or recently closed landfills. Trash in municipal solid-waste landfills produced 22% of all methane emissions

[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

[FutureBuildLA 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

October 19, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA

January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[*NEW* Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District's Request for Bids for Oakland Photovoltaic Solar Power System](#)

[*NEW* National Renewable Energy Laboratory Solicitation for Letters of Interest for PV Technology Incubator](#)

[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](#)

nationwide in 2008, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Riverside County's Lamb Canyon Landfill could produce up to 1.5 MW — enough to power 1,500 homes — if more of FlexEnergy's units are installed, the company said. At more than 500 landfills in the U.S. — 74 in California — methane already is being converted into electrical power.

[California geothermal plans need more steam](#)

NPR - Aug 19

In California, geothermal energy plants provide more than twice as much renewable energy as wind and solar combined. After decades, however, some conventional geothermal sites are literally running out of steam. This feature discusses some of the issues involved in fostering the geothermal industry in California, where 80% of the nation's geothermal energy is still generated. Federal stimulus money is driving more than 100 projects across the U.S.

[Americans are clueless on saving energy: study](#)

GreenTechMedia - Aug 20

U.S. consumers have no idea how much energy they use and don't understand the best ways to reduce consumption, according to a [new study](#). The shift to educating, and empowering, consumers has been critical in the past among utilities and smart grid startups in the home area network space, but the study shows that most efforts to date have left Americans clueless and simply doing less of their regular behavior, without looking at simple changes that could reap bigger gains in efficiency. Nearly 20% of approximately 500 study participants listed turning off lights as the best way to save energy.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Vestas to keep HQ in Oregon](#)

Associated Press - Aug 18

Vestas Wind Systems ended concerns it might leave Oregon by announcing it will keep its North American headquarters in Portland. The Denmark-based company plans to turn a vacant warehouse in the city's Pearl District into its new, 172,000-square-foot headquarters. The \$66 million project is expected to create about 500 construction jobs, and Vestas promised to add 100 employees to its Portland work force over the next five years.

[Group buy solar program lowers the cost of solar energy](#)

Renewable Energy World - Aug 20

The San Jose Credit Union has partnered with the San Jose Solar America City program to offer a program to city employees in which they can join together to negotiate better costs for solar electric and solar thermal installations on their homes no matter where they live. The San Jose Employee Solar Group Buy program allows city employees and retirees to purchase systems with a group discount. So far 130 people are participating. The group has reportedly achieved one of the lowest group buy pricing schedules for the value of the product to date for both photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. SunPower Corporation and SunWater Solar were selected to provide systems for the group.

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