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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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[Green industry growing more slowly than hoped](#)

New York Times - Dec 2

Growth in clean energy industries and in green jobs has been considerably slower and bumpier than anticipated, industry experts say. The initial promise of green jobs was based on governments around the world declaring the fight against global warming to be a priority. Instead, some green-industry companies have been shedding jobs in the U.S., and in some cases moving them to China. Renewable-energy companies are hesitating to invest in new plants and equipment before Congress enacts new environmental mandates, like cap and trade, to limit carbon emissions. In addition, the long recession caused the clean-energy industry to delay expansion plans.

Renewable Energy Focus

[32 companies sign DOE pledge to reduce energy intensity by 25%](#)

DOE - Dec 2

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the launch of the Save Energy Now LEADER Program, which will provide technical assistance and resources to companies that pledge significant improvements in industrial energy efficiency. The 32 companies will sign a voluntary pledge to reduce their industrial energy intensity by 25% over the next decade. The LEADER program is a new component of the existing and successful Save Energy Now initiative through which companies partner with DOE to conduct energy audits and assessments designed to identify the opportunities for energy and cost savings in the companies' operations. View the list of participants [here](#).

[Wind farms have no negative impact on property values: study](#)

Renewable Energy Focus - Dec 3

There is no "widespread, statistically observable" impact of wind turbines on the sale of homes in the U.S., concludes an analysis from the Department of Energy (DoE). More than 30 GW of wind capacity is installed across the USA and an increasing number of communities are considering new wind farms, says the report, [The Impact of Wind Power Projects on Residential Property Values in the United States: A Multi-Site Hedonic Analysis](#). This report evaluates the concern over claims that wind turbines hurt property values, and concludes that proximity to wind energy facilities does not have a pervasive or widespread adverse effect on the property values of nearby homes.

[Study shows how to increase local renewable energy, slow climate change](#)

UCLA - Dec 3

A new study shows how to lift barriers and increase the local production of renewable energy at a faster and more efficient pace than nascent worldwide initiatives. The report, "[In Our Backyard: How to Increase Renewable Energy Production on Big Buildings and Other Local Spaces](#)," shows the power and potential of producing renewable energy by installing technology atop commercial rooftops and along aqueducts and highway right-of-ways. The author says California has focused too much attention on long-term efforts to build large-scale and remote renewable energy facilities, including centralized wind and solar plants.

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Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009. [A summary can be found here](#).

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on

[Report measures U.S. influence on fight against climate change](#)

Environment America - Dec 3

The [America on the Move](#) report was issued by the Environment America Research & Policy Center. The study found that U.S. states, including California, are leading the nation and the world in the fight against climate change. In a [statement](#), Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said the report will "help build vital momentum as leaders at all levels of government come together from around the world in Copenhagen later this month."

[California could lose energy stimulus funds: auditor](#)

Sacramento Bee - Dec 2

Eight months after California was awarded \$226 million in federal stimulus money to boost energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, it has failed to spend any of the cash and risks losing it, the state auditor charged. Auditor Elaine Howle said in a [new report](#) that the state agency tapped to hand out the energy program money to benefit Californians also has insufficient internal controls to detect and stop taxpayers' cash from being misused. Energy Commission executive director Melissa Jones flatly denied the review.

[Solar market share shifts seen in California](#)

PV Tech - Nov 30

Until now, SunPower with its network of distributors and project experience has been the leading module supplier in California but things are starting to shift rapidly, and SunPower is in danger of losing the number-one slot. Quarterly figures from the California Solar Initiative (CSI) and part of the Go Solar California campaign that is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission and highlighted in a new report from Barclays Capital analyst Vishal Shah reveal the volatility in market share positions on a quarterly basis.

[California dams to feel impact of climate change](#)

Green Inc. - Dec 2

California's high-elevation dams could generate considerably less power over the next 40 years as a result of rising temperatures associated with climate change, according to a [study](#) by researchers at the University of California, Davis. Under a warmer, drier climate projected in computer models, hydroelectric dams above 1,000 feet between 1,000 and 2,000 feet in elevation in the state would produce about 20% less power by 2050, the researchers found. Under this climate scenario, electricity production would also occur earlier in the year, when demand for power is lower.

[California recognizes best climate-smart small businesses](#)

ARB - Dec 2

The California Air Resources Board announced the winners of the state's first program to recognize small businesses that have demonstrated exceptional success in saving money while cutting their greenhouse gas emissions. The board recognized 21 recipients of the Small Business of the Year award and six recipients of the Small Organization of the Year award. The Cool California Small Business awards program was established to recognize small California businesses (with fewer than 100 employees) and organizations that have demonstrated leadership and made notable, voluntary achievements towards reducing their climate impact. View the list of winners here.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[PG&E to buy first wind project](#)

Reuters - Dec 3

PG&E will build and operate a wind power project of up to 246 megawatts

[Renewable Energy Project Finance](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Green Technology Green California Schools Summit](#)

Pasadena, CA

December 9-11

[Clean-tech Investors Summit](#)

Palm Springs, CA

January 20-21, 2010

[2010 VerdeExchange Green Marketmakers Conference](#)

Los Angeles, CA

January 24-25, 2010

[Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition \(RETECH\)](#)

Washington, D.C.

February 3-6, 2010

[Recent Opportunities](#)

[San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Request for Proposals for Solar Photovoltaic Electric Facilities](#)

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

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Qualifications for Commercial Development Opportunity in La Verne](#)

[Inland Empire Utilities Agency Request for Proposals For Fuel Cell Installation at Regional Plant 1 in Ontario, California](#)

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

[New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program](#)

[Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals](#)

with the U.S. unit of Spain's Iberdrola SA, marking the utility's first foray to own wind generation. PG&E said it expected to invest just more than \$900 million in the project. The proposed project would cover about 7,000 acres in the Tehachapi area of Eastern Kern County. The news marks the first move for PG&E to build and own wind power generation and follows Iberdrola Renewables' plans to spend billions on renewable energy facilities in the United States through 2012.

[EDI to unveil biomass digester system](#)

Biomass Magazine - Dec 3

California-based [Environmental Developers Inc.](#) plans to showcase a new biomass digestion system for the first time at Biomass Magazine's [Pacific West Biomass Conference & Expo](#). The company believes the process is three to 10 times faster than other digestion designs on the market. The Vacuum Retort Anaerobic Digestion system has been in development since 1977, according to the company.

[California regulators approve orbiting solar project](#)

L.A. Times - Dec 3

California regulators gave the go-ahead to a power-purchase agreement involving the nation's first solar power plant in space. PG&E will proceed with a 15-year contract with Manhattan Beach start-up Solaren Corp., after receiving approval from the California Public Utilities Commission. The project, which is expected to go live in 2016, will use solar cells from Solaren on orbiting satellites to convert energy from the sun into radio-frequency waves. The waves will be transmitted to a receiving station near Fresno and reverted back into electricity. The project should produce 1,700 gigawatt-hours of energy each year, according to the commission.

[SunPower to pick site for U.S. plant by early 2010](#)

Reuters - Dec 2

SunPower Corp is close to finalizing a site for its U.S. manufacturing plant and expects to make a decision by early 2010, the company's chief executive said. California, Arizona and Florida are top contenders for the plant's location, the company said. The San Jose-based company plans to make up to a quarter of its solar panels in the U.S. beginning in about a year and is seeking federal funds for the site. SunPower and other solar panel makers expect U.S. demand for solar power to flourish in the coming years despite the recent financial crisis that has hampered development of renewable energy projects in the last year.

[L.A. ponders solar panel project at Owens Lake](#)

Associated Press - Dec 2

Los Angeles sucked Owens Lake dry 100 years ago. Now, the city hopes to use the dry bed to create solar energy. Department of Water and Power commissioners approved a pilot program to cover 616 acres with solar panels. If the program succeeds, it could be expanded to thousands of acres. The solar program, which requires state approval, is part of a \$500 million plan to meet federal clean air standards. The DWP currently floods some lake areas to control dust and says the solar program could be a water-saving alternative.