

[Read this online](#)

Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
attorneys at law

August 16, 2011

[California leading U.S. solar industry](#)

PV Magazine - Aug 8

According to IHS iSuppli, California is to continue its solar lead in the country in terms of installed capacity, with predictions that 7.5GW will be added between 2010 and 2015. If the forecasts are correct, this will take overall installed capacity to 8.4GW by 2015. IHS iSuppli's Michael Sheppard attributes the state's solar strength to its plentiful sunshine and positive political support.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[House bill would protect state energy upgrade loan programs](#)

Summit County Citizens Voice - Aug 7

A languishing revolving loan program for installation of renewable energy features may get a new lease on life this year, as a bipartisan coalition of legislators in Washington, D.C., have introduced a bill that would revive the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Twenty-seven states have adopted some form of PACE during the past few years. Under PACE programs, property owners can apply for loans to upgrade insulation or add solar panels, for example.

[RETECH 2011](#)

Washington, D.C. - Sept. 20 - 22

[Patrick Perry](#) and [Emily Murray](#) will be attending [RETECH 2011](#): The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition in Washington, D.C., on September 20 - 22. If you would like to arrange an introduction or a meeting while at the conference, please [contact us](#).

[National Renewable Energy Laboratory seeks insight on trends for renewable energy financing](#)

NREL - Aug 8

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory is seeking input from energy developers and financiers as part of an ongoing effort to collect and share quantitative data on renewable energy financing terms and to assess barriers to renewable energy development. The [questionnaire](#) focuses on projects financed in the first half of 2011.

[Wind rebounds in Q2 2011, growth depends on policy, AWEA says](#)

AWEA - Aug 4

U.S. wind energy continued to rebound in Q2 2011 with 2,151MW of electrical generating capacity installed in the first half of 2011 versus 1,250MW during the same time in 2010, up 72%. However, analysts at AWEA cautioned that without stable policy such as an extension of the Production Tax Credit, set to expire in 2012, the industry's recovery will stall. Project activity and orders for 2013 and beyond are scant because of the lack of a predictable business environment, causing layoffs and even bankruptcies in American manufacturing plants and the supply chain, said AWEA.

[Subscribe](#)[Past issues](#)

Have a suggestion?
[Tell us what you think](#)

Editors

[William R. Devine](#)
[Patrick A. Perry](#)
[Emily Murray](#)

FOLLOW US



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

[Ventura County Water Works' Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant Photovoltaic Electrical Generation System Request for Design-Build Qualifications](#)

[Travis AFB Solar Enhanced Use Lease Request for Information](#)

[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)

[Ford Focus electric to come with home solar option; to be sold in California later this year](#)

USA Today - Aug 10

Ford is announcing that it is teaming with an established solar provider, SunPower, to sell a solar energy system through Ford dealers in conjunction with the Focus electric sedan that goes on sale later this year. Solar panels, to be mounted on the car owner's house, would provide power from the sun to the house equal to offset about 1,000 miles of driving a month in the electric Focus, a plug-in version of the new compact sedan. It goes on sale in California and New York later this year, beginning a gradual rollout nationwide into next spring.

[Massive solar project approved for California](#)

Mercury News / AP - Aug 11

A massive solar project has been approved for land near Palm Springs. The proposed project would be built on 4,100 acres of public lands by Desert Sunlight Holdings. The 550MW project is expected to generate enough energy to power over 165,000 homes. Federal officials also claim the project will create more than 630 jobs and infuse millions of dollars into the local economy.

[SunPower, First Solar agree to add more wildlife protect areas to solar projects](#)

CleanEnergyAuthority.com - Aug 10

Although environmental and conservation groups generally agree that solar, wind and other renewable energy sources are better than fossil-fuel derived power sources, they can come into conflict with how the renewable energy sources are derived. To avoid such a situation, SunPower and Topaz Solar Farms, a subsidiary of First Solar, reached an agreement on Aug. 9 with the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity regarding solar projects on sensitive lands in development in San Luis Obispo County, California. The groups won't take actions against SunPower's 250MW California Valley Solar Ranch or the 550MW Topaz Solar Farm, according to SunPower spokesperson Ingrid Ekstrom.

[California Energy Commission approves 570MW hybrid power plant for Los Angeles County](#)

California Energy Commission - Aug 11

The California Energy Commission has approved construction of a proposed 570MW hybrid power plant in Los Angeles County. The Commission unanimously adopted the presiding member's proposed decision (PMPD) for the Palmdale Hybrid Power Project. "The project will provide reliable and consistent power," said Commissioner Karen Douglas, who is the presiding member for the committee reviewing the Palmdale project. The proposed project consists of natural gas-fired, combined-cycle generating equipment integrated with solar thermal generating equipment.

[California adopts first standards for cyber security of smart meters](#)

IBTimes - Aug 12

California regulators have adopted the nation's first sweeping privacy rules for household smart meters that form the backbone of the growing "green" grid, vowing to protect consumers from cyber attacks that could steal energy usage data and other private information. The California Public Utility Commission will require utilities to regularly conduct independent security audits of their millions of wireless meters and to restrict the access of third parties, such as energy-efficiency consultants, to customers' personal details.

[Nevada hydroelectric plant's backer may proceed alone: plant will supply electricity to California](#)



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven offices throughout California. Some of the areas of focus at Allen Matkins include green and sustainable construction, construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

Press-Enterprise - Aug 6

A backer of the plan to build a hydroelectric plant in the mountains above Lake Elsinore, Nevada, has asked federal regulators to allow the company to drop the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District from the project. "Allow us to remove our co-applicant from the application ... and proceed to complete this application," Rexford J. Wait, VP of The Nevada Hydro Co., wrote in letter to the FEC. Wait pointed out to federal regulators that he expects California Public Utilities Commission to approve the transmission lines, which he said would connect the hydroelectric plant to the electric grid.

[Santa Rosa Fire Department regulations causing concern for homeowners using solar power](#)

Press Democrat - Aug 7

Santa Rosa is one of 25 cities in the U.S. recognized for its strong support of solar energy. But that success is being threatened, some solar industry officials say, by fire regulations that reduce the size of many residential solar systems, increase their cost and in some cases may be unnecessary. Since January, the Santa Rosa Fire Department has been requiring that solar panels on homes be set back three feet from the eaves and ridgelines of roofs to give firefighters safe pathways during a fire.

[Editorial: Reforming access to California power grid is imperative](#)

Capitol Weekly - Aug 10

A Capitol Weekly editorial urges grid access reform to better reflect California's changing and more environmentally conscious energy landscape. "Instead of generating clean energy from the rooftops of our shopping malls or from our highway off-ramps... communities, property owners, and renewable energy project developers are bogged down in out-dated regulations that were designed for large coal, natural gas, and nuclear power plants. For California and its communities to achieve the benefits of the new energy economy, we need grid access reform now." The editorial cites timeliness, cost and red tape as barriers for small-scale power generators in accessing the grid.

[BrightSource seeks second solar thermal plant in California](#)

EcoSeed - Aug 9

Solar thermal startup BrightSource has filed with California regulators for the construction of its second utility-scale solar power project with a new plant design meant to avoid environmental permitting problems that have slowed development of its first. The Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System project will be divided into two facilities each generating 250MW in Iyo County.

[Defender of California global warming law to speak at American Renewable Energy Day](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld.com - Aug 11

Thomas Steyer, a billionaire philanthropist and champion of renewable energy, will speak at this year's American Renewable Energy Day (AREDAY) conference in Aspen taking place August 17-21. Steyer helped to defeat California Proposition 23 last year, a ballot initiative funded by corporate interests to suspend the state's 2006 global-warming law, which aims to reduce the state's emissions of greenhouse gases down to 1990 levels by 2020. During the AREDAY Summit, Steyer will join Larry Schweiger, president of the National Wildlife Federation, in a conversation titled "Lessons from Prop 23" on August 20.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[GE to invest up to \\$40M in eSolar](#)

BusinessWire / eSolar - Aug 9

eSolar, a Burbank, California-based developer of modular, scalable concentrating solar thermal power technology, announced that -- in addition to

its licensing agreement with GE Energy -- GE has closed a strategic investment in the company. As part of the deal, Paul Browning, president and CEO of Thermal Products, for GE Energy, will join the eSolar board of directors.

[Batzer lands contract at California biomass plant](#)

Mail Tribune - Aug 9

Batzer Construction is the general contractor for Kiara Solar's project to restart a dormant biomass facility in Anderson, California. The 6MW plant has been shuttered for 15 years. Batzer is reviewing the plant from top to bottom, re-tooling and replacing parts, as well as making structural changes to accommodate newer equipment and systems. Work is expected to complete mid-winter. Originally built in 1987, the plant operated for more than a decade.

[Sempra, PG&E reach 150MW deal for second phase of Copper Mountain Solar project](#)

CleanEnergyAuthority.com - Aug 12

Sempra Generation and Pacific Gas and Electric reached a power-purchase agreement for the planned second, 150MW phase of Sempra's Copper Mountain Solar project. Under the 25-year agreement, Sempra will sell power generated at the site to PG&E. Construction on the project is slated to start in early 2012, according to Sempra. The second phase will be brought online in two parts. The first 92MW part of the plant is expected to come online in January 2013. The remaining 58MWs are expected to be online by 2015.

[California Unions for Reliable Energy partners with K Road Calico solar project](#)

BusinessWire / CURE / K Road Power - Aug 5

California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE), a coalition of unions whose members promote the development of power plants in an environmentally responsible manner, announced a new collaboration with K Road Calico Solar, an independent utility-scale solar project in San Bernardino County, California. The K Road Calico Solar Project is finalizing permits to construct up to 663.5MW of solar capacity on federal lands. As part of its collaboration with CURE, K Road Calico will implement specific measures to avoid or minimize the project's impacts on special status plants and wildlife, and state jurisdictional waters.

© 2008-10 Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP. All rights reserved. This email is intended for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinions on any specific facts or circumstances. This email was sent by: Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, 515 S. Figueroa Street, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071. To stop receiving this publication, click on the "unsubscribe" button.