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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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[DOE announces \\$27M in grants to cut costs, improve efficiency of solar installations](#)

Department of Energy - Jun 1

The DOE has made \$27 million in funding available for initiatives aimed at reducing the non-hardware costs of solar power projects and improving the bureaucratic efficiency of permitting for such projects. The agency will grant up to \$12.5 million for the Rooftop Solar Challenge, which encourages local and regional government teams to compete for funds to improve their solar permitting processes, increase access to financing for solar projects, update planning and zoning codes, and improve interconnection and net metering standards.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[House GOP push White House to act faster on renewable energy projects](#)

Bloomberg - Jun 1

Republican members of the House Natural Resources Committee are pressuring the Obama administration to act more quickly on renewable energy projects. At a hearing that included testimony from renewable energy industry stakeholders, GOP legislators blamed the sluggish development of renewable energy projects on red tape, cumbersome environmental regulations, and frivolous lawsuits, and urged the White House to move on the issue as soon as possible.

[California cap-and-trade could be delayed up to a year, say experts](#)

Reuters - Jun 2

It could take more than a year to start a carbon market in California following a judge's ruling that the state Air Resources Board did not adequately research other means of reducing the state's carbon emissions, according to renewable energy industry experts. Brian Storms, CEO of New York-based environmental exchange NYSE Blue, estimated it will take the ARB two to 12 months to examine alternatives to cap-and-trade.

[CPUC approves PG&E rate change](#)

Silicon Valley Mercury News - May 26

CPUC has approved the first updated PG&E rate plan in ten years, according to the Silicon Valley Mercury News. The plan does not include the \$3 surcharge on every household's bill and large price breaks for the largest energy consumers that PG&E submitted to regulators over a year ago, but it does include a modest price increase for households that use the most power. Advocates had protested the proposed price break for large consumers, saying the plan would undermine the state's solar incentives.

Related News:

[Analysis: How PG&E's rate change will affect renewable energy and power efficiency](#)

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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

[County of Santa Clara Fuel Cell Request for Proposals](#)[County of Santa Clara Request for Qualifications for Energy Efficiency Services and Projects](#)[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)[San Diego Gas and Electric Company's 2011 Eligible Renewable Resources Request for Offers](#)[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard](#)

[BLM approves California-Nevada renewables transmission project](#)

Desert Dispatch - May 26

The BLM has approved the construction of 35 miles of transmission line, a substation, and related infrastructure intended to deliver energy generated by renewable power projects in the Ivanpah Valley region. The project will upgrade the current 115kV transmission line to a 230kV line. Seven miles of the transmission lines will be located in California, with the remainder to be built in Nevada; the substation will be located in California.

[Federal eagle conservation plan has wind industry worried](#)

Denver Post - May 29

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed an eagle conservation plan that has windpower industry stakeholders concerned that it would add significant delays to the development time of wind projects. "The sense is that this is going to add years to the time it takes to develop a project," said Ellen Casey of the American Wind Energy Association. The BLM said the plan is meant to allow wind projects to proceed while mitigating their impact on golden eagle populations.

[Group files lawsuit against Lake County geothermal plant](#)

Press Democrat - Jun 2

A citizens group in Cobb Mountain, Calif. have filed a lawsuit aimed at preventing a planned expansion of the 11MW Bottle Rock Power Plant. The suit, filed by a local group called the Friends of Cobb Mountain, alleges that the environmental impact report for the proposed expansion of the geothermal facility does not adequately address issues such as noise, heavy traffic, and exposure of area residents to hydrogen sulfide gas.

[New Jersey drops out of federal cap-and-trade program](#)

UPI - May 27

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has announced that the state will not participate in the federal government's 2008 cap-and-trade program targeting 10 northeastern states. The [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) aims to reduce carbon emissions by 10% from participating states by 2018 -- Christie said research by state environmental officials showed New Jersey had already achieved its 2020 carbon-reduction goals by switching from coal power to natural gas.

Related News:

[Environmentalists bash New Jersey governor's decision to leave cap-and-trade program](#)

[Analysis: States struggle to adopt cap-and-trade](#)

[Four solar fields near completion in Vineland](#)

The Daily Journal - May 28

Four solar fields capable of producing 12MW are in development in Vineland, building significantly on the city's one 4MW solar installation. The projects, to be built by NFI Solar, Constellation Energy and Cornerstone Power Development/OCI Solar, are in various stages of readiness, although all are expected to be complete and producing power by the end of 2011. The developers have signed power purchase deals with the Vineland Municipal Electric Utility.

[Request for Offers](#)

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



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...](#)

[Terra-Gen secures \\$631M in financing for Tehachapi wind project](#)

Terra-Gen Power - Jun 1

Days after receiving \$55 million investments from both Google and Citi, Terra-Gen Power has announced that it has secured \$631 million in financing for the sixth and eighth phases of its Alta Wind project in Tehachapi, Calif. The two 150MW wind projects, due to be completed in 2011, will combine with the first five phases of the project to generate a total of 1,020MW of electricity.

[Laidlaw Energy to buy 14MW California biomass plant](#)

Laidlaw Energy / Business Wire - Jun 2

New York-based Laidlaw Energy has signed a definitive agreement to buy a 14MW biomass plant in Susanville, Calif for an undisclosed sum. Laidlaw will be the sole owner of the plant once the purchase from current owners, energy firm Renegy and French company Hanalei Renewables, is complete.

[GE, CPV, DGC obtain financing for 800MW Riverside County solar thermal plant](#)

Competitive Power Ventures - May 31

GE Energy Financial Services, Competitive Power Ventures (CPV), and Diamond Generating Corporation (DGC) have secured the \$900 million needed to build the planned 800MW CPV Sentinel concentrated photovoltaic solar thermal power plant near Desert Hot Springs, Calif. DGC owns 50% of the project; GE and CPV each own 25%.

[DOE approves \\$45.6M loan guarantee for Nevada solar project](#)

DOE - Jun 2

The DOE has offered a conditional commitment for a \$45.6-million, ARRA-funded loan guarantee for a 20MW solar PV power plant in Nevada. Spanish renewable energy firm Fotowatio plans to build the plant, which will be the second largest solar PV project in the state when completed, on a site about 25 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

[California energy firm places large solar parts order with Louisiana manufacturer](#)

Sacramento Bee - May 29

Newark, Calif.-based energy firm Belectric has placed an order for 1.6 million pounds of aluminum parts for a Sacramento solar project from Louisiana manufacturer AFCO Industries. AFCO president Jim Waters said the 73,000-piece order will make 37 truckloads, whereas an average order for the company makes just two truckloads. The order is the largest the company has ever received.

[Primus Power raises \\$11M to build grid-sized flow battery](#)

Financial Post - May 31

In its most recent financing round, Alameda, Calif.-based Primus Power has raised \$11 million from venture capitalists I2BF Global Ventures and DBL Investors towards development of flow battery technology believed to be able to mitigate the intermittent nature of such renewable energy sources as solar and wind. Primus has already received grants from the DOE, the CEC, and ARPA-E toward development of the low-cost distributed storage technology.

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