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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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[NREL to help California tackle solar energy grid integration](#)

National Renewable Energy Laboratory - Mar 31

The California Public Utilities Commission has tapped experts at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to help the state stimulate solar energy research and build a sustainable solar industry. The commission awarded NREL \$2.78 million in California Solar Initiative (CSI) Research, Development, Deployment and Demonstration program grants. The CSI program will invest \$50 million to fund research and demonstration projects that will measurably reduce the cost and accelerate the installation of solar and other distributed energy technologies for power generation or storage, or that could reduce the use of natural gas.

Renewable Energy Focus

[California solar projects rush to beat deadline for subsidies](#)

USA Today - Mar 31

Time is running short for several dozen green-energy projects in California: Ground must be broken on them before year's end to get federal stimulus funds worth 30% of the projects' cost. The deadline -- and the push for green energy by President Obama and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger -- has inspired unprecedented coordination among regulators and environmentalists who want green energy but not rampant destruction of wilderness. However, the number and size of the California projects, especially a dozen huge solar farms, is stressing agencies and stakeholders alike. No other state has so many huge solar projects in the pipeline. Billions of dollars in stimulus funds ride on whether the permitting process can be sped up without sacrificing California's stringent environmental standards.

[Wind and solar power cost sensitive to load factors: report](#)

Renewable Energy Focus - Mar 26

The cost to generate onshore wind can be as low as \$48/MWh and as high as \$188/MWh for offshore wind, according to an analysis by the International Energy Agency (IEA). The report presents data for a variety of fuels and technologies, including coal and gas (with and without carbon capture), nuclear, hydro, onshore and offshore wind, biomass, solar, wave and tidal, as well as combined heat & power (CHP). It provides levelized costs of electricity for 200 plants, based on data covering 21 countries and several companies. It found the "levelized cost of electricity produced with onshore wind and solar PV technologies exhibit a very high sensitivity to the load factor variation, and to a lesser extent to the construction cost, at any discount rate."

[Energy Secretary Chu discusses nation's energy future: Q&A](#)

Washington Post - Mar 30

During the 2008 campaign, Barack Obama said the top three things he wanted to accomplish as president included withdrawing troops from Iraq, reforming health care and putting in place a new energy policy. A health-care bill has passed, and U.S. combat troops are on their way out of Iraq later this year. Fareed Zakaria recently discussed the third priority with Energy Secretary Steven Chu. The interview covers the current policy, goals, technology and cap and trade.

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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

[EPA announces phase-in of Clean Air Act permitting for greenhouse gases](#)

EPA - Mar 29

Under a final decision issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) no stationary sources will be required to get Clean Air Act permits that cover greenhouse gases (GHGs) before January 2011. EPA has pledged to take steps to address the billions of tons of greenhouse gas pollution and is providing time for large industrial facilities and state governments to put in place technologies to control and reduce carbon pollution.

[BP's solar retreat signals exodus of U.S. renewable-energy jobs](#)

Bloomberg - Mar 29

BP Plc's decision to halt U.S. output of solar panels may help short-circuit President Obama's plan to create thousands of jobs in renewable energy. BP, Europe's second-largest oil company, said it's stopping manufacturing at its Maryland solar plant and cutting 320 jobs because of high costs and declining panel prices. The announcement came seven weeks after the company said the division that includes solar and wind power was losing almost \$183,000 an hour. Solar companies are ramping up manufacturing in Asia even as they take government incentive funds to hire in the U.S. Related News: [The right way to do solar manufacturing in the U.S.](#)

[Cost to California of tax breaks for green-tech equipment questioned](#)

L.A. Times - Mar 27

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers say new tax breaks they created for green businesses won't cost taxpayers a cent. But economists, tax experts and budget analysts say such a claim is misleading. The new law allows companies to forgo paying sales tax on any green-technology manufacturing equipment they buy. There is no limit on how much machinery is eligible for the exemption, and rules governing what corporations can qualify leave room for businesses beyond solar, wind and geothermal companies to avoid the taxes. Some say the assertion that the new tax break will cost nothing is overly optimistic.

[Solar Power Inc. selects McClellan site for manufacturing facility, new world HQ](#)

Business Wire - Mar 29

Solar Power, Inc. has selected McClellan Business Park as the site for its U.S. manufacturing facility. The company plans to develop a utility-scale photovoltaic solar system in Sacramento County that will exceed 10 megawatts and have an estimated value of \$50 million. The proposed facility at the McClellan site will be approximately 100,000 square feet with an annual production capacity of 50 megawatts of the firm's solar panels. The company currently has a manufacturing facility in China.

[Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals](#)

[Kaiser Permanente gets 15 MW of solar](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Mar 31

This week Kaiser Permanente signed a deal with Recurrent Energy that will allow it to deploy 15 MW of solar power on 15 of its California facilities. Kaiser Permanente agreed to purchase the solar power through power purchase agreements with Recurrent Energy, which will own and operate all of the solar power systems, expected to be operational by summer 2011. These agreements allow the not-for-profit health plan and hospital system to partner with a private entity that is eligible for a 30% tax credit available to private companies such as Recurrent Energy. The 15 MW of solar power will provide approximately 10% of the electricity needed to run the buildings at the sites, which include Vallejo and Santa Clara medical centers

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

[AWEA Windpower 2010 Conference and Expo](#)

Dallas, TX

May 23-26, 2010

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)

Scottsdale, AZ

October 12-14, 2010

[Recent Opportunities](#)

[*NEW* UC Regents' University of Irvine Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Project Request For Proposals](#)

[Southern California Edison 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program's Request For Proposals From Independent Power Producers](#)

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

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

in Northern California, and Fontana and San Diego medical centers in Southern California. Related News: Kaiser Permanente pairs with Recurrent to install solar projects across California

[SDG&E Adds Geothermal Energy From Northern California](#)

SDG&E - Mar 31

San Diego Gas & Electric has signed a four-year power-purchase agreement with Calpine Energy Services to procure 25 megawatts (MW) of geothermal energy from the Calpine Geysers facility in Northern California. The Geysers facility is a complex of 15 geothermal power plants, drawing steam from more than 330 wells, located in the Mayacamas Mountains, north of San Francisco. The Geysers is the largest geothermal power producing site in the world, with Calpine owning 725 MW of active installed capacity. Under the agreement, which runs through 2014, the geothermal facility will produce enough power for more than 15,000 households.

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