

[Read this online](#)

Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication**Allen Matkins**
attorneys at law

May 10, 2011

[Offshore wind power capacity to boom in the next six years, research finds](#)

Pike Research - Apr 29

A [report](#) from Pike Research forecasts that investment in offshore wind power will surge in the next several years and as a result, total installed power generation capacity will increase by a factor of seventeen between 2011 and 2017, rising from just 4.1 GW of installed capacity to 70.1 GW by the end of the forecast period. The report indicates that tidal power turbines are likely to be far larger than land-based turbines as a cost-saving measure, as the cost of installing offshore wind farms can be double or triple that of conventional windpower installations.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[UN report: Renewable energy supply could outstrip demand within 40 years](#)

Bloomberg - May 4

Geothermal, biomass, solar, wind, hydropower and tidal power have the potential to exceed global energy demand within the next four decades, according to a [report](#) by the UN's Intergovernmental Group on Climate Change (IGCC). The group, which based its findings on 2008 energy demand, reported that meeting current and estimated future demand for clean energy will require a global investment of \$12.3 trillion. The full report is over 1,000 pages long and the IGCC has announced that the document will be subject to change.

[Report: U.S. urged to adopt wind-turbine standards](#)

Delaware Online - May 2

The U.S. needs to adopt quality standards for offshore wind turbines, the National Academies argues in a report. The academies suggest that the U.S. Department of the Interior create "a set of clear requirements that can accommodate future design development," including benchmarks for structural integrity, environmental performance and energy generation from offshore wind turbines.

[USDA, DOE invest \\$47M in bioenergy R&D projects](#)

Department of Energy - May 5

The Department of Agriculture and the DOE have committed \$47 million to fund eight R&D projects that will support the production of biofuels, bio-based products and bioenergy in an effort to address soaring fuel prices. The investments are designed to reduce the country's oil imports, support economic development in rural areas and protect businesses from future spikes in fuel prices.

[White paper explores pros and cons of energy storage](#)

EPRI - Apr. 29

Efficient energy storage is the missing element in the rush to find ways to put renewable energy on the grid and remains elusive despite a boom in R&D in the sector, according to a [white paper](#) from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Among the report's findings: pumped-water storage dominates

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

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

Editors[William R. Devine](#)[Patrick A. Perry](#)[Emily Murray](#)**FOLLOW US****Upcoming Events**

[Green Lease Revolution](#)

Sunnyvale, CA

May 11, 2011

Click [here](#) to register

Connect, schmooze and question the Green Lease Experts, including Rick Mallory. [Watch the Video](#) for a sneak preview.



[American Wind Energy Association \(AWEA\) Windpower 2011](#)

Anaheim, CA

May 22-25, 2011

[RETECH 2011: The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition](#)

Washington, DC

September 20-22, 2011

[Solar Power International 2011](#)

Dallas, TX

October 17-20, 2011

99% of the energy storage market; energy storage is still too expensive to be widely adopted; energy storage revenues are difficult to predict due to rapid changes in technology, as well as fluctuations in supply and demand; and the costs of different energy storage technologies vary widely, with compressed-air storage costing about \$1,000/kW and advanced lead acid battery systems costing about \$5,000/kW.

[California accounts for nearly half of domestic solar generation](#)

New York Times - Apr. 29

California's solar power installations generated 971MW of electricity in 2010, accounting for 47% of the national total, according to a top 10 list compiled by the Solar Energy Industries Association. New Jersey claimed the number two position, producing 14% (293MW) of the country's solar power, with Colorado in third place producing 5% (108MW) of the nation's solar energy. New Mexico and North Carolina ranked ninth (45MW) and tenth (42%) respectively.

[Analysis: Despite roadblocks, renewable energy expected to boom in Inland Empire](#)

The Rose Report - May 4

The Inland Empire's clean energy industry is facing a number of legal and bureaucratic hurdles, but will ultimately prevail as California races to meet the 33%-by-2020 renewable energy target signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown, according to the Rose Report. Aesthetics, environmental concerns, large acreage requirements, and cost are the four primary impediments to fast development of renewable energy projects in the area; however, this article suggests that residents' not-in-my-backyard sentiment and advocacy group litigation will be insufficient to keep utilities and renewable energy developers from exploiting the area's potential for large solar and wind installations.

[Developer transforms Mojave Desert ghost town with solar energy](#)

Los Angeles Times - May 4

Before the arrival of developer Gerald Freeman in 1984, the California gold rush town of Nipton had been abandoned for years; Freeman has since transformed Nipton into a solar powered mini-boomtown with a \$1.2 million investment that includes a 80kW solar PV facility. Cleantech industry workers, attracted by the nearby Ivanpah Solar Project and Molycorp rare earths mine, have boosted the town's population from one to 60, and tourist traffic has increased as word spreads of the town's unique history and use of solar power. Freeman continues to invest in the town's infrastructure and has begun promoting it with the slogan "Nipton -- Powered by the Sun".

[Thousand Oaks officials refuse second solar project of 2011](#)

Ventura County Star - May 4

City officials in Thousand Oaks, Calif. have canceled a solar power installation planned for the city's Municipal Service Center, the second solar project to be rejected by the city in 2011. Bids for the PV installation on the Municipal Service Centre came in twice as high as expected, with the lowest bid being \$1.3 million, stretching the project's estimated payback period from 13 years to 20 years and making the project financially infeasible. Another solar project planned for a city library was cancelled earlier this year when bureaucratic delays led to a smaller grant than anticipated from Southern California Edison.

[Unirac debuts mobile apps for solar installers](#)

Reuters - May 5

New Mexico-based solar racking firm Unirac has launched iPhone-compatible [mobile apps](#) designed to help solar builders install its steel and aluminum mounts for solar PV arrays more efficiently. The company offers an inclinometer app for \$20, a bar-code reader app that allows the user to

Recent Opportunities

[Santa Clara Solar Photovoltaic Energy System at Tasman Drive Parking Structure Request for Proposals](#)

[Two New Solar Energy Opportunities](#)

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



Allen Matkins #1 Real Estate Law Firm in California 2002-2010

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...](#)

download installation directions, blueprints and sales information, as well as a mobile version of its website. The company plans to release Android-compatible versions of the apps by 2012.

[Utah geothermal company goes bankrupt](#)

Washington Post - Apr. 29

Provo, Utah-based geothermal developer Raser Technologies has filed for bankruptcy with a restructuring agreement arranged with bondholders and secured creditors in a Delaware federal court, according to the Washington Post. The company listed liabilities of \$107.8 million and assets of \$41.8 million in its Chapter 11 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Del. Raser has one functioning geothermal plant in Utah and another eight in development in Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and Oregon.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Total to purchase 60% stake in SunPower](#)

Platts - Apr. 29

Fossil fuels firm Total will buy a 60% stake in San Jose-based solar developer SunPower for \$1.3 billion in cash and \$1 billion in credit support, according to Platts. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SunPower said it expects the deal to decrease its cost of capital and improve its access to uncollateralized debt financing. A spokesman for Total said the investment marks the firm's first step on its way to becoming a major force in the solar power industry. The deal allows SunPower to retain its current management team.

Related News:

[Analysis: SunPower sale may signal sellout spree for U.S. solar companies](#)

[SunRun, U.S. Bancorp team up to buy \\$200M worth of residential solar systems](#)

PR Newswire / SunRun - May 4

San Francisco-based solar developer SunRun has formed a partnership with a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp to purchase solar residential installations totaling \$200 million. Under the terms of the deal, Bancorp will provide a \$200 million tax equity commitment with support from the 1603 Treasury Grant Program. SunRun and Bancorp have partnered on four smaller solar financing arrangements in the past. According to a company release, the increase in company liquidity has allowed SunRun to expand its operations to Oregon as well, raising the number of states the firm operates in to eight.

[Constellation Energy to acquire 30 MW solar installation in Sacramento](#)

Constellation Energy - May 3

Constellation Energy announced that it acquired a 30 MW DC solar generation project in Sacramento, Calif., from utility-grade photovoltaic power plant developer Belectric, Inc. Constellation will own and operate the system and sell the electricity generated from it to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District under ten, 20-year power purchase agreements.

Related News:

[Constellation Energy to offer economic load response program](#)

[California solar firm to use Echo First technology for residential installations](#)

PR.com / Solarponics - May 6

Atascadero, Calif.-based solar firm Solarponics will employ Echo First electric and thermal solar technology for its residential installations on the Central Coast.

According to a Solarponics release, the Echo First system is among the first to employ self-cleaning PV panels, and is 70% to 100% more efficient than other solar systems due to its use of thermal power.

[Vestas gets 102MW order for California wind farm](#)

Vestas - May 6

Danish wind turbine manufacturer Vestas has received an order for 34, 3MW V-90 wind turbines for a wind farm planned for Tehachapi, Calif. The contract, which includes a two-year service and maintenance agreement, requires Vestas to deliver and commission the turbines. The 80m. turbines are scheduled to be delivered in the second half of 2011, and commissioning is expected to be complete by the end of the year. The Tehachapi windpower project is co-owned by Brookfield Renewable Power and Coram California Development.

[GE expects \\$21B in clean-tech revenue in 2011](#)

Wall Street Journal - May 3

General Electric expects to realize \$21 billion in revenue from clean technology this year, CEO Jeffrey Immelt said. That is \$5 billion more than what the company earned in 2005, he said during a Massachusetts Institute of Technology forum on clean-energy innovation. One area in which the private sector is not investing is nuclear energy, even before the crisis in Japan. Its "financial aspects are overwhelming for utilities," Immelt said.

© 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.