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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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[Renewable energy leaders warn against GOP plan to cut DOE loan guarantees](#)

Wall Street Journal - Mar 30

Renewable energy industry leaders are warning that the GOP's proposal to cut \$41 billion in Department of Energy (DOE) loan guarantees for clean energy projects from the 2012 federal budget would result in lost jobs, tax revenue and investment opportunities, the Wall Street Journal reports. The cuts would eliminate a billion-dollar loan guarantee for a 290MW First Solar project in Arizona, effectively scuttling the project. Also at risk are 30 other renewable energy projects that would provide as many as 25,000 jobs, according to a DOE spokesperson.

Related News:[Wind, solar energy face uncertain future](#)[Biofuels industry decries GOP plan to cut DOE loan guarantees](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Obama calls for less oil, more renewable energy in energy security strategy](#)

Department of Energy - Mar 30

In a speech at Georgetown University, President Obama restated his administration's commitment to increased use of renewable energy and reduced dependence on imported oil. Obama stressed the importance of the Clean Energy Standard, which mandates that 80% of electricity consumed in the U.S. be generated from clean sources such as wind, solar or geothermal by 2035 in the U.S. maintaining a secure energy supply.

[California Assembly approves renewable energy mandate](#)

L.A. Times - Mar 30

The California Assembly has passed legislation which mandates that state utilities obtain at least 33% of the electricity they sell from renewable sources by a vote of 55-19. While Gov. Jerry Brown has not directly expressed support for this law, he campaigned in 2010 to increase the state's renewable energy mandate and is widely expected to approve the bill.

Related News:[California utilities say 33% mandate will make energy costs soar](#)[California renewable energy mandate passes Assembly, heads to Gov. Brown](#)
[Renewable Energy Accountability Project asks Gov. Brown to sign off on renewables goal](#)[Silicon Valley companies aim to benefit from 33% mandate](#)

[Senate to vote on EPA cap-and-trade law](#)

Hot Air - Mar 28

Democratic and Republican lawmakers are preparing for a showdown on EPA's proposed carbon regulation legislation that could be the most influential bill on the private economy this year. The GOP's success at courting 41 moderate Democrats to vote against the legislation will likely be the deciding factor in the battle.

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[Court could freeze California carbon regulation as legal conflicts continue](#)

Reuters - Mar 31

A California court could put the state's landmark climate-control law on hold as an environmental justice group and state regulators have reached an impasse over the best carbon-control system for the state. A Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the Association of Irrigated Residents' (AIR) suit that claimed the state Air Resources Board (ARB) did not fully consider all options when it selected a carbon cap-and-trade system as the driving mechanism of AB 32, the state's proposed climate control law.

[Global renewable energy deals rise 66% driven by spike in U.S. activity](#)

Wall Street Journal - Mar 27

Financial and regulatory boosts to the renewable energy industry from the U.S. government, as well as heightened consumer awareness, have driven a 66% spike in the number of mergers and acquisitions in the sector over 2010, according to a Pricewaterhousecoopers [report](#). Prior to last year, the U.S. had lagged behind the European renewables market, but increased government focus on the industry has helped boost American deal volume in the sector to 39%.

[California prominent in top 10 list of cleantech cities](#)

Reuters / Cleantechies - Mar 28

California cities took four spots in a top 10 list of the nation's "cleantech capitals" published by Reuters. San Jose came in second after Boston, Massachusetts for its advances in cleantech R&D, especially for solar energy. San Francisco placed fourth after Austin, Texas. Berkeley was ranked eighth for its status as a hub for biofuel R&D, and Pasadena placed ninth.

[PG&E to charge customers for disabling smart grid meters](#)

Grist - Mar 25

PG&E has agreed to turn off North Californian consumers' smart grid meters in exchange for roughly \$600 per customer following complaints originating in the Bay Area that the devices cause migraines and other health problems. Customers wanting to have the devices shut off would be charged a one-time fee of between \$105 and \$270, with a \$14 to \$20 monthly fee added to their power bills for two years.

[Solar advocate launches efficiency competition for solar industry stakeholders](#)

Silicon Valley Mercury News - Mar 28

[SolarTech](#), a solar energy promotion initiative developed by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, has launched a competition that challenges solar industry policymakers and stakeholders to find ways to cut the amount of time it takes for solar projects to clear bureaucratic hurdles before being built.

[Proposed SoCal wave power farm faces criticism](#)

L.A. Times - Mar 30

A plan to build one of the first hydrokinetic wave farms in the nation off San Onofre Beach in Orange County is attracting criticism from environmentalists, surfers, and fishermen, according to an article in the L.A. Times. Orange County officials have given Fountain Valley-based JD Products permission to



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conduct a three-year study on the feasibility of installing as many as 11,000 wave electricity generators one mile off the coast of San Onofre that would generate about 3,000MW of electricity.

[California Solar Initiative running low on funds, renewal uncertain](#)

GigaOm - Mar 31

California's race to meet its renewable energy goals could be curtailed if state government does not replenish the California Solar Initiative's rapidly dwindling funding. Only 477MW remain of the 1,750MW worth of solar installations mandated by the \$2.2-billion program, and some of the solar systems installed so far are draining the program's funds by producing more power than anticipated.

[San Jose residents band together for cheaper solar installations](#)

San Jose Mercury News - Mar 26

The City of San Jose has rolled out a "solar group buy" program that encourages residents to band together to obtain solar installations for less money and with more technical support. The [SunShares](#) program, the first such initiative in the nation to be adopted by a municipality, was started by San Jose City Council in cooperation with the Bay Area Climate Collaborative and \$100,000 in federal grant money.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[LADWP to build 11MW solar plant in Adelanto](#)

Victorville Daily Press - Mar 29

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is planning to build an 11MW solar power plant in Adelanto that the utility says will provide power to 85,000 homes in Los Angeles for 25 years. LADWP, the largest municipal utility in the nation, will build the \$48 million facility on 42 acres of land at its Adelanto Switching and Converter Station. California solar energy industry pioneer, SolarWorld, has been hired to engineer and provide the 46,322 solar panels needed for the project.

[UpWind Solutions signs five-year O&M deal with California wind farm](#)

Upwind Solutions - Mar 29

Medford, Oregon-based wind energy developer UpWind Solutions has signed a five-year deal with Whitewater Hill Wind Partners to provide post-warranty operations and maintenance services for the Whitewater Hill Wind Farm in North Palm Springs, Calif. The 61.5MW wind farm houses 41 GE 1.5MW wind turbines and commenced operation in 2002.

[Recurrent Energy files request for 400MW Fresno County solar project](#)

Business Journal - Mar 25

Recurrent Energy, a solar developer headquartered in San Francisco, has filed a permit request with Fresno County officials to build a 400MW solar power plant. Recurrent is in the early stages of an environmental review for the Tranquility facility, which is planned to be built in 20MW blocks that will connect to PG&E transmission lines.

[DOE signs agreement for development of solar-power window](#)

New Energy Technologies - Mar 31

Maryland-based solar developer New Energy Technologies has entered into a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) with the DOE to move its SolarWindow product closer to commercial availability. SolarWindow uses thermoreactive glazing agents that allow glass coated with the substance to be transparent and generate electricity.

[Northern California Power Agency approves Ram Power geothermal power purchase agreement](#)

Marketwire / Ram Power - Mar 29

The Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) has signed an agreement to buy electricity generated by Ram Power's Geysers geothermal plant near San Francisco. The power purchase agreement amends a 2008 agreement between NCPA and Ram Power by amending the purchase price per MW, extending the life of the agreement from 20 to 25 years, and adjusts the plant's expected output upward to 26MW.

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