

June 15, 2010

[Chu welcomes Republican climate bill](#)

Reuters - Jun 9

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu gave limited support to a Republican senator for introducing an alternative climate bill that would limit emissions by less than President Barack Obama wants to, but would also take steps to reduce U.S. dependence on oil. Chu stopped short of endorsing the bill for passage. Lugar's bill, called the [Practical Energy and Climate Plan Act of 2010](#), aims to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions with a mix of higher fuel efficiency standards for vehicles, making new homes and buildings more energy efficient and expanding nuclear power generation.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Voters defeat Prop. 16 in California](#)

Sunpluggers - Jun 9

With 100% of the votes counted, semi-official results showed Proposition 16 lost with 52.5% opposed and 47.5% in favor. Proposition 16 would have amended the California constitution to require two-thirds voter approval before a public utility could provide service to new customers or territories, or before a local government could set up a community choice aggregator, or CCA, an energy-supply approach in which municipalities group together to purchase electricity wholesale.

Related News:

[PG&E loses its \\$46M Prop. 16 battle in California: A win for grid innovation](#)
[Public anger at PG&E helped sink Prop 16](#)

[GE pushing to work ahead of the climate bill](#)

New York Times - Jun 9

Given the poor odds that Congress will approve of climate legislation, at least in the near term, General Electric is promoting a new strategy: federal money for tactical planning. GE makes equipment that removes carbon dioxide from coal through a gasification process and stores it underground, preventing it from entering the atmosphere. GE proposes the federal government provide money for the planning work on carbon capture and storage, such as the drafting of designs and the drilling of wells to gauge the ability of rock deep beneath the surface of coal plants to hold carbon dioxide.

[Group calls for U.S. to triple spending on energy research](#)

New York Times - Jun 10

The U.S. is badly lagging in basic research on new forms of energy, deepening U.S. dependence on dirty fuels and crippling its international competitiveness, a group of business executives warn in a study, John M. Broder [reports](#). The group, which includes Bill Gates; Jeffrey R. Immelt, chief executive of General Electric; and John Doerr, a top venture capitalist, urges the government to more than triple spending on energy research and development, to \$16 billion a year. It also recommends the creation of a national energy board to guide investment decisions toward radical advances in energy technology.

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Upcoming Events

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

[Wind companies to buy more U.S. parts in agreement with unions](#)

Bloomberg - Jun 10

Wind-energy companies agreed to buy more parts from U.S. suppliers, and a labor union promised to join in lobbying Congress for a requirement to use more renewable energy. The accord announced by the American Wind Energy Association and the United Steelworkers union grew out of objections by lawmakers that federal money was being spent to purchase clean-energy components made abroad.

[First Solar says can't meet demand for modules](#)

Reuters - Jun 5

The market for solar modules is so strong that First Solar will not be able to meet demand this year, a senior executive with the firm says. Business is likely to pick up strongly in the fourth quarter after slowing in the third on planned cuts to subsidies in Germany, the world's biggest solar market, Stephan Hansen, responsible for business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, told Swiss paper Finanz und Wirtschaft. The company is having to postpone projects in the U.S. to meet demand in Europe, he said, predicting growing markets in Italy, France, Spain, China and Australia.

[Sales of small wind turbines up in 2009](#)

AWEA - Jun 8

The U.S. market for small wind energy systems is prospering, expanding 15% in 2009 and accounting for about half of the units sold in the entire world, the American Wind Energy Association said, highlighting findings from its annual [Small Wind Turbine market study](#). Among key findings of the study: an estimated 100,000 small wind turbines are now installed in the U.S., bringing total small wind generating capacity to the 100-MW milestone; the U.S. is the world's largest market -- about half of all units and capacity added worldwide in 2009; and the U.S. is the world's leading manufacturer of small wind turbines.

[FreeCleanSolar launches national renewable energy search engine](#)

PR Newswire - Jun 9

[FreeCleanSolar](#) has launched a search engine to help consumers find and review qualified renewable energy experts for home and business projects nationwide. The free service includes design, consulting, financing, installation and service professionals with expertise in photovoltaic solar panels, wind turbines, solar water heating, solar pool heating, energy efficiency and green consulting. The online tool makes it easy to find residential and commercial experts and quickly review detailed profiles about their number of installations, years in business, types of projects, licensing, affiliations and certifications.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[UC-San Diego, Sanyo Electric sign contract on solar energy research](#)

Sanyo - Jun 3

San Diego's University of California and Sanyo Electric Group have entered into a research agreement on energy management and solar energy systems. The University of California and Sanyo Electric Group will collaborate on multi-disciplinary, multi-year projects in renewable energy as well as energy storage development, research and education. Over three years, Sanyo Electric Group

San Francisco, CA
September 29-30, 2010

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)
Scottsdale, AZ
October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)
Los Angeles, CA
October 12-14, 2010

Recent Opportunities

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

[Solar Energy Projects at Various Kern County Waste Management Properties](#)

[Los Angeles World Airport's Request for Concepts and Qualifications For the Potential Lease for Development of Renewable Energy Project at Palmdale](#)

[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](#)

will provide \$3 million for funding research projects focusing on solar power usage.

[DOE offers \\$102M conditional commitment for loan guarantee to U.S. Geothermal, Inc.](#)

EERE - Jun 10

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the offer of a \$102.2 million conditional commitment for a loan guarantee to U.S. Geothermal to construct a 22-megawatt geothermal power project in Malheur County, in southeastern Oregon. Officials say the project will use an improved technology to extract energy from rock and fluids in the earth's crust more efficiently. The project's output will be sold to Idaho Power Company under a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA).

[Trina Solar inks deal with Southern California Edison](#)

San Francisco Business Times - Jun 9

[Trina Solar](#) has signed a supply agreement with Southern California Edison. Trina, based in Changzhou, China, made the agreement through its San Francisco subsidiary, Trina Solar (US) Inc. The deal calls for Trina to supply SCE with 45MW worth of photovoltaic modules between now and the first quarter of 2011. Shipments have already started.

[SDG&E VP discusses energy options](#)

San Diego Union-Tribune - Jun 7

This feature on Jim Avery, vice president of power supply for San Diego Gas & Electric, includes a discussion on the company's energy options for the region. Avery discusses the Sunrise Powerlink: a project for which he's spent much of the past decade advocating. The link is a proposed 1,000-megawatt transmission line connecting the Imperial Valley to San Diego. Avery says the company needs to use both desert and local sources for energy production.

[Solaria moves HQ to expand manufacturing](#)

San Francisco Business Times - Jun 10

Solar panel manufacturer Solaria said it will move to a new location in Fremont to expand its office and manufacturing space. The startup recently raised \$45 million in venture capital and some of that will be used to retrofit the vacant factory in North Fremont where Solaria will locate its headquarters. The company, which hopes to move into its new headquarters in December, said the plant will also have a large solar plant attached. Solaria, which holds 30 patents on its photovoltaic solar modules, wouldn't disclose the size of the new facility.

[Small California town to be 85% powered by solar](#)

L.A. Times - Jun 10

The Town of Nipton, on the edge of the Mojave Desert, is gleaming most of its electricity from a new 80-kilowatt solar installation from Skyline Solar. The number of people in the town occasionally balloons up to 250 people during tourism-heavy seasons. The Mountain View-based company took six weeks to set up the system, which is made of monocrystalline cells and is expected to provide roughly 85% of the town's energy needs.

[DOE backs new technology test after troubled California geothermal project](#)

Greenwire - Jun 10

Land outside the Newberry National Volcanic Monument will be the site of a

new geothermal project to demonstrate a technology that has been controversial for its links with earthquakes but holds promise as a sustainable source of always-on power. Geothermal developers AltaRock Energy and Davenport Newberry will work together to build a project using enhanced geothermal systems (EGS), an emerging technology in which high-temperature rock is fractured deep underground and water is passed through it to generate steam that powers a turbine. The project will be backed by more than \$20 million in federal stimulus funds.

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