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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
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## [Pew Report says renewable energy policy would generate \\$342 billion for US](#)

*CleanTechnica - Dec 9*

Renewable energy standard legislation would earn billions of dollars for the U.S. economy, says a report on the future of global clean energy policy from the Pew Environment Group. The study claims the U.S. would outperform all other countries, claiming \$342 billion of the projected \$2.3 trillion they expect to be generated by clean energy by 2020. The study suggests that such gains are possible if the U.S. adopts an aggressive stance towards renewable energy soon.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

## [Senate extends cash grant program for renewable energy programs](#)

*The Street - Dec 10*

Weeks before a renewable energy cash grant program was due to expire, it has been revived for next year as the Senate included the incentive with year-end tax cut legislation. The program, part of Section 1603 of the original financial crisis stimulation legislation enacted in 2009, has been the target of heavy lobbying for its renewal by the wind and solar energy industries. Since its introduction, the program has paid about \$18.2 billion into renewable energy projects that generate 8,600 MW of electricity.

#### Related News:

[Renewable energy concerns argue that grant cuts will mean layoffs](#)  
[Wind and solar energy interests lobby hard for grant program renewal](#)

## [Government agencies collaborate on renewable energy export initiative](#)

*Department of Energy - Dec 10*

Seven U.S. government agencies, including the Department of Energy, have teamed to form the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative, a program intended to develop U.S. energy exports. The group's five-year mandate will involve the implementation of 23 interagency actions aimed at meeting the goals of the National Export Initiative and meeting the federal goal of becoming the world's foremost exporter of renewable energy.

#### Related News:

[Government launches clean air program](#)

## [EPA emissions rules target biomass projects](#)

*Renewable Energy World - Dec 10*

EPA greenhouse gas permitting regulations for 2011 will include biomass in the same category as fossil fuels. The legislation is expected to stimulate biomass exports to the EU, but may slow industry growth in the U.S., with representatives of The Southern Company saying it could "kill biomass dead in its tracks." Power plants planning to switch from coal to biomass are anticipated to reconsider. The EPA acknowledges biomass as a renewable energy resource, [explaining](#) that the regulation is the result of a failing of the

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#### Upcoming Events

[7th Annual Clean-tech Investor Summit](#)

Palm Springs, CA  
**January 19-20, 2011**

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA  
**January 23-25, 2011**

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

Washington, DC  
**September 20-22, 2011**

bureaucratic process.

## [Chu asks Congress to include nuclear power in clean energy mandate](#)

*ABC News - Dec 9*

Energy secretary Steven Chu called for Congress to include nonrenewable energy sources such as nuclear power in a mandate to increase the amount of clean energy used by utilities. The move is hoped to spur support for the legislation from Republicans who oppose focusing strictly on such renewable resources as wind and solar power. Efforts to implement a nationwide renewable energy standard have stalled as some states claim to lack plentiful renewable energy resources. Chu hopes to make the law more inclusive with the addition of nuclear power and clean coal.

## [Report offers positive forecast on California cap-and-trade system](#)

*Sacramento Bee - Dec 10*

A [report](#) released by Next 10, a San Francisco-based nonprofit group that supports environmentally-friendly technology, estimates that California's efforts to cap carbon emissions will create 623,000 jobs over the next decade and only increase power bills by about 2% to 4%. The group's assertion contrasts sharply with critics who say cap-and-trade will boost electricity bills by 20% and put thousands of Californians out of work by 2020.

### **Related News:**

[California cap-and-trade plan draws fire](#)- Ventura County Star

## [California to miss 20% renewable energy goal by narrow margin](#)

*SF chronicle - Dec 8*

State regulators say they expect to have purchased 18% of California's energy this year from companies exploiting renewable resources, narrowly missing a legislated goal of 20% set four years ago. This 'renewable portfolio standard' law allows utility companies unable to hit the 20% mark to meet or surpass the goal with the caveat that they must exceed the goal by the percentage by which they previously missed it within three years. Legislation is in the works to boost the state's renewable energy goal to 33% by 2020.

## [California tops list of clean-energy states](#)

*BusinessWire - Dec 8*

According to an index released by clean-tech research firm Clean Edge, California leads the country in clean energy leadership. [The US Clean Energy Leadership Index](#) ranks the 50 states according to four criteria - leadership, technology, policy, and capital. California placed first in every category except policy, where Washington and Massachusetts performed well. Clean Edge intends the list to be a tool for regional comparative research, a source for aggregated industry data, and a jumping-off point for deep, data-driven analysis of the US clean-energy market

## [Construction begins on \\$1.9B San Diego transmission line](#)

*LA Times - Dec 10*

Construction on [Sunrise Powerlink](#), a 100-mile transmission network capable of carrying up to 1,000MW, has begun near San Diego. The project belongs to San Diego Gas & Electric, and is the largest infrastructure project the utility has ever undertaken. Representatives of the utility say much of the energy fed into the transmission line will come from remote renewable energy projects such as wind and solar farms. The project has attracted the [anger](#) of some environmental groups who say that breaking ground on Sunrise Powerlink is premature as the project is the subject of several unresolved legal disputes.

## Recent Opportunities

[Southern California Public Power Authority Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Projects](#)

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

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



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**Related News:**

[San Diego transmission network moves California closer to renewable energy goal](#)

**[CPUC dismisses request to investigate safety of new smart meters](#)**

*Solar Home and Business Journal - Dec 7*

The California Public Utilities Commission has dismissed a group's application that called for an investigation into the health effects of radio frequency emissions from smart meters. The EMF Safety Network asked the CPUC to investigate the risks of the meters installed by Pacific Gas and Electric Co, which has installed about 5.5 million digital meters to date. The commission rejected the request. The EMF Safety Network said in its filing that federal safety standards are inadequate to protect the public health from long-term, chronic exposure to RF emissions from smart meters. In dismissing the request, CPUC said the group did not challenge reports saying that the exposure from smart meters is less than that from many other common devices.

**[California EPA group to award small businesses for environmentally friendly practices](#)**

*Solar Home & Business Journal - Dec 10*

The California Air Resources Board is seeking nominees for small businesses that exemplify clean leadership until Jan. 24, 2011. The CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards will honor businesses with 100 employees or less that hold to eco-friendly company values and that best integrate information from the group's [website](#) into their everyday business practices. The California Air Resources Board is a department of the EPA, with a mandate to promote and protect public and environmental health.

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**NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS**

**[Solar companies race to beat federal incentives deadline in Tulare County](#)**

*Porterville Recorder - Dec 8*

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors has signed off on a deal for six solar farms that are expected to produce a combined 150 MW of electricity. The deal is the first for the county, with more area solar energy projects awaiting approval. [Solar Project Solutions](#), the company building all six plants, has agreed to pay \$36,000 in annual mitigation fees to the county. The solar farms begin construction early next year. Solar companies have been moving fast to beat an end-of-year deadline on federal incentives for renewable energy projects in the state.

**[SolarReserve moves closer to breaking ground on California, Nevada projects](#)**

*BusinessWire - Dec 8*

Solar energy projects expected to create over 10,000 jobs and generate enough power for 150,000 homes are due to break ground in California and Nevada next year as power plant developer [SolarReserve](#) and the DOE advance the deal's financing process. Both power plants will use [advanced molten salt power tower](#) technology developed by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne. The proposed 150 MW Riverside County, Calif. project is currently under review by the CEC, with a decision on a start date expected by the end of the year.

**[California's largest solar project opens in San Francisco](#)**

*Bloomberg - Dec 9*

San Francisco has tripled its solar energy output with addition of a solar energy plant with more than 24,000 solar panels and covering an area the size of 12 football fields. The Sunset Reservoir Solar Project produces 5 MW of electricity daily, say officials. The electricity will be purchased by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission from project developer [Recurrent Energy](#).

[NextEra to replace, decommission out-of-date turbines at California wind farm](#)

*LA Times - Dec 8*

NextEra Energy Resources has signed an [agreement](#) with the state to replace, and in some cases remove, aging and inefficient turbines at the Altamont Pass wind farm in northern California. The deal, brokered in part by Calif. Attorney General and Gov.-elect Jerry Brown, will see NextEra replace 2,400 of the site's 5,400 wind turbines over the next four years. The new turbines are anticipated to be more energy efficient and present less danger to local wildlife. The company has also agreed to build the new turbines in environmentally friendly locales and pay \$2.5 million in mitigation fees to be split between the Public Integrated Energy Research Program and bird habitat creation programs.

**Related News:**

[Windmills take toll on wildlife](#)- LA Times

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