

December 6, 2011

[Department of the Interior gives priority status to 17 renewable projects for 2012](#)

North American Windpower - Dec 1

In 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will give priority status to [17 renewable energy projects](#) -- six wind, nine solar and two geothermal -- representing about 7GW. The BLM developed this priority list in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, with an emphasis on early consultation. The priority projects were selected based on a variety of criteria, including progress of the necessary public participation and environmental analysis under the National Environmental Protection Act and applicable state environmental laws.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[North American PV market set to double year over year in Q4 2011](#)

NDP Solarbuzz - Nov 29

In Q4 2011, the North America PV market is forecast to grow 33% quarter over quarter and 101% year over year. Fourth quarter installations of more than 0.8GW of PV capacity are expected, resulting in a total demand of over 2.2GW in 2011. The U.S. will account for 84% of North American demand in the quarter, while Canada, dominated by Ontario, has the remaining 16%. When viewed at a state or provincial level, California remains the largest single market, with 21% of market share. Ontario is forecast to become the second-largest region at 16%, followed by New Jersey at 11%.

[Pattern Energy abandons California wind project citing impact on birds](#)

Bloomberg - Nov 22

Pattern Energy Group will abandon a 100MW wind project it was developing near Sacramento, Calif., that may have become a hazard to golden eagles, bald eagles and other local birds. The Yolo County project is the third the developer has abandoned due to environmental concerns, according to a spokesman. The company had not begun construction on the project.

[Siemens unveils lightweight 6MW offshore wind turbine](#)

PC Magazine - Nov 30

Siemens unveiled a 6MW offshore wind turbine it claims is the lightest in its class and features 50% less parts compared to similar offshore turbines. According to the company, the reduced weight "significantly reduces infrastructure, installation, and service costs, and boosts lifetime energy output and profitability." A prototype of the turbine has been tested in Denmark since May.

[Public agencies turning to solar power for energy. use panels to provide shade for parking lots](#)

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Upcoming Events

[AWEA WindPower 2012](#)
Atlanta, GA
June 3-6, 2012

Recent Opportunities

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Development Opportunities on Metropolitan Property in the I-10 Corridor](#)

[Sonoma County Water Agency Wind Energy System Request for Proposals](#)

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



NBC Los Angeles - Nov 28

As energy costs continue to soar, cash-strapped public agencies throughout California have turned to solar power "Because the cost of energy from solar is getting increasingly competitive with standard power sources," according to a managing director at SunPower. In San Diego County, officials flipped the switch on a new solar installation that will provide 14% of the power needed for a major jail complex. Similar efforts are underway at state prisons, schools, universities and libraries throughout the state. Instead of putting the panels on the roof, an expensive process that is constrained by the size and shape of a building's roof, municipalities are instead building what are essentially gigantic carports over their parking lots.

[SCE utility poles spark controversy in Chino Hills](#)

Los Angeles Times - Nov 27

Southern California Edison is building a transmission line for wind-generated electricity, but 198-foot utility poles near homes have upset Chino Hills residents and gotten politicians involved. The city has spent \$2.5 million fighting the project in court since it was approved by the CPUC in 2009, losing in Superior Court and in the state Court of Appeal. However, since SCE began installing the towers, legislators started coming to opposition rallies, promising to push bills to block such massive transmission lines in small neighborhood easements. On Nov. 10, the CPUC ordered SCE to stop construction on the Chino Hills segment of the transmission line and to prepare alternative routes for review by the state regulators in January.

[Scientists create a how-to guide to slashing California's GHG emissions by 2050](#)

Berkeley Lab - Nov 24

In a [study](#) (purchase required) published by the journal [Science](#), Berkeley Lab scientists analyze the infrastructure and technology changes needed to reach California's aggressive emissions reduction goal of cutting its greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The scientists believe that this will be technologically feasible by 2050 if today's pace of innovation continues and outlined three changes to help the state reach its goal: (1) more than a quarter of the emissions reductions needed to reach California's goal will have to come from energy efficiency; (2) electric generation emissions intensity must be reduced to less than 0.02 kilograms of CO2 emissions per kWh; and (3) most direct fossil fuel uses in transport, buildings and industry must switch to electricity, raising the electricity share of end-use energy from 15% today to 55% in 2050.

[IEA report: Renewable energy becoming cost competitive](#)

Reuters - Nov 23

A report from the International Energy Agency found that renewable energy technology is becoming increasingly cost competitive and growth rates are in line to meet levels required of a sustainable energy future. The report added that subsidies in green energy technologies are justified in order to give an incentive to investing into technologies with clear environmental and energy security benefits.

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...](#)

Renewable energy investments surpassing fossil fuels

Los Angeles Times - Nov 25

According to calculations by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, renewable energy is surpassing fossil fuels in new power plant investments for the first time. Electricity from the wind, sun, waves and biomass drew \$187 billion globally last year compared with \$157 billion for natural gas, oil and coal. Accelerating installations of solar and wind power plants led to lower equipment prices, making clean energy more competitive with coal.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[BrightSource Energy, SCE add energy storage capabilities to power purchase agreements](#)

BrightSource - Nov 28

BrightSource Energy agreed to add its SolarPLUS thermal energy storage capability to three of its power purchase agreements with Southern California Edison (SCE). Under the new set of agreements, the company will provide SCE with approximately four million megawatt-hours of electricity annually across six power plants. Two plants are scheduled to deliver electricity in 2015 and the three plants with energy storage are scheduled to deliver electricity in 2016 and 2017. BrightSource and its partners -- NRG Energy, Google and Bechtel -- are currently constructing a 126MW plant for SCE at the Ivanpah solar project in southeast California.

[Proposed Fresno County solar site could be one of California's largest](#)

The Fresno Bee - Nov 28

Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Sharp Corp., is looking to build what would be one of California's largest solar energy plants in western Fresno County. The project would cover nearly 3,600 acres of retired farmland and would have as many as 2.5 million photovoltaic panels that would generate up to 400MW. The proposal joins nearly three dozen other solar plants pitched in Fresno County, most of which are a couple hundred acres or less.

[Morgan Solar raises funds, plans production in California](#)

GigaOM - Nov 29

Morgan Solar, a Canadian startup with technology that uses optics to boost solar cells' power output, said it has lined up \$9.8 million from Enbridge to commercialize its technology. Morgan Solar needed the capital to jumpstart production at a factory in California, where it also has gotten a \$3.3-million loan from the California Energy Commission to set up its manufacturing facility in Chula Vista. The factory, expected to be operational by Q1 2011, will start with an annual capacity of 8MW.