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Renewable Energy Focus

Clean energy investment reached \$260B in 2011, boosted by solar

Bloomberg - Jan 12

Renewable energy investment rose 5% to a record \$260 billion in 2011 driven by a surge in solar developments and increased spending in the U.S., Bloomberg New Energy Finance said. New spending on solar energy jumped 36% to \$136.6 billion in 2011, outpacing the \$74.9 billion put into wind power. Spending in the U.S. rose by a third to \$55.9 billion, surpassing the 1% gain in China to \$47.4 billion. A jump in photovoltaic installations in the U.S. and Europe overcame a 50% decline on the price of modules. Falling prices made more developments possible and is bringing closer the date when wind and solar can rival fossil fuels without subsidies.

Wind energy venture capital funding up 33% in 2011, offshore sector gaining ground

North American Windpower - Jan 12

Global venture capital funding for wind energy totaled \$369 million in 14 deals in 2011 -- up from \$277 million in 11 deals in 2010 and \$189 million in 20 deals in 2009, according to a report by Mercom Capital Group. Project specific funding also was higher than in previous years, reaching nearly \$11 billion -- \$1.6 billion more than in 2010. Offshore wind projects represented \$3.4 billion in five deals, and onshore wind raised \$7.5 billion in 46 deals. The U.S. saw the most VC funding deals in terms of companies -- \$294.7 million in nine deals -- and projects - \$2.9 billion in 19 deals.

California Bear Creek Ranch powering agricultural water pumps with solar energy

Conergy - Jan 10

Conergy's Solar Large Projects Group completed the 300kW solar power plant at Bear Creek Ranch in Wasco, Calif. The site will power the water pumps and irrigation system for the surrounding almond orchards. The solar site will produce 470,000 kWh of solar energy annually.

PG&E tallies renewable energy gains in 2011

PG&E - Jan 11

PG&E added more than 220MW of clean wind and solar power in 2011 and signed contracts for future delivery of 463MW of additional renewable energy. PG&E began receiving 135MW of power from five solar PV projects built by independent developers and began producing 50MW at three sites it developed in the Central Valley. PG&E also brought 37MW of wind capacity online.

Experts: Subsidy pullback to hit wind, biomass harder than solar

Environmental Finance - Jan 6

The expiration of the 1603 U.S. cash grant program is likely to slow but not stop the solar

AWEA WindPower 2012
Atlanta, GA
June 3-6, 2012

Recent Opportunities

Southern California Public Power Authority Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Projects

About Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP is a California law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in Orange County, Los Angeles, Century City, San Diego, Del Mar Heights, San Francisco and Walnut Creek. The firm's broad-based areas of focus include intellectual property, real estate, construction, land use, environmental, corporate, finance, business litigation, tax, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, and labor and employment. [More...](#)



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industry's fast march toward grid parity, as solar costs continue to decline rapidly, according to industry experts. However, preserving government subsidies for other renewables remains critical as they try to reach parity with traditional energy sources, they said. The pending expiration of the production tax credit for wind at the end of 2012, and for other renewables such as biomass in 2013, could lead to "some pretty significant disruptions" over the next 24 months, said Dan Adler, president of the California Clean Energy Fund.

Cleantech M&A deals dominate in 2011, as global investment tops \$9B

North American Windpower - Jan 6

Global clean technology venture and corporate investments totaled nearly \$9 billion in 2011, representing a 13% increase over 2010, research from Cleantech Group found. In addition, cleantech M&As reached record highs in 2011, with 391 deals and a dollar volume of \$41.2 billion -- a 153% increase over 2010. Throughout 2011, investment totals grew, while the number of deals declined by 7% compared to 2010. Of the 713 deals, 61% were Series B or later rounds, accounting for 85% of all money invested during the year. Investments in North America grew significantly, from \$5.2 billion in 2010 to \$6.81 billion in 2011 -- a 30% increase.

Electronic atlas maps U.S. renewable energy resources

NREL - Jan 6

A new geospatial application developed by the DEO's National Renewable Energy Laboratory allows users to map potential renewable energy resources in the U.S. The free tool, RE Atlas, is designed to facilitate energy policy development, investment, and education by making high quality data accessible and easy to understand. The tool creates dynamic maps of renewable resources, including biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, and wind. RE Atlas can display resources individually or in a composite fashion.

Gov. Brown's proposed budget includes \$1B cap-and-trade spending

ABC News/AP - Jan 7

California Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal for the 2012-2013 fiscal year commits seed money to a number of expensive projects that he hopes will guide California in the decades to come. Among the items included in the proposed budget is the spending of about \$1 billion in expected revenue from California's new "cap-and-trade" program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He wants that money to go toward clean energy research, natural resource protection and infrastructure projects related to alternative energy.

Related News:

[Gov. Brown's cap-and-trade spending plan angers businesses](#)

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

Western Wind completes 120MW wind farm in California

Western Wind Energy - Jan 9

Western Wind Energy announced that it had erected the 60th and final turbine at its Windstar Project in Tehachapi, Calif., bringing the total installed capacity to the 120MW design capacity.

AQT gets \$18.7M to expand California solar cell plant

Bloomberg - Jan 11

AQT Solar received \$18.7 million from investors to double production at its headquarters. The funding will help expand its manufacturing site in Sunnyvale, Calif. to a capacity of 30MW a year, a spokesman said. Production began there in August 2010.

