

Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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[U.S. grants \\$60M for geothermal, IGCC and electric vehicles](#)

EcoSeed - Sep 12

The U.S. DOE will provide grants to develop clean energy technologies -- up to \$38 million for geothermal; \$14 million for integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC); and \$8.5 million for electric vehicles. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said up to \$38 million will be given over a three-year period to 32 projects in 14 states, \$14 million for six projects, and \$8.5 million to 16 projects in 24 states over a one-year period. Three California-based companies will receive geothermal funding, while one will receive IGCC funding.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Proposed federal bill would require audit of renewable energy loans](#)

The Hill - Sep 14

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) floated legislation that would require an inspector general investigation into any company that receives federal money for renewable energy development and then goes bankrupt. The legislation — dubbed the Federal Accountability of Renewable Energy (FARE) Act — is a response to the bankruptcy of Solyndra, the California solar company that received a \$535-million loan guarantee from the Obama administration. Co-sponsored by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), the bill would require that federal agencies conduct a full audit of any renewable energy projects that have received taxpayer money from fiscal years 2009 to 2011.

[California legislature drops surcharge for energy research](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek - Sep 12

California lawmakers failed to renew a state-wide electricity surcharge before the end of their session, dealing a blow to Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to promote alternative energy and keep California at the forefront of the industry. Brown sought to extend a public goods charge that adds \$1 to \$2 to the average monthly household electric bill and has been in effect since 1997. He wanted to use about \$400 million in annual proceeds to fund renewable energy and efficiency programs.

[California adopts \\$100M clean transport investment plan](#)

BrightEnergy.org - Sep 12

The California Energy Commission has unanimously adopted the state's third annual transportation energy Investment Plan to help change the types of vehicles Californians drive and the fuels they use. The latest Investment Plan for the Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program prioritizes \$100 million in state funds to leverage funding and investments from federal agencies, research institutions, private investors, auto manufacturers and other stakeholders.

[California bill favors solar panels; thermal left out in cold](#)

San Francisco Chronicle / Bloomberg - Sep 11

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Upcoming Events

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

Washington, DC

September 20-22, 2011

[Solar Power International 2011](#)

Dallas, TX

October 17-20, 2011

[AWEA WindPower 2012](#)

Atlanta, GA

June 3-6, 2012

Recent Opportunities

[City of Atwater's Request for Qualifications for Solar Photovoltaic System](#)

[Request for Offers for Photovoltaic Energy Power Purchase Agreements](#)

[Request for Offers for Development of Sacramento Solar Highways](#)

[Ventura County Water Works' Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant Photovoltaic Electrical Generation System Request for](#)

Gov. Jerry Brown is expected to sign a bill that simplifies the permitting process for solar photovoltaic projects and may prompt developers to reconsider solar-thermal plants, which are not included in the legislation. According to Senate Bill 267, which Brown must sign by Nov. 9, photovoltaic projects will no longer be required to demonstrate adequate water supplies. Wind farms are also included in the bill. Solar-thermal plants consume more water than photovoltaic and were intentionally left out of the legislation.

[Abengoa completes \\$1.2B in solar financing](#)

North American Windpower - Sep 14

Spanish engineering firm Abengoa closed on \$1.2 billion in financing from the U.S. DOE to build a solar plant in Southern California. Abengoa said the 280MW plant, which will be located NE of Los Angeles near Barstow, will use its parabolic trough technology to increase efficiency and reduce overall costs. The project has an overall investment of \$1.6 billion and is slated to begin operations in 2014. Abengoa was assisted in the transaction by attorneys from Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis.

[Planned solar project outside Mexicali would supply U.S. and Mexico](#)

Sign on San Diego - Sep 12

A plan to build a facility that would manufacture solar cells and generate power for both sides of the California-Mexico border was announced by the Baja California government and the project's developers. The Taiwanese-backed project is expected to break ground in November west of Mexicali in a high-tech industrial park known as Silicon Border CleanTECH Park. The project, known as Baja Sun Energy, would be the first in Mexico to integrate manufacturing of solar cells with energy production. The initial phase envisions an investment of \$60 million for a 10MW solar farm, but within four years, the plan is to expand the energy production capacity to 100MW and entail a \$500-million investment.

[Solar Trust tries to allay fears stoked by delays](#)

My Desert Sun - Sep 15

The CEO of Solar Trust of America assured people that his company's delayed 1,000MW Blythe, California, solar plant will be built. The company announced in August that the project — and its hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in economic growth — would be delayed for more than a year due to a switch from more complex and expensive solar thermal troughs to photovoltaic panels. But CEO Uwe T. Schmidt assures, "It's not a pullout; it's a change of technology." He said the company would honor its deal.

[Calisolar cutting 80 jobs at California plant](#)

Reuters - Sep 14

Solar company Calisolar said it would downsize its California solar cell factory, laying off 80 employees, as it focuses on its primary silicon production business. The company, based in Sunnyvale, currently has more than 350 employees. It is considering several options for the Silicon Valley facility but was not specific.

[California's struggle to add solar to new homes](#)

Forbes - Sep 13

California is known for providing generous incentives that have successfully promoted solar energy production. But one program hasn't been so popular, and it may remain so for some time. The program is called New Solar Homes Partnership, and it aims to encourage homebuilders to install solar electric systems by offering rebates. Since the program's launch in 2007, just over

[Design-Build Qualifications](#)



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...](#)

12MW were added or approved for installation as of May 2011, according to data by the California Energy Commission. The goal is to get to 400MW by the end of 2016. In contrast, 968MW have been installed on existing homes, businesses and other buildings since 2007 under another program called the California Solar Initiative.

[Western Area Power administration commits to Arizona renewable transmission project; Southern California to be served](#)

Transmission & Distribution World - Sep 14

Western's Transmission Infrastructure Program and a group of electricity providers in Arizona will build a large-scale transmission project in Arizona's Maricopa and Pinal counties. The project will connect a renewable-rich zone south of Phoenix with the Palo Verde market hub, a major electrical trading hub in the western U.S. Financed through Western's authority to borrow funds from the U.S. Treasury, the project will increase transmission capacity to deliver renewable energy, primarily solar, to consumers in Arizona, Southern Nevada and Southern California. Western is financing the entire project, borrowing up to \$91 million from the U.S. Treasury under a 2009 borrowing authority amendment in the Hoover Power Plan Act of 1984.

[California company plans 990MW wind farm in Nevada](#)

Bloomberg - Sep 14

Champlin/GEI Wind Holdings, a wind-energy developer backed by Good Energies, asked state regulators for permission to build a 990MW wind farm in SE Nevada. The project would use as many as 350 turbines, according to a permit application filed with the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. The project is one of the first proposed by Santa Barbara, California-based Champlin/GEI since its creation in November, after Good Energies agreed to provide as much as \$50 million to co-owner Champlin Windpower, a closely held company formed in 2006 to develop U.S. projects.

[Two grants awarded to University of California to help turn waste into green fuel](#)

University of California, Riverside - Sep 14

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside's Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CERT) at the Bourns College of Engineering have received two grants of \$650,000 and \$100,000, respectively, to further explore a process they developed that turns waste into inexpensive, green fuels. "These grants allow for the continued happy marriage of clean technologies," said a spokesman. "This research has the potential to produce a number of clean fuels that are carbon neutral and turn landfill waste into renewable energy."

[Analysis examines whether LEED is a feasible investment for industrial facilities](#)

REJournals.com - Sep 6

This article examines the pros and cons of investing in LEED certification for industrial buildings. The positive points of pursuing LEED certification for industrial buildings include social and financial benefits, tighter management and credibility. The higher construction costs, the added costs of the LEED process and minor improvements in sustainability counterbalance the benefits of building LEED.

[TECO Westinghouse approves Probe Manufacturing to build cable assemblies for wind turbine program](#)

BusinessWire / Probe Manufacturing - Sep 15

Probe Manufacturing, a global electronics design manufacturing and services company based in Irvine, California, announced it has been approved to build cable assemblies for the TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company Wind Turbine Assembly Program, with an initial order to be delivered in Q3 2011. Financial details were not disclosed.

[Alphabet Energy raises \\$12M in Series A financing led by TPG Biotech](#)

PRWeb / Alphabet Energy - Sep 15

Alphabet Energy, a maker of low-cost thermoelectric materials for waste-heat recovery, has closed \$12 million in Series A financing. TPG Biotech, the venture arm of TPG, led the round, with participation from existing investors Claremont Creek Ventures and the CalCEF Clean Energy Angel Fund. The funding from three clean-tech investors enables Alphabet Energy to accelerate product development, deploy initial pilot projects, grow the team, and relocate to a new facility in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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