

November 2, 2011

[States' renewable energy policies improving, report finds](#)

Network for New Energy Choices - Oct 20

U.S. states are continuing to embrace best practices and drive further improvements in core renewable energy policies, according to the 2011 edition of [Freeing the Grid](#), a policy guide from Network for New Energy Choices that grades all 50 states on net metering and interconnection procedures. Net-metering best practices have evolved to include virtual net metering, meter aggregation and other community models that allow energy consumers to take advantage of economies of scale when investing in clean energy, the report says. In 2011, 17 states received top "A" grades for their net-metering policies - up from 15 in 2010 and only five in 2007. Additionally, in recent years, many states have been working to streamline interconnection.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[DOE to invest \\$60M in Concentrating Solar Power technologies](#)

Department of Energy - Oct 25

As part of the U.S. DOE's SunShot Initiative, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced a \$60 million investment over 3 years for applied scientific research to advance Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) technologies. CSP technologies use mirrors to reflect and concentrate sunlight to produce heat, which can then be used to produce electricity.

[California lifts suspension of green energy tax credit that funded Solyndra](#)

Los Angeles Times - Oct 25

Members of a state commission unanimously voted to lift a month-long suspension of an alternative energy-related tax credit that had been imposed following the bankruptcy of Solyndra. The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority concluded it could tighten the way it handles applications. State Sen. Alex Padilla said he supported the state commission's decision to restart the tax credit. Additionally, a number of executives from solar panel manufacturing companies praised the tax credit for making it possible for them to build and operate plants in California.

[Geothermal still outpowers solar, wind energy in California](#)

Sign On San Diego - Oct 24

Commercial geothermal plants still anchor California's production of non-fossil fuel power, despite the soaring investments in solar and wind energy technology. According to an industry group, geothermal energy provides 42% of the state's commercial, in-state renewable electricity generation. Five geothermal projects in the Salton Sea area of Imperial County are expected to start production in 2012, which will have a combined capacity of 239MW.

[Google Map reveals U.S. geothermal resources](#)

Google.org Blog - Oct 25

Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, revealed that geothermal energy has the potential of producing more than 10 times the energy of the installed capacity of coal in the U.S. The company published a new [Google Earth map](#) of the geothermal resources in the continental U.S., created from data collected

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Atlanta, GA
June 3-6, 2012

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

[Pacific Gas & Electric Issues its Renewable Auction Mechanism Program Request for Offers](#)



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven

by the Geothermal Laboratory at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. The project estimates that the U.S. has the potential to exceed 2,980,295MW of geothermal energy using Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) and other advanced geothermal technologies.

[Over 1,200MW of wind energy under construction in California](#)

American Wind Energy Association - Oct 25

According to the American Wind Energy Association, the U.S. wind industry installed just over 1,200MW in the third quarter, about 3,360MW in 2011 and has more than 8,400MW under construction. California has more than 1,200MW under construction, while Oregon is installing over 800MW. Oklahoma and Iowa each have 700MW under construction, while Illinois, Kansas, and Washington are each installing over 600MW. The U.S. wind industry now totals 43,461MW of cumulative wind capacity.

[Advocates: Proposed wind turbine project in California threatens birds](#)

Center for Biological Diversity - Oct 20

Conservation groups told the Kern County Board of Supervisors that a large scale wind energy project proposed for the southern Sierra Nevada needs to be redesigned to avoid risks to endangered California condors, golden eagles and other rare bird species. The project consists of two components: North Sky River by NextEra Energy, and the Jawbone project by a private landowner. The groups filed a legal challenge in Kern County Superior Court seeking to reopen the environmental review for the 100-plus turbine wind project approved by the county in September.

[Californians installing more renewable energy in homes due to rebates, tax credits](#)

Desert Dispatch - Oct 23

California is seeing more residents install renewable energy systems in an effort to control their own energy bills and jump on available rebates and tax credits. The number of applications for residential energy systems in the state has increased annually in the past few years, according to the Southern California program director for the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies. Without rebates or tax credits, the average residential solar system costs about \$34,800 for a 4KW system, according to the California Solar Initiative and California Energy Commission. Currently, the state tax credits equal to about 30% of the total system cost.

[California solar highways project cancelled](#)

Power Engineering - Oct 24

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District said it will not continue with the Solar Highways project due to the lack of competition and highly priced bids. The project aimed to install solar PV generation on publicly owned land along two spans of U.S. Highway 50 in Sacramento County. It had been in development since 2008, but faced lengthy federal, state and local environmental reviews and negotiations with Caltrans for lease agreements.

[First Solar fires CEO Gillette, appoints Ahearn](#)

Bloomberg - Oct 26

First Solar appointed chairman and founder Michael Ahearn as CEO after firing CEO Rob Gillette for increasing production in an industry where demand and prices are falling. Ahearn announced he plans to expand sales and limit capital spending to survive a global slump in demand and prices. According to its second quarter company overview, First Solar, which is developing solar projects in California, plans to have 2,236MW of capacity at the end of 2011, up from the 1,228MW it had at the end of 2009.

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...](#)

Related News:

[First Solar paid ousted chief \\$30M](#)

[Edison ordered by CPUC to stop construction on renewable energy transmission line](#)

Southern California Public Radio - Oct 21

California PUC has frozen construction of a transmission line that would carry renewable energy through Chino Hills. The regulators told Southern California Edison to put the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project on hold. The commission directed the utility not to string transmission lines within a thousand feet of homes in Chino Hills, and to consult with aviation officials about how to light transmission towers. Opponents to the power line project in that city are claiming a partial victory. When it is completed, new transmission lines will deliver wind and renewable energy from Kern County to Southern California.

[BC Hydro's Powerex plays NAFTA card in bid to win green status in California](#)

The Vancouver Sun - Oct 21

BC Hydro's Powerex accused the California Air Resources Board of violating the North American Free Trade Agreement, saying the regulators' rules on greenhouse gas emissions favor American power supplier Bonneville Power Administration. The letter to the California regulators cites a NAFTA clause that prohibits any measure affecting the transmission of energy that is applied to a NAFTA partner, but is not applied domestically.

Related News:

[New greenhouse gas rules draw local criticism](#)

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[PG&E, Sempra receive approvals for western U.S. solar deals](#)

Bloomberg - Oct 20

PG&E and Sempra got approvals from the California PUC to purchase power from two solar energy projects in California and Arizona. PG&E's 20-year contract is for the 60MW North Star Solar project, which will use Renewable Energy ASA solar panels. Sempra's 25-year agreement is for the 110MW Arlington Valley Solar Energy II project. Both projects are expected to begin operations in 2013. Project costs and contract terms were not disclosed.

[California's Sunprime gets \\$50M to build solar plant in China](#)

Clean Energy Authority - Oct 21

California-based Sunprime secured \$50 million in financing from a collection of investors to build a manufacturing plant in Jiaxing, China. The company produces solar cells using metallurgical grade silicon rather than the more expensive electronic grade silicon typically used in solar cells and has been successfully manufacturing its SmartSilicon solar cell for 18 months. Sunprime expects to start work on the facility before the end of 2011. China has a growing draw for solar industry development as it becomes the world's leading exporter of solar panels.

[Envision Solar begins deployment for California utility](#)

PR Newswire / Envision Solar - Oct 20

Envision Solar International broke ground on a Solar Grove deployment for a major California utility. The deployment consists of a grove of Envision's Solar Tree structures in a showcase and high-visibility facility that will be open to the public. The Solar Tree structures incorporate Envision's CleanCharge column-integrated electric vehicle charging stations, as well as energy storage elements. The installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011.

[California recycling company to save money through solar installation](#)

Global Solar Technology - Oct 26

California-based AER Worldwide, an electronics recycler, had Vista Solar install a 234kW commercial solar system at its headquarters in Fremont. The commercial-scale solar installation will offset over 99% of the company's current electricity bills, which will save AER more than \$80,000 annually. The roof-mounted system will generate approximately 361,819 kWh per year.

[SunEdison begins solar projects at four prisons in California](#)

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Oct 20

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced that construction has begun on four solar power plants at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Ironwood State Prison, North Kern State Prison and California Correctional Institution. All four projects are expected to be completed and generating solar power by late December. A fifth site, at California State Prison, Los Angeles County is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2012. The solar projects will generate 25MW of electricity a year, saving taxpayers over \$57 million over 20 years.

[Solar field opens behind Oxnard High in California](#)

Ventura County Star - Oct 21

The \$4-million solar field behind Ventura County's Oxnard High School, which is part of a \$25-million Oxnard Union High School District project, came online on Oct. 2. The solar panel field covers six acres and shifts with the movement of the sun. The project will allow the school to see a significant decrease in its average monthly electric bill of \$24,000, freeing up funds for educational expenses. The complete district project, which will generate around six million KW per year, is expected to save \$36 million in energy costs over the next 25 years.

Related News:

[SunPower installs 3.3MW of solar power for California school district](#)