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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
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[BrightSource halts construction as more tortoises discovered on solar project site](#)

Reuters - Apr 25

The Bureau of Land Management has ordered BrightSource Energy to halt work on two phases of its planned 392MW Ivanpah solar project in the Mojave Desert following the discovery of more endangered desert tortoises on the project site than had been originally estimated in environmental reviews. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have 130 days to deliver an opinion on how to manage the area's tortoise population, from which BrightSource will be required to develop a revised environmental plan for the project. The BLM stop order has halted work on Phases 2 and 3 of the project; work on Phase 1 is ongoing. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2013.

Related News:

[BrightSource says solar project will stay on schedule despite work stoppage](#)[Desert tortoises slow construction of Mojave Desert solar plant](#)[Analysis: BrightSource's future depends on success of Ivanpah solar plant](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Analysis: Desert solar projects could bring financial gain, environmental losses to SoCal](#)

MyDesert - Apr 24

California officials have approved [eight large-scale solar power projects](#) in Southern California in the last year, which are expected to generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in the economically depressed region, as well as enough electricity to power 1.8 million homes. However, many environmental and native advocacy groups are attempting to slow solar development in the region with lawsuits, saying the government and solar companies are planning to build on ecologically and culturally sensitive lands without having taken appropriate precautions to preserve the environment.

[Cal-ISO reports record windpower production](#)

NBC Los Angeles - Apr 23

Cal-ISO reported a record week of wind energy production in California in an Earth Day announcement that also touted the energy measurement capabilities of its new smart-grid capable control center. The organization's data indicates that 2.4 billion watts of windpower were produced in the state's best-ever week, easily overtaking the previous peak production week of 1.9 billion watts. Other renewable energy sources are producing above expectations as well, with higher-than-average levels of snowmelt expected to result in a glut of hydropower. State officials predict there will be a less than 1% chance of a brownout this summer due to the boom in energy production.

Related News:

[Cal-ISO control center makes tracking renewable energy easier](#)

[U.S. wind industry reports continuing growth in Q1 of 2011: AWEA](#)

AWEA - Apr 28

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[American Wind Energy Association \(AWEA\) Windpower 2011](#)

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

Washington, DC

September 20-22, 2011

[Solar Power International 2011](#)

Dallas, TX

October 17-20, 2011

America's wind power industry installed 1,100MW of new capacity in the first quarter of 2011 and entered the second quarter with another 5,600MW under construction, the American Wind Energy Association reported. The under-construction figure is nearly twice the megawatts that the industry reported at this time in both 2009 and 2010; moreover, two-thirds of those megawatts are already locked in under long-term power purchase agreements with electric utilities. The total wind fleet now stands at 41,400MW.

[Oakland to use 'crowdfunding' to finance solar arrays](#)

Reuters - Apr 22

Oakland officials are planning to install solar arrays on the roofs of seven cash-strapped local schools through the use of a novel funding technique. Using the "crowdfunding" strategy as the backbone of its [Solar Mosaic](#) program, the city hopes to sell the 5,000 panels needed to build the arrays to area residents for \$100 each. Once the arrays are completed, the city will pay back the program's participants with proceeds of electricity sales over an estimated eight-year period. City officials are already looking to expand the program to surrounding communities.

[Solar power executives issue policy, industry recommendations](#)

Business Wire / Bloomberg New Energy Finance - Apr 28

The 50 attendees of Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Solar Leadership Forum in Napa, Calif. have released their [recommendations](#) on policy and industry. The Results Book includes recommendations that stability be more highly valued than generosity in the solar energy industry; that industry players continue intensive research and development of novel and enhanced solar technologies; and that solar industry players must strive to keep the market dynamic.

[White House plans to ban mining on land suitable for renewable energy projects](#)

Forbes - Apr 27

The Obama administration has recommended a ban on mining on lands judged suitable for renewable energy projects in order to expedite the development of clean energy projects, writes Todd Woody in Forbes. The move comes in response to more than 600 mining claims made on lands earmarked for solar, wind, and other renewable energy projects in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and several other states. The Bureau of Land Management has stated that while some of the claims are probably valid, a large percentage of them were likely filed to fish for payments from authorities to withdraw the claims. The law would allow BLM to segregate lands for two years with the option to renew segregation for an additional two years after that.

[San Diego takes steps toward instituting GHG regulations](#)

KPBS - Apr 22

The [San Diego Association of Governments](#) (SANDAG) has approved a [draft document](#) containing legislation aimed at slashing GHG emission levels in the city, according to KPBS. The Regional Transportation Plan aims to spend nearly \$200 billion on transportation projects in the San Diego area by 2050, and includes a plan to reduce GHG emissions through urban planning and mass transit. SANDAG spokesman Gary Gallegos said San Diego is already taking steps to reduce GHGs and become a more compact community, but that the Sustainable Community Strategy included in the draft document will greatly help the city achieve its sustainability goals.

[Clean Coalition launches renewable energy campaign](#)

Clean Coalition - Apr 26

The Clean Coalition, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit renewable energy advocacy

Recent Opportunities

[Santa Clara Solar Photovoltaic Energy System at Tasman Drive Parking Structure Request for Proposals](#)

[Two New Solar Energy Opportunities](#)

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



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group, has launched the [CLEAN California Campaign](#) to generate and lobby for policy ideas aimed at helping achieve the state's mandate of using 33% renewable energy by 2020. Participants in the initiative include the Clean Economy Network, the Los Angeles Business Council, the USGBC California Chapters, the Galvin Electricity Initiative, the Local Clean Energy Alliance, the American Biogas Council, Pacific Environment, Global Exchange, among other groups and private companies. Coalition members say California's clean energy goal will benefit the environment, reduce domestic dependence on foreign energy sources, and yield many economic benefits.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Solar project planned for Petaluma](#)

Petaluma Patch - Apr 27

Larkspur-based Terra Verde Renewable Energy is planning to build a solar farm on 18 acres of land owned by Casa Grande High School in Petaluma, according to Petaluma Patch. The company is currently holding discussions with city officials on whether to buy or lease the land, and has yet to decide the full scope of the project. School district officials said Terra Verde's offer is in competition with other development offers for the land.

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