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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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[California tops state ranking of clean energy leaders](#)

Clean Edge - May 18

California has claimed top position on a state ranking of the nation's clean energy leaders released by market research firm Clean Edge as part of its second annual [U.S. Clean Energy Leadership Index](#). In a company release, Clean Edge claims to have used more than 70 indicators in technology, policy, and capital related to sustainable energy to compile the index. The index indicates that California's renewable energy industry attracts more venture capital than every other state combined, and derives more than 10% of its energy from sustainable sources. California, Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, and Colorado claimed the top five positions on the list, while Nebraska, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and West Virginia comprised the bottom five.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Report: Transmission for renewable energy could generate \\$40B in annual economic activity](#)

Renewables Biz / WIRES - May 16

Annual investment in new electrical transmission facilities has the potential to reach \$12 billion to \$16 billion, resulting in \$30-\$40 billion in economic activity, and support for as many as 200,000 jobs each year for the next two decades, according to a [report](#) prepared for the Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems (WIRES) by the Brattle Group. However, these benefits may remain elusive if federal, state, and municipal governments do not find an effective solution to the problem of cost-sharing for new transmission projects. "It is fair to assume that, because many of our best renewable energy resources are 'location constrained' a great many wind, solar, geothermal, and other clean electric generation facilities will not be developed unless transmission capacity capable of delivering that energy to market is also developed," the report states.

[CEC awards UC San Diego \\$1.4M for renewable energy projects](#)

Imperial Valley News - May 18

The California Energy Commission has awarded a grant worth nearly \$1.4 million to a four-part renewable energy research project at the University of California at San Diego. The four components of the project are: a forecasting research project that forecast for solar photovoltaics (PV) by using Skytracker devices that monitor cloud movement near large PV installations; an integrated project that combines PV and electric energy storage to better manage the intermittency of renewable energy generation; a project that installs a communication link between UC San Diego and the ISO so the latter can fully observe the operation of the campus microgrid; and the demonstration of a direct current-linked charging port at an electric vehicle parking garage. In the same award round, the CEC issued additional grants worth about \$1.4 million to projects dealing with natural gas pipeline inspection and climate control monitoring.

[Oregon energy authority draws fire for curtailing windpower](#)

Oregon Live - May 18

The federally-run Bonneville Power Administration in Oregon has enacted a

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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

Recent Opportunities

[Pacific Gas and Electric's Renewable Portfolio Standard Request for Offers](#)

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



temporary curtailment of energy generated by wind farms in the state's Columbia Basin region as hydroelectric dams pump more power into the grid than usual due to high spring water flows. Affected wind developers and investor-owned utilities protested the five-hour shutdown, saying the BPA violated their transmission contracts. Oregon Live reports that affected stakeholders will likely sue BPA over the shutdown.

[BLM releases final environmental report on Riverside County solar plant](#)

The Desert Independent - May 15

The BLM has released its [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) (FEIS) for a proposed 500MW concentrating solar energy generating facility in Riverside County, Calif. The agency issued the report in response to Palen Solar's right-of-way request to build the Palen Solar Power Plant and related infrastructure such as roads and transmission lines on 5,200 acres of public land 10 miles east of Desert Center, Calif. The report contains plans to include 240 acres of private land in the project, as well as an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Plan. The environmental assessment is open to public comment for 30 days and will then commence a 30-day period in which those who object to the project can submit protests.

[NREL releases guidebook on geothermal financing](#)

Navigant - May 18

DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has released a [guidebook](#) on geothermal power project financing authored by Navigant Consulting. The "Guidebook to Geothermal Finance" starts with a brief primer on the domestic geothermal industry before launching into analysis of economic trends affecting the geothermal industry and the industry's current investment climate. The publication suggests that the industry is entering an upswing for various reasons, including: improved access to capital and financing terms; innovative structures to facilitate deals; and an anticipated return to the tax appetite needed to facilitate tax equity transactions.

[Chinese company begins construction of 5MW San Diego solar project](#)

PV Magazine - May 17

Chinese renewable energy project developer [GCL-Poly Energy Holdings](#) has started building a 5MW solar power project for the San Diego Unified School District. The 23,000-panel project will be spread across 20 sites throughout the school district and will be installed on both rooftops and parking structures. The installation is anticipated to offset the energy requirements of the sites by an average of 64%, and offset the school district's energy needs by 11%. When completed in fall 2011, the project is expected to be one of the largest solar installations of its kind in California.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[SDG&E signs contracts with Soitec for 125MW of solar power in San Diego](#)

Sempra - May 18

SDG&E has signed two 25-year power purchase agreements on 125MW of solar power to be produced in San Diego at Soitec installations employing concentrating PV technology manufactured at the French company's local manufacturing plant. The contracts bring the total number of contracts the utility has signed with Soitec in 2011 to five, representing 155MW of electricity, or enough to power 60,000 homes. Soitec's manufacturing plant is scheduled to break ground in summer 2011 and start producing the Concentrix PV units 18 months after the start of construction.

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[California solar company opens Las Vegas facility](#)

Las Vegas Sun - May 18

Seal Beach, Calif.-based solar concentrated PV company Amonix has opened a manufacturing plant for its Amonix 7700 concentrated PV systems in North Las Vegas, according to the Las Vegas Sun. Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval spoke at the opening ceremony, calling the 214,000 square-foot facility a vital step in the state's progress to becoming a renewable energy leader. The factory will employ 300 people, and will make as many as four of the 50'x72', 11-ton solar arrays each day. Amonix representatives have expressed interest in expanding their operations in Nevada further.

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