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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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[Governor Brown promises renewable energy growth in California](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Jan 3

In a recent speech, California governor Jerry Brown reiterated his campaign promise to push the state towards its goal of boosting its renewable energy generation capacity to 200GW by 2020. Brown's goals are on track with the renewable energy initiatives begun by the outgoing Schwarzenegger administration, which approved over 4,000MW worth of solar projects in 2010 alone.

Related News:[Brown included feed-in tariffs early in agenda](#)[Gov. Brown vows to keep solar boom going](#)[Schwarzenegger's renewable energy policies to continue under Brown](#)[Brown appoints John Laird Secretary of Natural Resources](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Upton named House energy chief, targets administration energy policy](#)

Nasdaq Newswires - Jan 5

Rep. Fred Upton is looking to investigate, and possibly overturn, a number of recent energy regulations including large subsidies for the renewable energy industry. Upton was appointed chairman of the House Energy Panel in late 2010, and is openly critical of a number of administration energy policies. He has named a number of key energy issues he may seek to overturn, including EPA greenhouse gas regulations, stricter ozone standards and subsidies for renewable energy projects.

Related News:[EPA proceeding with caution on GHG law](#)

[PV demand to slow dramatically in 2011: study](#)

Solar Industry - Jan 7

While PV production capacity took a 70% leap in 2010 and continues to climb, a recent study from IMS Research predicts that demand for the technology will plummet to 20% in 2011. The study attributes the 2010 boom in PV production and demand to energy-buyback incentive programs offered by governments in the EU. The dropoff in demand is expected to result from energy surpluses and an overall market glut caused by last year's solar boom.

[Sierra Club sues CEC over Calico Solar Project](#)

Reuters - Jan 5

Sierra Club has filed a lawsuit against the California Energy Commission, claiming the agency has not taken the appropriate steps to ensure the proposed Calico Solar Project near Barstow, California, does not harm the environment. The Sierra Club's suit comes as numerous environmental and native advocacy groups file similar lawsuits targeting renewable energy projects in the state.

Related News:[Analysis: renewable projects dogged by lawsuits](#)[Subscribe](#)[Past issues](#)**Have a suggestion?**[Tell us what you think](#)**Editors**[William R. Devine](#)[Patrick A. Perry](#)**FOLLOW US**

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Upcoming Events

[SOLAR SUMMIT: Is green alive in L.A. county in 2011?](#)
Culver City, CA
January 13, 2011

[7th Annual Clean-tech Investor Summit](#)
Palm Springs, CA
January 19-20, 2011

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)
Los Angeles, CA
January 23-25, 2011

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

[Siemens emerging as key player in North American wind energy](#)

New York Times - Jan 5

Siemens' wind energy business appears to have weathered the harsh financial conditions of 2010 very well. The engineering firm's 2010 [report](#) shows their wind division posted record sales and order increases last year, and is poised to become a dominant turbine manufacturer with the recent opening of three factories in North America and one in China. Despite their wind sector's fast growth, Siemens' wind operations account for only 5% of the company's total profits and consistently underperform compared to their fossil fuels division.

Related News:

[Siemens, Vestas get turbine orders](#)

[Vestas breaks turbine order record in 2010](#)

[Native advocacy group lawsuit bogs down California solar projects](#)

Business Green - Jan 4

A [lawsuit](#) filed against the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) by a Native American interest group has potential to derail six high-profile solar projects in California, industry experts say. The suit, filed by La Cuna De Atzlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle, accuses the DOI of failing to consult with native groups in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The group also claims the federal agency has filed environmental impact assessments for the solar projects that fall below acceptable quality standards.

[Conservation group says wind turbines threaten bird species](#)

World-Herald - Dec. 30

The [American Bird Conservancy](#) says wind turbines present a danger to several endangered bird species, and that planning and siting of wind farms should be improved to reduce bird fatalities caused by spinning turbine blades. Representatives of the organization say poorly planned wind farms cause the death of more than 400,000 birds each year, including endangered birds such as the golden eagle and whooping crane. The conservancy is petitioning government agencies to mandate more stringent planning and permitting regulations for wind energy projects.

[California thin-film solar module firms move eastward](#)

Solar Industry - Jan 6

While California is still the undisputed national leader in thin-film solar module manufacturing, many companies in the state are opening facilities in the east as they expand. Sunnyvale-based AQT Solar has plans to open a large facility in South Carolina, while other manufacturers are opening plants in Mississippi and Wisconsin. Industry experts say the firms are tempted to build outside California because of generous job-creation incentives offered by other state governments.

[Idaho wind farms try to sell renewable energy credits to California](#)

San Francisco Gate - Jan 2

San Francisco-based wind farm developer Idaho Winds has pitched a novel idea to the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee that would have California utilities purchase renewable energy credits earned by eight of their Idaho wind farms. The credits have no value in Idaho, which does not require utilities to produce renewable energy.

Related News:

[San Francisco wind developer approaches FERC with credit sales idea](#)

[California wind farm company sells energy to Idaho utility](#)

Washington, DC
September 20-22, 2011

Recent Opportunities

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

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

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



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[Burbank's high rebates spur region's solar panel boom](#)

Burbank Leader - Jan 1

The number of solar installations in Burbank has doubled over the last two years, largely due to generous incentives paid for solar power by the city's utility. Burbank Water and Power pays roughly one million dollars each year in rebates to residents and businesses with solar panel installations that feed excess energy back into the grid. The city currently has 93 functioning solar installations in the city generating 2,000KW of power, with 22 more in the permitting stage.

[Imperial Valley geothermal site discovered](#)

Earth Techling - Jan 3

Energy project developer Ram Power says it has found a geothermal site capable of generating 8-10MW of electricity in the Imperial Valley area near San Diego, California. The region is best known for its solar power projects but the Salton Sea area is showing promise as a geothermal producer -- 10 plants are already in operation there.

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Del Sur Solar project breaks ground in Antelope Valley](#)

PV Tech - Jan 4

Solar developer Beautiful Earth Group has started construction of the Del Sur Solar project in the Antelope Valley near Lancaster, California. The finished project will consist of two 19MW solar generation facilities constructed on previously disturbed agricultural land. Power purchase agreements for the project are underway, as are plans to connect the plants to the grid.

[Edison shuts down Eastwood hydro plant](#)

Bloomberg - Jan 2

Power utility Edison International has ceased production at a 200MW pumped-storage hydroelectric plant northeast of Los Angeles. The shutdown was included in a recent California Independent System Operator [report](#). The plant is part of Edison's Big Creek Hydro System, located 250 miles from Los Angeles in Eastwood, California.

[Riverside utility first in California to update grid with ACCC conductor](#)

Marketwire - Jan 6

The City of Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) has become the first utility in California to purchase Composite Technology Corporation's ACCC conductor. RPU will use the technology to update a 69kV, one mile portion of a 120MVA transmission line. Installation of the conductor will take place in mid-2011.

[Solar developer ditches stake in California natural gas plant](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Jan 1

Just weeks after completing a 48MW solar plant in Nevada, California energy company Sempra Generation has dumped its half-stake in the Elk Hills natural gas plant near Bakersfield, California. Sempra sold their share of the facility to Occidental Petroleum, the other half owner of the Elk Hills plant, for \$179 million.

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