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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publicationAllen Matkins  
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## [California agency releases free online tool for calculation of GHG emissions](#)

*California SEEC - Apr 19*

California clean-energy group the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) has partnered with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to release a free, [web-based tool](#) that allows municipalities to measure their greenhouse gas emissions. According to a release from the SEEC, the tool allows municipal employees to conduct a thorough inventory of their area's greenhouse gas emissions without needing any special technical training.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

#### [Renewable energy law will result in price hikes, say critics](#)

*Daily Commercial News / Associated Press - Apr 19*

Industry advocates say the 33% renewable energy law recently signed into law by California Gov. Jerry Brown will likely increase energy prices for consumers and businesses, according to an Associated Press article. "Industry in California already pays electricity rates about 50 per cent higher than the rest of the country. With 33%, those rates are going to go up even more" said Gino DiCaro, spokesman for the California Manufacturers and Technology Association.

#### [FERC overstepped its authority with demand response rule, trade groups say](#)

*Platts - Apr 15*

Trade groups have filed a joint petition challenging a final rule issued by FERC regarding payment for demand response resources. The complainants, including the Electric Power Supply Association, the American Public Power Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Electric Power Generation Association, are accusing the agency of having ventured out of its jurisdiction in issuing the rule.

#### [Study: Solar installations increase value of California homes by \\$17,000](#)

*Bloomberg - Apr 21*

California homes with solar PV installations increase in value by an average of \$17,000, according to a [study](#) by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Researchers analyzed 72,000 home sales from 1999-2009 and found that the 2,000 homes in the study with solar installations were valued more highly for their energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

#### [Imperial Valley energy stakeholders form task force to improve generator competitiveness](#)

*Imperial Valley Press - Apr 16*

Representatives of the Imperial Irrigation District, the Imperial Valley Economic

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#### Upcoming Events

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

Anaheim, CA

**May 22-25, 2011**

[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

[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](#)

Development Corp., the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, and about 55 energy generators have formed the Renewable Energy Task Force as a means of boosting profitability for the region's generators. The panel is currently considering ideas that would revise the transmission service charge levied on generators for energy from intermittent sources, such as solar and wind power.

### [Study: Smart grid will stimulate job creation](#)

*Smart Grid News - Apr 19*

A [study](#) by researchers at Duke University claims the smart grid sector will create thousands of jobs in the U.S. each year as technology continues to evolve, smart grid adoption becomes more widespread, and smart grid firms continue to grow. Researchers used data gathered from 125 smart grid companies for the study; by their estimate, the sector has already created 17,000 jobs nationwide.

### [Report: CSU achieves solar goal 2 years earlier than planned](#)

*Clean Energy Authority - Apr 19*

The 23-campus California State University system will have installed solar panels generating 11.5MW of power by the end of 2011, thereby exceeding the solar generation goal set by the system's board of trustees, according to a CSU sustainability [report](#). The CSU Commitment to Sustainability claims that the board's goal of 10MW of solar power by 2014 will be eclipsed by the end of this year, and has potential to double by the end of 2012.

### [Recurrent CEO: Solar module price could plunge 20% in 2011](#)

*Reuters - Apr 20*

Excess supply in the solar module market could result in prices dropping by as much as 20% in 2011, according to Calif.-based Recurrent Energy's chief executive Arno Harris. "The way we look at the situation right now, we are in an oversupply dynamic," said Harris, referring to expanded global manufacturing capacity for solar modules and dwindling government subsidies for solar energy in Europe and elsewhere.

### [Official: BLM solar project zones will create jobs in Imperial Valley](#)

*Imperial Valley Press - Apr 17*

Imperial Valley District 2 Supervisor Jack Terrazas said that the Bureau of Land Management's establishment of 14 special energy zones in six states will lead to faster permitting for solar projects in the Imperial Valley region. Once the permitting process speeds up, Terrazas suggested, solar projects will develop and create jobs in the economically hard-hit region.

### [Bureaucratic processes start for proposed Kern County wind farm](#)

*Tehachapi News - Apr 20*

The Kern County Planning and Community Development Department is in the preliminary stages of the permitting process for a planned 411MW wind farm on Tehachapi Mountain. The agency has issued a notice of preparation for a draft environmental impact report on the project, which would be constructed on 7,106 acres of land in the mostly undeveloped area.

### [San Luis Obispo officials reject appeals to solar project approval](#)

*Reuters - Apr 20*



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The San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors rejected four appeals filed against the board's decision to approve construction of a 250MW solar power plant on the Carrizo Plain. The five-member panel voted unanimously to turn down the appeals, leaving solar company SunPower free to continue developing the California Valley Solar Ranch.

### [Edison ups output of California hydro plant](#)

*Bloomberg - Apr 17*

Edison International has increased the power output at its Big Creek Hydro Project by over 100MW, according to Bloomberg. The 820MW hydro plant, located about 250 miles northeast of Los Angeles, bumped up power production from [543MW](#) to [659MW](#) in the space of a day, according to Cal-ISO reports.

### **NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS**

#### [SDG&E, Sempra sign deal on Baja wind farm](#)

*PR Newswire - Apr 19*

SDG&E has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Sempra Generation to buy up to 156MW of power produced by Phase I of Sempra's Energia Sierra Juarez wind project in Baja California, Mexico. The wind farm is expected to produce 1,200MW when all phases are completed.

#### [DOE issues \\$2.1B loan guarantee for Riverside County solar plant](#)

*Los Angeles Times - Apr 18*

DOE has awarded a conditional \$2.1 billion loan guarantee to Solar Trust of America subsidiary Solar Millennium for the first two phases of a proposed solar project in Riverside County, Calif., according to the Los Angeles Times. When complete, the Blythe Solar Power Project is anticipated to produce as much as 1GW of electricity.

#### [DOE announces \\$130M in funding for renewable energy projects](#)

*Department of Energy - Apr 20*

DOE Secretary Steven Chu has announced that his agency has made \$130 million in Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) funds available for development of five new renewable energy programs. It is the fourth round of funding for ARPA-E; the new programs focus on developing technologies in energy delivery, biofuels, thermal storage, among other renewable energy sectors.

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