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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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September 7, 2010

[Grid energy storage a \\$35B market by 2020: report](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Aug 31

Pike Research has released a [report](#) that says the grid energy storage market could reach as much as \$35 billion by 2020. According to the research company, demand is being driven by several key trends including the proliferation of renewable energy from variable sources such as wind and solar, the expansion of utility smart grid initiatives, and the introduction of plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles. Pike research sees major growth in the areas of the compressed air energy storage (CAES), Li-ion batteries, and flow batteries. Other storage technologies in use today include pumped hydro sodium sulfur (NAS) batteries.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[California proposes increase in TREC cap](#)

Windpower Monthly - Aug 31

Utilities will be able to use unbundled renewable energy credits to meet up to 40% of California's renewables mandate, under proposals by the state's public utilities commission. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) draft decision envisages increasing the cap on the amount of tradable renewable energy credits (TRECs) that utilities can use to meet the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS). This could in theory make it easier for a utility to meet the RPS using wind farms in neighboring states. The CPUC will vote on the [draft decision](#) no earlier than Sept. 25.

[Cap-and-trade is beginning to raise some concerns](#)

New York Times - Aug 29

As climate regulation spreads, destroying the refrigerant gas known as HFC-23 has become a lucrative business. That business was made possible by the Kyoto Protocol, which was agreed upon in 1997 and which encourages investors from the developed world to offset their own emissions by paying for reductions in developing countries. Recently, opponents of offsetting have likened the system to the kind of financial engineering on Wall Street that helped precipitate the recent banking crisis.

[Rooftop solar among 'zero net energy' strategies promoted for buildings](#)

Sunpluggers - Sep 1

The California Public Utilities Commission and state business leaders have begun an effort to promote commercial buildings with "net zero" energy consumption and solar or other renewable electricity generation. The state has adopted a 2010-2012 Zero Net Energy Action Plan designed to help California commercial building owners take advantage of the latest technologies and financial incentives to help reduce building energy use to a net of zero through greater efficiency and clean-energy production.

[Solar leasing attractive option to many](#)

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Upcoming Events

[Energy in California](#)

San Francisco, CA

September 13-14, 2010

GetSolar - Sep 2

Three solar leasing companies dominate the market: SunRun, SolarCity and Sungevity. SunRun has completed more than 5,000 home solar installations in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Arizona and Colorado - and it just set up shop in Pennsylvania, too. SolarCity operates in California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and Oregon and offers commercial-scale installations, as well as home solar arrays. Sungevity, meanwhile, operates in California and Arizona and recently entered the Colorado market. Solar leasing lets homeowners and businesses go solar for a monthly payment - an alternative to paying for a solar array outright.

[PG&E forms advisory group to ensure SmartMeter program follows best practices](#)

Electric Light & Power - Sep 2

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. announced the formation of the SmartMeter Technical Advisory Panel, a group of experts, regulators, business stakeholders and customers, to review the impact of PG&E's SmartMeter program on customers and help the utility follow best practices while rolling out the program across PG&E's service area.

Related News:

[PG&E's smart meters work fine, independent study says](#)

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[California utilities approved for 616 MW of solar deals](#)

Bloomberg - Sep 2

Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric received approval from California regulators for a combined 616 MW of solar power purchase agreements. Southern California Edison was approved for two 20-year contracts for the output from 250 MW and 300 MW thin-film photovoltaic projects proposed by First Solar Inc. in Desert Center and San Bernardino. PG&E was approved for a 20-year contract to buy the output from NRG Energy Inc.'s 66 MW Alpine Suntower project proposed in Riverside County.

[UOP technology to produce liquid fuel and base-load electricity from biomass](#)

EnergyDigital - Sep 1

UOP LLC, a company owned by Honeywell, has been chosen to supply its technology in the Rentech Inc Rialto Renewable Energy Center, which will convert biomass to transportation fuels. The renewable energy center is to be constructed in Rialto, and will convert biomass, such as yard and tree trimmings, to clean, renewable diesel fuel as well as electricity. The center is anticipated to generate around 640 barrels-per-day of liquid fuel and 35 MW of base-load electricity, which is enough to power around 30,000 homes daily.

Related News:

[Honeywell UOP technology selected to support conversion of biomass to fuel at california renewable energy facility](#)

[SunPower solar tech selected for U.S. federal facilities](#)

GetSolar - Aug 31

SunPower is providing more than 20 MW of solar panel capacity at federal government installations in Colorado, Indiana, Arizona and other states. Among the government facilities being powered by SunPower modules are: the Department of Energy's new Research Support Facility in Golden, Colorado; the General Emmett Bean Federal Building in Indianapolis, Indiana; and the Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Colorado.

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA

September 29-30, 2010

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)

Scottsdale, AZ

October 12-14, 2010

[Solar Power International 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

October 12-14, 2010

[FutureBuildLA 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

October 19, 2010

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA

January 23-25, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[*NEW* Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District's Request for Bids for Oakland Photovoltaic Solar Power System](#)

[*NEW* National Renewable Energy Laboratory Solicitation for Letters of Interest for PV Technology Incubator](#)

[Southern California Edison Company's Renewables Standard Contracts Program Request for Offers from Generating Facilities Not Greater than 20 MW](#)

[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](#)

[709MW solar dish plant nears approval in California](#)

BrighterEnergy - Aug 31

Plans for a 709 megawatt solar power facility in California's Imperial Valley are moving toward approval by the California Energy Commission. The Imperial Valley Solar Project, formerly known as the SES Solar Two Project, is being developed by Stirling Energy Systems on public land west of El Centro. The proposal is for 28,000 solar dishes, called "SunCatchers", which would each generate 25 KW of power. The project was to have been up to 750MW in size, but the California Energy Commission's siting committee issued a proposed decision last week that would adopt the 709MW alternative project, as preferred by the Bureau of Land Management, which manages the land on which the project is proposed.

[Calisolar wins commission approval for clean energy business loan](#)

Energy Business Review - Aug 27

[Calisolar](#), a supplier of multi-crystalline solar cells, has won the approval of California Energy Commission for a \$5-million loan from the Clean Energy Business Financing Program (CEBFP). The Silicon Valley company will use the loan to expand production of photovoltaic cells. Calisolar has also been awarded a clean energy manufacturing tax credit of \$51.6 million in ARRA funding.

Related News:

[California board approves \\$5M loan to solar cell manufacturer](#)

[Cisco, Itron join forces to deliver next-generation smart grid platform](#)

Cisco - Sep 1

[Itron](#) and [Cisco](#) announced a strategic alliance they say will advance the transformation of the world's energy infrastructure. The two will deliver a definitive Internet Protocol (IP)-based communications platform to the smart grid market and help advance more consistent and reliable delivery of energy across the electric distribution system and into homes and businesses. The companies will develop a standards-based, highly secure technology for full IPv6 implementation of field area communications to support smart metering, intelligent distribution automation and interfaces to the customer premise.

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