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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
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[DOE: 5M smart grid meters installed so far under ARRA](#)

Department of Energy - Jun 13

DOE Secretary Steven Chu has announced that five million smart grid meters have been installed nationwide as a result of initiatives funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. "To compete in the global economy, we need a modern electricity grid. An upgraded electricity grid will give consumers choices and promote energy savings, increase energy efficiency and foster the growth of renewable energy resources," said Secretary Chu. About 90% of the nation's smart grid meters are installed in California, Idaho, Arizona, Oklahoma, Michigan, Florida, Texas and Nevada.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[U.S. solar panel installation up two-thirds in 1Q 2011](#)

Wall Street Journal - Jun 16

Domestic solar installations rose two-thirds to 252MW in the first quarter of 2011, while domestic manufacturers produced 348MW in the same period, increasing more than one third from the same period in 2010, according to a [study](#) (available for purchase) from GTM Research. Solar-panel installations for non-residential buildings more than doubled in 1Q, and solar panel factories in the West and Midwest increased production for the domestic market, the study found.

[PG&E to launch mass installation of SmartMeters in Santa Cruz County despite protests](#)

Mercury News - Jun 15

PG&E is preparing to launch a widespread SmartMeter installation program in Santa Cruz County, CA despite protests from citizens' groups that claim the meters present a risk to customer health, safety, and privacy. The utility has already installed the meters in roughly 80% of its service area, but has met considerable resistance in the Santa Cruz region.

[Revised CARB analysis: Cap-and-trade still California's best option](#)

New York Times - Jun 14

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has released its [revised analysis](#) of the state's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as ordered by a Superior Court judge. The latest analysis claims that a carbon cap-and-trade system is still the most effective means for the state to reduce GHG emissions, while cap-and-trade plus a carbon fee places a close second. The CARB looked at four possible courses of action on GHG emissions reduction for California: a "no-action" option; direct regulation of polluting industries; a carbon tax; and a cap-and-trade system.

[Cal-ISO names new president](#)

Business Wire - Jun 14

Cal-ISO has named Steve Berberich as its new CEO and president, effective

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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

[County of Santa Clara Fuel Cell Request for Proposals](#)

[County of Santa Clara Request for Qualifications for Energy Efficiency Services and Projects](#)

[Southern California Edison's 2011 Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Suppliers for Renewable Products Request for Proposals](#)

[San Diego Gas and Electric Company's 2011 Eligible Renewable Resources Request for Offers](#)

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

June 20. Berberich, who has been with the organization since 2005, succeeds Yakout Mansour, who retired June 1. Prior to Cal-ISO, Berberich held positions at TXU Energy.

[Ivanpah solar project gets green light from BLM](#)

Reuters - Jun 10

The BLM has determined that BrightSource Energy's 392MW Ivanpah solar power plant in southeastern California does not pose a threat to the endangered desert tortoise and that construction of the facility may continue. The agency said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had issued updated guidelines on how to handle and translocate the tortoises, thus clearing the way for continued construction on the large solar power plant. BrightSource representatives said the company is pleased with the BLM's decision, and has developed a revised plan to provide support and protection for the tortoises.

[Railway company files complaint against Calico Solar](#)

Victorville Daily Press - Jun 12

BNSF Railway Company has filed a complaint against the proposed 663.5MW Calico Solar Plant to be located in Newbery Springs, CA, citing concerns over the glare that will be produced by the thousands of mirrors used in the facility's CPV system. BNSF representatives said the Calico project would very likely disrupt signals sent between trains, presenting a safety hazard. Calico Solar officials have yet to comment on the complaint.

[DOE offers \\$2B in loan guarantees for two California CSP power plants](#)

Department of Energy - Jun 14

DOE has offered conditional commitments to provide loan guarantees worth a combined \$2 billion for two, 250MW concentrating solar power (CSP) facilities in California. Abengoa Solar's Mojave Solar Project in San Bernardino County received a conditional commitment for a loan guarantee of \$1.2 billion, while NextEra's Genesis Solar Project in Riverside County received one for a \$681.6-million loan guarantee. The companies estimate that the projects will create 1,600 construction jobs and about 110 operating jobs combined.

[DOE offers \\$359M loan guarantee to Arizona solar project](#)

Department of Energy - Jun 15

The DOE announced the offer of a conditional commitment for a \$359.1 million loan guarantee to Mesquite Solar 1 to support the development of a photovoltaic solar generating project. The 150MW solar generation project is sponsored by Sempra Generation and will be located in Maricopa County, AZ.

[California solar silicon maker gets \\$275M DOE loan guarantee](#)

Department of Energy - Jun 16

Sunnyvale, California-based [Calisolar](#) has been awarded a conditional commitment for a \$275-million loan guarantee by the DOE to commercialize its low-cost solar silicon manufacturing method. According to a DOE release, Calisolar's manufacturing method is predicted to process silicon at less than half the cost of traditional polysilicon purification methods. The loan guarantee will help pay for Calisolar's planned manufacturing facility in Ontario, OH.

[Google invests \\$280M in SolarCity fund](#)

Bloomberg - Jun 14

Google has agreed to invest \$280 million in a project finance fund established by San Mateo, Calif.-based solar developer SolarCity. Google representative,

[Request for Offers](#)

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



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven offices throughout California. Some of the areas of focus at Allen Matkins include green and sustainable construction, construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

Rick Needham, said the investment will lower electricity costs for consumers, help popularize solar power, allow SolarCity to expand its rooftop solar installation business, and will make Google a return on capital upfront, as its investment is supported by the Treasury Department's cash grants program for solar projects. The deal brings Google's total investments in the renewable energy sector to \$680 million.

[Agile Energy gets \\$24M in financing for solar projects](#)

Clean Energy Authority - Jun 14

San Bruno, Calif.-based solar developer Agile Energy has received \$24 million in financing from global renewable energy investor Good Energies Capital. Agile plans to use the money to help fund the 1,000MW of utility-scale solar projects it is developing in California, Colorado, Texas, Arizona and Ohio. To date, Agile has received \$37 million in financing from Good Energies.

[ClearEdge wins \\$2.8M DOE grant for fuel cell deployment](#)

Sustainable Industries - Jun 14

Oregon-based ClearEdge Power has been awarded \$2.8 million by the DOE to deploy its small-scale fuel cells in commercial buildings in its home state and California, according to Sustainable Industries. The company will install the fuel cells at 10 locations, including a community college and a hotel, after which the DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will measure their performance. Program head Mike Rinker said he expects the fuel cells to cut the buildings' fuel cost and carbon footprint by as much as 40%.

[DOE offers \\$36M to support development of drop-in biofuels and bioproducts](#)

Department of Energy - Jun 10

DOE has awarded \$36 million in grants to six small-scale drop-in biofuels and bioproducts projects in California, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. The projects are intended to help develop the technologies and process integration necessary to make biofuel production cost-efficient. The two California companies receiving funding for their work in biofuels are: San Diego-based General Atomics, for their work on reducing the energy, capital, and operational cost of the algal fermentation process; and Genomatica, also of San Diego, which is working to produce an engineered organism and optimized fermentation process to enable the conversion of cellulosic sugars to the valuable industrial chemical, 1,4-butanediol (BDO).

[Lawsuits brewing over Oregon wind farm shutdowns](#)

The Atlantic - Jun 14

The Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) decision to curtail windpower from 35 Oregon wind farms in order to mitigate hydropower overproduction has caused five wind energy stakeholders to register a formal complaint with FERC, and two companies to plan lawsuits, according to The Atlantic. Iberdrola and six-state utility Pacific Power are developing lawsuits against BPA. Iberdrola, PacifiCorp, Horizon Wind Energy, Next Era Energy and Invenergy filed a joint complaint with FERC alleging that the shutdowns violated the Federal Power Act. Related News: [Wind generators fight curtailment in Oregon](#) - Reuters

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[SDG&E, enXco sign PPA for 130MW solar project](#)

enXco - Jun 16

SDG&E and renewable energy developer enXco have signed a power purchase agreement for a 110MW solar PV plant planned for Kern County, CA. The

terms of the agreement require enXco to develop, build and own the Catalina Solar Project, while SDG&E will purchase the power it generates for 25 years. CPUC has yet to approve the project, both phases of which are due to be connected to the grid and producing electricity by mid-2013.

[NGP purchases IAE geothermal project assets in California](#)

Renewable Energy Industry - Jun 10

Nevada Geothermal Power has bought a 100% stake in Iceland America Energy for \$680,000 in cash and 6,074,069 shares, thus acquiring IEA's geothermal holdings in California's Imperial Valley. The acquisition places NGP in possession of the New Truckhaven, East Brawley and South Brawley Projects in Southern California. The purchase makes Reykjavik Energy Invest hf, a subsidiary of Reykjavik Energy, a significant shareholder in NGP.

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