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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication**Allen Matkins**  
attorneys at law

November 16, 2010

## [Moving Renewables Beyond Cap and Trade](#)

*RenewableEnergyWorld - Nov 11*

Although a major push to pass a Renewable Energy Standard or a Cap and Trade program is unlikely this year, that doesn't preclude greener energy. A new report from the Clean Energy Group (CEG) highlights steps that can be taken to maximize existing federal policies toward renewables. Report author and CEG president Lewis Milford calls it "Clean Energy Pragmatism." Lewis outlines five key short-term strategies that could have a substantial impact on the industry without having to wait for sweeping legislation.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

#### [EPA issues carbon guidance to help states enforce rules](#)

*Bloomberg - Nov 10*

The Obama administration said states will decide how power plants and other big polluters should cut emissions when the first U.S. greenhouse gas regulations take effect in January. The EPA issued guidance letting states determine on a case-by-case basis the "best available control technology" that companies should use to limit the carbon-dioxide pollution that contributes to climate change. Energy efficiency, an approach backed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, probably will emerge as the most cost-effective approach, the agency said.

#### [Interest in Los Angeles CleanTech Corridor Revived with CRA RFP](#)

*Written by: Patrick Perry and Emily Murray, Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP - November*

Community Interest in Los Angeles' CleanTech Corridor, an ambitious project with a complicated history, has been revived thanks to a recent Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the Community Redevelopment Agency. The RFP seeks industrial developers for a 20-acre clean tech site that forms the southern anchor of the Corridor, with a target start date for construction of 2013.

#### [FERC moves ahead with campaign to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy](#)

*ClimateWire - Nov 12*

Regardless of November election outcomes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) says it intends to continue its plans. FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff is pressing his campaign to pay consumers who conserve electricity equally with companies that generate it, and to promote transmission projects that serve wind and solar power. Both issues figure to dominate the commission's agenda next year.

#### [CalPERS to invest \\$500 million in green portfolio](#)

*L.A. Times - Nov 10*

CalPERS, the largest public pension fund in the U.S., is investing \$500 million in environmentally friendly companies. The new green portfolio will be managed in-

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#### Upcoming Events

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)  
Los Angeles, CA  
**January 23-25, 2011**[RETECH 2011: The Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition](#)  
Washington, DC

house by the \$219-billion California Public Employees' Retirement System. The money will go into firms that work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, produce renewable energy, create clean water and waste options or support carbon trading efforts. Since 2006, the Sacramento-based pension system has invested \$500 million through externally managed funds that explicitly avoid companies not considered eco-friendly.

## [Outlook for clean energy jobs in the U.S. beating the trend](#)

*RenewableEnergyWorld - Nov 12*

This article examines how the significant growth of clean energy installations in the U.S. is creating jobs and putting Americans back to work. The writer notes that, in looking at the data, "it is clear that in all renewable energy technologies but one, in 2011 there will be significantly more jobs than there are now. The simple fact is that clean energy is indeed growing and creating jobs, but with U.S. unemployment figures so large, it's just been hard to notice." The article cuts across all clean energy categories.

## [The energy dilemma: cheap or clean](#)

*Green/New York Times - Nov 9*

The recession has had a significant effect on renewable energy projects like wind farms, according to this Green blog entry, but it is not only wind energy that is suffering. As prices for conventional energy decline, so does interest in energy conservation and in nuclear plants, experts say. Part of the problem is the price of natural gas, which has fallen as demand for electricity has declined. In addressing the problem that energy savings are worth less than they would be in a higher-priced market, efficiency proponents have focused on rules to keep the least efficient appliances out of the marketplace.

### **Related News:**

[Cost of green power makes projects tougher sell](#)

## [Salazar approves billion-dollar solar thermal plant in California](#)

*Brighter Energy - Nov 8*

The federal government has given the green light for another large-scale solar power plant in California – this time, the 250 MW Genesis Solar Project. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar approved the billion-dollar project. Proposed by Genesis Solar, part of Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources, the facility will be located on nearly 1,950 acres of public land 25 miles west of Blythe, in Riverside County. Using solar thermal technology, the facility is expected to produce enough electricity to supply between 75,000 and 187,000 homes.

## [CEC staff still opposed to solar project](#)

*Daily Independent - Nov 9*

The California Energy Commission (CEC) continues to have concerns about Solar Millennium's proposed solar-energy project. In its latest status report, the staff stated the applicant recently filed its proposed study plan for the Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) habitat-connectivity study. Staff are reviewing the study plan and intend to file comments by Nov. 12 and hold a workshop Nov. 18 in an attempt to finalize the plan. The report states the MGS study will cost the applicant approximately \$1.5 million. The report states, regardless of the MGS study results, staff believe it is preferable to preserve the site and surrounding area as opposed to developing it.

## [Getting solar policy right in California](#)

*Forbes - Nov 8*

Solar supporters generally agree that solar electricity has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the energy mix in the U.S., according to this Forbes

**September 20-22, 2011**

### **Recent Opportunities**

[San Bernardino Public Works Department Request for Qualifications to Solar Energy System Developer](#)

[The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Proposals for Power Purchase Agreement](#)

[Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Request for Proposals for Development of CleanTech Manufacturing Center](#)

[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](#)

column. The perfect policy will drive demand, the columnist writes, "resulting in fast development and construction of projects; use public and rate payer funds as efficiently as possible; set the appropriate incentive level; and result in solar being located where it makes the most sense." To date, policies and subsidy programs around the world at best get mixed marks, the writer says, but in "California, I believe the regulators may be close to cracking the code."

### [Mid-term election results positive for geothermal energy](#)

*Renewable Energy World - Nov 10*

The results from the 2010 midterm elections show a positive outlook for geothermal energy, according to this column by the Geothermal Energy Association. Both at the federal and state levels, there will be continued support for the policies and programs needed to expand geothermal production in the U.S. Republicans taking control of the House will likely increase support for action on extending tax credits – "a top priority for the geothermal industry", the column states.

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

#### [SDG&E adds more Imperial Valley renewable energy to portfolio](#)

*Sempra - Nov 11*

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) has signed a 25-year power-purchase agreement with a subsidiary of CSolar Development, a renewable energy company managed by Tenaska Solar Ventures, to procure up to 130 MW of renewable power. The solar photovoltaic energy will come from a proposed facility in Imperial County. The project is expected to be completed in 2014.

#### [Sempra Generation receives approval to build Southern California solar plant](#)

*MarketWatch - Nov 10*

Sempra Generation received approval from the Kern County Board of Supervisors to construct a new photovoltaic solar power plant in California's Antelope Valley. Rosamond Solar will generate up to 200 MW or enough electricity to power about 76,000 average homes for a year. Sempra anticipates breaking ground on Rosamond Solar in 2012, with completion targeted for 2013.

#### [DTE to convert California coal plant to biomass fuel](#)

*BrighterEnergy - Nov 9*

Michigan-based company DTE Energy Services is set to buy up a significant share in a coal-fired power plant in California to convert the facility to 100% biomass fuel. The company is acquiring stakes in the 49.5 MW Mt. Poso Cogeneration Company facility from owners Red Hawk Energy and Northern Star Generation. The third partner, MacPherson Oil, intends to continue its ownership and management interest in the facility. The Mt. Poso plant currently uses a blend of coal, coke and waste tires to generate energy, but DTE intends to convert the facility to use urban wood waste, tree trimmings and agricultural residues.

#### [Fuel cell to turn California sewage gas into renewable energy](#)

*BrighterEnergy - Nov 10*

A wastewater treatment plant in Chino is set to turn its biogas byproduct into renewable energy using a high-tech fuel cell system. The 2.8 MW project is being developed by biomass power project developer UTS Bioenergy LLC on behalf of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency. UTS Bioenergy is purchasing a DFC3000 fuel cell system from Connecticut-based manufacturer FuelCell Energy, Inc., and will operate the facility, selling power to the IEUA under a 20-year power purchase agreement. FuelCell Energy will service the power plant, also under a long-term deal, once it is operational in early 2012.

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