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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publicationAllen Matkins
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[Gov. Brown appoints consumer advocate to CPUC](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - Jan 26

California governor Jerry Brown has appointed longtime consumer advocate and law professor Mike Florio to the California Public Utilities Commission. Florio's presence on the panel is widely expected to help balance the commission's approach to policy. Brown also appointed telecommunications attorney Catherine Sandoval to the panel.

Related News:[Brown sets sights on utility industry](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Obama says 80% of U.S. energy to be from renewables by 2035](#)

Reuters - Jan 25

Calling the U.S. lag and subsequent leap ahead in renewable energy development "our generation's Sputnik moment," President Obama expressed his intention to redouble national efforts to exceed global renewable energy standards. Obama set a goal to have 80% of U.S. households running on clean energy such as solar, wind, nuclear, and clean coal by 2035.

Related News:

[Obama singles out solar power for praise in State of the Union speech](#)
[Browner resigns as energy czar](#)

[DOE, DOC to continue renewable energy partnership](#)

U.S. Department of Energy - Jan 24

The Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce have announced that they will continue to collaborate on renewable energy modeling and weather forecasting initiatives used to assist businesses successfully exploit U.S. renewable energy resources. The partnership plans to produce an action plan over the next several months that clearly delineates the group's goals.

[Expert: SRECs have potential to outpace FITs in U.S. solar market](#)

Reuters / Clean Technica - Jan 25

Solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) are showing potential as a more popular alternative to feed-in tariffs (FITs) as a means of stimulating U.S. residential solar production, says Stephen Lacey of Renewable Energy World. SRECs rely on regulations that force utilities to buy renewable energy credits, such as that generated by residential PV installations, when they do not produce enough of their own renewable power.

[State debt could dampen California solar industry](#)

The Packer - Jan 21

The solar energy industry is booming in California at present but the state's multi-billion dollar debtload could see significant downsizing of large government incentives for solar projects by 2012, according to Cenergy Power executive Nader Yarpezeskan. Solar power developers are scrambling to push

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Laguna Niguel, CA

April 4-6, 2011[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

projects through permitting processes before the allocated government funds run out, some say permanently. The government solar subsidies could face cancellation as California looks for ways to cut state costs to offset its ballooning deficit.

Related News:

[California solar incentives running out](#)

[PV inverter market to hit \\$8.5B by 2014: report](#)

IMS Research - Jan 24

Despite an 11% decline in factory-gate prices, sales of photovoltaic inverters hit \$5 billion for the first time in 2010 and are expected to climb to \$8.5 billion by 2014, according to a report from IMS Research. The report predicts that seven million inverters will be sold in 2014, compared with fewer than one million in 2009.

[Energy producer group opposed CPUC limit on out-of-state REC market](#)

Solar Home and Business Journal - Jan 21

An energy industry advocacy group says renewable energy project developers have been caught in a "legal and regulatory crossfire" because of a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decision to limit renewable energy credit trading for out-of-state projects. The Independent Energy Producers Association wrote that the increasingly litigious climate surrounding the California renewable energy industry should have led CPUC to open the REC market further to out-of-state companies rather than imposing limitations.

[Lawsuit against Ivanpah solar project could also halt rare earths mine](#)

San Bernardino Sun - Jan 22

An environmental group's lawsuit against Brightsource Energy's planned Ivanpah Solar Power Project has the potential to halt operations at Molycorp Mining's nearby rare earth mining facility. Western Watershed Project filed the suit against several government agencies and officials, alleging that the Ivanpah plant would seriously compromise thousands of acres of habitat for an endangered species of tortoise. Michael Connor, director of Western Watersheds, says the Molycorp project would destroy land earmarked for the tortoises and hints the lawsuit would delay that project as well.

[Analysis: windpower marketing label misleading](#)

Intelligent Energy - Jan 25

A planned marketing label that would indicate wind energy's use in a product's manufacture is misleading and does not make technical sense, according to Paul Mauldin in Intelligent Energy. The 'Windmade' label is currently under development by a consortium of companies and organizations connected to the renewable energy industry. Mauldin says the label cannot provide a guarantee that the energy used to manufacture specific products was wind-generated as such a claim would be impossible to prove.

[U.S. wind industry suffered downturn in 2010](#)

The Epoch Times - Jan 25

Wind turbine installations in the U.S. were at their lowest rate in five years in 2010 largely due to developer anxiety over unpredictable federal legislation regarding renewable energy, according to The Epoch Times. The windpower industry installed 5,115MW of wind turbines last year, about half the amount installed in 2009. "Our industry continues to endure a boom-bust cycle because of the lack of long-term, predictable federal policies," said American Wind and

October 17-20, 2011

Recent Opportunities

[Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Release 2011 Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

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

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



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Energy Association CEO Denise Bode.

Related News:

[Wind energy increasingly cost-competitive with natural gas](#)

[Blog: U.S. wind industry expected to surge in 2011](#)

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[230MW Kern County solar project set to start](#)

Earth Techling - Jan 22

Energy developer First Solar appears ready to break ground on its planned 230MW Solar Ranch One Project in Kern County, saying a deadline for complaints on the permitting process and environmental reporting for the plant has passed without incident. The Antelope Valley solar farm started as a NextLight project, but First Solar bought the project as part of 1,100MW in proposed projects it gained from its acquisition of NextLight in a \$297 million deal last year. PG&E has signed a 25-year power purchase deal with First Solar for energy produced by the solar farm.

[SolarCity buys Maryland solar facility](#)

Washington Post - Jan 24

San Mateo-based solar developer SolarCity has purchased the solar division of energy company Clean Currents in Rockville, Maryland for an undisclosed sum. Representatives for SolarCity say the company is looking to expand its solar panel leasing business in the east, and that Clean Current's facility is well-suited to help them do so. SolarCity has about 1,000 employees and has completed over 10,000 solar projects to date.

Related News:

[Clean Currents sells solar division](#)

[Marin County energy agency buys more renewable power](#)

Marin Independent Journal - Jan 24

The [Marin Energy Authority](#) (MEA) says it will be able to maintain its goal of obtaining 25% of its electricity from renewable sources after signing a 20-year power purchase deal with G2 Energy. Under the terms of the deal, G2 Energy will provide the MEA with 25,000MW hours of electricity for at least 20 years starting in mid-to-late 2011. The energy will be generated via a G2-operated landfill gas facility.

[Enfinity starts work on three California solar projects](#)

PV Tech - Jan 26

Georgia-based renewable energy developer Enfinity has begun work on three California solar installations that are designed to generate over 4 million kWh per year for 20 years. The projects are: a ground-mount installation for a waste-management facility in Parlier; a solar PV array for Greenfield Union School District; and a 392kWp ground-mount installation in the Mojave Desert.

[Officials hear public comments on proposed 250MW Carrizo Plain solar project](#)

San Luis Obispo Tribune - Jan 28

The San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission has been conducting hearings as part of the decision-making process as to whether SunPower Corporation should be given permission to build a 250MW solar plant on the ecologically-sensitive Carrizo Plain. If approved, the project could break ground later this year.

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