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Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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attorneys at law

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[DOE announces more than \\$20.5M for community renewable energy projects](#)

EERE - Jan 21

The DOE has selected five projects to receive more than \$20.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support deployment of community-based renewable energy projects, such as biomass, wind, and solar installations. The selected projects will be leveraged with approximately \$167 million in local government and private industry funding. The projects include those by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) (DOE share: \$5 million) and the University of California at Davis (DOE share: \$2.5 million).

Renewable Energy Focus

[DOE to invest up to \\$12M to support early stage solar technologies](#)

DOE - Jan 20

The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will invest up to \$12 million in total funding in four companies to support the development of early stage solar energy technologies and help them advance to full commercial scale. Companies awarded under DOE's Photovoltaic Incubator Program will work with NREL to transition prototype and pre-commercial PV technologies into pilot and full-scale manufacturing. The anticipated subcontracts, up to \$3 million each, will be awarded as 18-month phased subcontracts with payment made upon completion of project milestones. The partnership projects announced today include: up to \$3 million for Alta Devices Inc. (Santa Clara), Solar Junction Corp. (San Jose), and Tetra Sun (Saratoga).

[California firms awarded \\$23M to develop lighting. solar](#)

California Energy Commission - Jan 21

Eight California Silicon Valley companies have been awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding to help bring new energy products to market. The US Department of Energy (DOE) will award five San Francisco Bay-area high-tech companies \$13.7 million in grants to encourage breakthroughs in energy efficient lighting. Of the \$35 million nationally in this ARRA award, more than a third of the stimulus funding went to California companies. The goal for the program is to produce high-efficiency solid-state lighting products to replace today's incandescent bulbs. Solid-state lighting uses light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) that can be as much as ten times more energy-efficient than traditional incandescent lighting.

[California approves \\$350M in rebates for installing solar water heaters](#)

L.A. Times - Jan 22

Utility regulators have approved \$350 million in rebates to encourage Californians to install water-heating systems powered by solar energy. The state Public Utilities Commission established the California Solar Initiative Thermal Program, which will be funded using \$250 million to replace natural-gas-powered water heaters, with \$25 million set aside for low-income customers. An additional \$100.8 million will be used to swap out water heaters powered by electricity. The rebates could reduce the cost of a solar water heater by 15% to 25%, industry experts said. The federal government also offers a 30% tax credit.

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Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009. [A summary can be found here.](#)

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on

[Schwarzenegger plans to exempt 'green' tech manufacturing equipment from sales tax](#)

Contra Costa Times - Jan 18

To strengthen "green" manufacturing in California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has introduced a plan to make businesses that make clean technology exempt from paying sales tax on their equipment. Although some experts agree that it is a first step in jump-starting the state's manufacturing industry, more incentives may need to be considered. The proposal is one of five components to Schwarzenegger's California Jobs Initiative to create jobs and expand business in the state. In 2009, an agreement was made with Tesla Motors and the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority to give them exemption from paying sales tax on the equipment they purchase to produce zero-emissions vehicles. The governor's proposal will expand the Tesla exemption to include other advanced transportation, renewable energy and green-technology projects.

[Smart Grid sees venture capital investment surge early in year](#)

GreenTechMedia - Jan 21

Last year investors mostly talked about the smart grid -- this year they're investing. Last year, not that much venture capital funding went into the smart grid despite the hype. But GreenTech is observing a shift occurring in VC firms' willingness to invest in the grid. GreenTech counts six smart grid investments so far in 2010, only three weeks into the year. For the list, click here.

[Build more turbines to improve reliability: study](#)

Green Inc. - Jan 20

A new study suggests that the intermittency problem associated with wind power can be overcome in part by building more wind power. One of the drawbacks to wind turbines is that while they may provide a lot of energy at times, they can never be counted on to provide energy in a pinch. As a result, if a larger proportion of windmills are deployed on the power grid, the system will also need a lot of conventional generation that will sit idle for most of the hours in a year, providing value only by being available for when the wind stops. A new study of wind integration, however, argues that the capacity value of windmills could be improved by building even more of them, spreading them out geographically, and connecting them with a strong grid.

[Solar power advocates hopeful for 2010](#)

Green Inc. - Jan 19

Between 500 and 600 megawatts of solar power will be built this year across the U.S. -- about double the figure of last year -- according to Larry Sherwood, who compiles and studies such data as a consultant to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, a nonprofit industry group. He said some analysts were projecting even higher figures. Among states, California is expected to maintain first place, and New Jersey is likely to come in second, with Florida making a strong showing for the first time. Sherwood also said that the falling cost of photovoltaic cells would propel the market this year after a period in late 2008 and early 2009 when prices were rising.

[Ocean energy could reach 200 GW of renewable capacity by 2025](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld - Jan 19

If ocean energy trial projects are successful in the next few years, the industry could represent a large source of renewable electricity, reaching up to 200 GW of installed generation capacity by 2025, according to a report by Pike Research. The report notes there are more than 300 hydrokinetic projects in the works around the world. According to Pike's scenario-based

[Renewable Energy Project Finance](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition \(RETECH\)](#)

Washington, D.C.

February 3-6, 2010

[Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo POWER SHIFT](#)

Austin, TX

February 23-25, 2010

[AWEA Windpower 2010 Conference and Expo](#)

Dallas, TX

May 23-26, 2010

[Recent Opportunities](#)

[*Extended RFP deadline*](#)

[Inland Empire Utility](#)

[Agency's Request for](#)

[Proposals for Wind Turbine](#)

[Power Plant](#).

[Los Angeles Community](#)

[Redevelopment Agency's](#)

[Request for Proposals for](#)

[Business Cleantech](#)

[Incubator](#).

[California Public Utilities](#)

[Commission's Grant](#)

[Proposal Solicitation for](#)

[Improved PV Production](#)

[Technologies and](#)

[Innovative Business Models](#)

[Metropolitan Water District](#)

[of Southern California's](#)

[Request for Qualifications](#)

[for Renewable Energy](#)

[Projects](#)

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[New Submission Deadlines](#)

[Released for the California](#)

[Energy Commission](#)

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[Rolling Request for](#)

[Proposals](#)

forecasting model for the ocean energy industry, technological success and the right regulatory environment could yield global power generation capacity of up to 200 GW by 2025. However, if early projects have limited success, are too costly, or do not enjoy a favorable public policy regime, the marine renewable sector could be relegated to niche status, reaching no more than 25 GW in global capacity by 2025.

California toughens up biofuel standards

BusinessGreen - Jan 15

Californian regulators approved tough new standards governing the carbon intensity of bioethanol that will force producers to account for the lifecycle emissions that result from the production of biofuels. The Californian Air Resources Board (CARB) said the new Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) will reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels used in California by an average of 10% by the year 2020, by forcing bioethanol producers to measure the emissions that result from the production, transportation, and land use changes associated with biofuels. Congress adopted a renewable fuels standard in 2005 and strengthened it in December 2007 requiring that 36 billion gallons of biofuel be sold annually by 2022, of which 21 billion gallons must qualify as "advanced" second generation biofuels.

Sacramento area aims to be green tech center

Sacramento Bee - Jan 18

Local business leaders say Sacramento could become a hub of the developing green economy. They are looking to green tech as a way to strengthen and diversify region's job base. In other ways, Sacramento lags the Bay Area when it comes to raising money for new companies, and its previous efforts to establish itself in the high-tech and biotechnology industries faltered. Still, business development officials say green-tech companies are showing unprecedented interest in opening shop in Sacramento, despite the bad economy. Although there's no official method for counting green jobs, one leading advocacy group says Sacramento is doing well on that front. Palo Alto-based nonprofit Next 10 recently released a study concluding that Sacramento led all California regions in percentage growth of green jobs from 1995 to 2008, with an 87 percent jump from 7,019 to 13,102.

San Diego County's green efforts lagging

San Diego Union-Tribune - Jan 19

An environmental report has raised questions about why San Diego County lacks a comprehensive push to address concerns that have bubbled for decades, including lackluster recycling, coastal water pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions. The Equinox Center in Encinitas noted improvements in several areas but problems in many others that will tend to worsen as the population grows. Researchers showed that air quality, the number of green startup companies and some other environmental indicators have gotten better over the past decade. But they also found that county residents generate more trash each day than Californians as a whole, and that they spend an average of 52 hours a year stuck in traffic -- twice as much as they did 20 years ago.

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

First Solar begins operation of largest thin-film PV plant in California

CleanTechnica - Jan 18

First Solar's utility-scale PV plant has now been quietly up and running, in Blythe for a full month. Unlike the 250 MW solar trough technologies that are held up in reviews, this project is a modest 21 MW. PG&E just inked a new deal with First Solar this month, placing an order for the next size up: 48 MW, suggesting that incremental steps are the way to get more solar on the grid in California. The original application with the CPUC had been for a very unassuming 7 MW. With the option to go larger. PV plants tend not to

be as ambitious in scope as utility-scale solar thermal technologies because they are more expensive. This 21 MW thin-film project is so far the biggest PV plant yet built in California.

[PG&E to help fund SolarCity installations](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - Jan 20

PG&E Corp. will spend \$60 million to help a Foster City company install solar panels on homes and businesses. The deal places PG&E in a role typically filled by banks. Last year's financial meltdown made banks hesitant to lend, forcing many young green-tech companies to either place projects on hold or find other sources of financing. A PG&E subsidiary will finance solar installations by SolarCity Corp. Unlike most solar installation firms, SolarCity continues to own and operate the rooftop systems it places on homes and businesses. Customers buy only the electricity, not the panels. The financing from PG&E will enable SolarCity to build about 1,000 installations on homes and businesses, most of them in California.

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