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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publicationAllen Matkins  
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## [CPUC authorizes use of tradable renewable energy credits](#)

*Solar Home and Business Journal - Jan 13*

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has approved the use of tradable renewable energy credits by investor-owned utility companies. Utilities buying or trading the credits can use them to help meet their requirements for generating a certain percentage of their electricity from renewable sources. CPUC will allow California utilities to use the credits to meet up to 25 percent of their annual procurement targets for the federal renewable energy incentives.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

## [California tops in U.S. solar energy production: Fortune Magazine](#)

*Fortune - Jan 13*

Aided by generous incentives for renewable energy projects and a statewide mandate to produce clean energy, California has topped a Fortune Magazine list of the nation's top solar power producers. California had photovoltaic power capacity of 832.5MW, almost quadruple the capacity of New Jersey in second place, and more than ten times that of third-place Colorado. Residential production accounted for 37% of California's capacity, with 58% non-residential, and 5% for utilities.

## [California BLM sued over solar project water usage](#)

*Clean Energy Authority - Jan 7*

California's Bureau of Land Management has been sued by the California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE) over alleged water usage improprieties at a planned Imperial Valley solar plant. CURE alleges in its complaint that the 250 MW Genesis Solar Project will use water from an aquifer of the Colorado River in violation of a Supreme Court ruling that requires such projects to obtain a permit for water use. The lawsuit could delay the project from starting, much as similar lawsuits have stalled solar projects throughout the state.

## [First Solar expands services portfolio with purchase of Ray Tracker](#)

*Reuters - Jan 7*

First Solar has purchased tech company Ray Tracker for an undisclosed sum in a move expected to advance the tracking technology of the company's own solar projects and broaden its portfolio of engineering services. First Solar is testing San Diego-based Ray Tracker's tracking technology, with company representatives saying they "will announce product offerings ... when appropriate to do so." Tempe, Arizona-based First Solar has spent nearly \$700 million on such acquisitions in the U.S. since 2009, and has announced plans to team with a Chinese company on a planned 2,000MW solar project in Mongolia.

## [Cal-ISO bid proposal worries generators](#)

*Platts - Jan 7*

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### Upcoming Events

[7th Annual Clean-tech Investor Summit](#)

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[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA  
**January 23-25, 2011**

[Fortune Brainstorm Green](#)

Laguna Niguel, CA  
**April 4-6, 2011**

[American Wind Energy](#)

[Association \(AWEA\) Windpower 2011](#)

Anaheim, CA

A tentative plan from the California Independent System Operator to lower its bid floor as a means of forestalling oversupply problems is worrying some generators in the state. The proposed adjustment would lower Cal-ISO's bid floor from minus \$30 to minus \$1,000 over the next three years, and provide incentives for energy producers to shut down in over-supply situations. Some generators are concerned the move will increase price risk and distance them from the real-time market; a representative of one generator called the proposal "detrimental to the real time market." Industry watchers say any adjustment in Cal-ISO's bid floor will likely cause other Western Interconnection markets to follow suit.

### [Low-carbon energy investment hit record high in 2010: Bloomberg study](#)

*Bloomberg - Jan 11*

Global investment in renewable energy hit an all-time high of \$243 billion in 2010 despite adverse economic conditions, according to a report from Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF). This is double the amount of investment in the sector in 2005, and about \$60 billion more than in 2009. The study points to rapid sector growth in China and a boom in construction of small-scale solar power installations as reasons for the increase. BNEF researchers included investment in wind and solar power, energy efficiency, smart-grid tech, and biofuels when tabulating the figures; they excluded mergers and acquisitions on the basis that they do not represent new investment.

### [Brown appointments likely to make CPUC more consumer-friendly](#)

*Los Angeles Times - Jan 7*

Governor Jerry Brown is soon expected to announce at least three appointments to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that will give the agency the most consumer representation it has had in a decade. All six potential candidates for CPUC positions have pro-consumer credentials, including consumer lawyer Michael Florio, who has been representing utility ratepayers at agency meetings for 32 years. The Schwarzenegger administration was thought by some industry observers to have over-represented the three major state utilities in its CPUC appointments. California utilities and trade groups have yet to comment on the upcoming appointments.

### [Bureau of Land Management warns against fast-tracking renewable energy projects on tribal lands](#)

*The Desert Sun - Jan 13*

Hasty development of renewable energy projects on tribal lands has led to litigation and communication breakdown between developers and native and environmental groups, said Marcilynn Burke of the Bureau of Land Management at a tribal summit on renewable energy in Palm Springs. Burke noted that consulting tribal groups on land use has been a neglected aspect of renewable energy project development, and her department was working toward improving the situation. "What we're doing now is being involved in lesson-learned type opportunities," said Burke. Burke made the comments as tribal groups pursue litigation against numerous renewable projects involving tribal lands in California.

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

##### [GE, UnionBanCal subsidiaries team to buy Kern County wind farm](#)

*Business Wire / GE - Jan 10*

GE Energy Financial Services has teamed with Bankers Commercial Corporation, a unit of UnionBanCal Corporation, to purchase the 150MW Alta

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Washington, DC

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[Solar Power International 2011](#)

Dallas, TX

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#### **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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Wind Phase I wind farm in Tehachapi, California. Terra-Gen Power sold the facility for an undisclosed sum, and has said it will use the funds to pay off debts incurred in the construction phase of the project. Terra-Gen will lease the facility back from the GE and UnionBanCal subsidiaries, who each hold a 50% stake in the project. The 100-turbine Tehachapi farm is the first phase of the Alta Wind Energy Center, which is expected to produce more than 3GW of electricity when completed.

**Related News:**

[Terra-Gen sells wind farm, leases it back](#)

[SunPower inks three solar deals with SoCal Edison](#)

*Bloomberg - Jan 10*

Solar developer SunPower Corp. has signed contracts with Southern California Edison (SCE) for three California power projects expected to produce 711MW. SunPower plans to finish a 601MW plant in Rosamond by 2016, and a 110MW facility in Los Banos by 2014. SCE says energy from the projects will be enough to power nearly half a million homes. The projects have not yet received approval from the California Public Utilities Commission.

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