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[U.S. government maps solar energy future](#)

CNET - July 1

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in conjunction with the Department of Energy, this week released six maps that could help determine the location of the next big push in solar energy. The BLM maps cover areas within the six U.S. states most suitable for solar energy generation and transmission as judged by the U.S. government: [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#) and [Utah](#). According to a BLM statement, "only lands with excellent solar resources, suitable slope, proximity to roads and transmission lines or designated corridors, and containing at least 2,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands were considered for solar energy study areas."

Renewable Energy Focus

[Federal Efforts a Travesty](#)

Renewable Energy World - July 2

"We've ensured a role for coal," said Rick Boucher, Democratic Congressman from West Virginia, regarding the federal climate change "mitigation" bill that recently passed the House. I'm forced to use quotation marks around "mitigation" because this "deal with the devil," as Ted Nordhaus, of the Breakthrough Institute, described it, confirmed my worst suspicions: even under a progressive and popular President the chance of an effective federal climate change mitigation bill passing through Congress is minimal to none. The federal bill (Waxman/Markey) will, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's recent analysis, actually allow an expansion of coal emissions until 2020. The federal bill is, in short, a travesty that highlights the need to shift from any federal focus on climate mitigation to aggressive state and local action.

California solar-power subsidy program approaches its limit

Los Angeles Times - July 6

California's \$3.3-billion solar subsidy program has become so popular that the state utilities are approaching the legal limit for how much power they can buy from customers. The limit could be reached in parts of northern and central California served by Pacific Gas and Electric Company by the end of this year. The state's other two investor-owned utilities, Southern California Edison Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co., are proceeding somewhat more slowly. Eager to keep the program growing, the solar industry is pushing for approval of legislation in Sacramento that would quadruple the amount allowed. The state's for-profit utilities oppose the higher cap in the bill AB 560 by Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley). A key Senate utilities committee vote on the measure is expected this week.

Federal bill misses importance of wood biomass: industry

Pallet Enterprise - July 1

With the current focus on green technology, the forest product industry says it is time to create new opportunities that improve the profitability of forest product companies. Large declines in sawmill production over the past two years have kept chip markets from collapsing, and at times even created tightness in markets. New markets for biomass energy have begun to take over as major outlets for by-products and promise to replace, if not exceed, demand from slowing paper activities. The question vital to hardwood sawmills and wood product manufacturers is what will happen to demand for pulpwood and whether biomass energy systems will become viable soon enough to keep loggers working.

Senate confirms Zoi to U.S. renewable energy post

Hydro Review - July 1

The U.S. Senate has confirmed President Obama's nomination of Cathy Zoi to be the Energy Department's assistant secretary for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Obama announced the nomination of Zoi in March. The White House said she has a long career in promoting renewable energy and fighting climate change. In January 2007, she became Chief Executive Officer at the Alliance for Climate Protection, which was established by former Vice President, Al Gore. The organization's goal is to persuade Americans about the urgency and solutions of global warming.

California granted waiver for greenhouse gas standards

Canadian Driver - June 30

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is granting California's request for a waiver that would allow the state to enforce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for new motor vehicles, beginning with the current model year. The EPA said that using the law and science as its guide, it took the action to tackle air pollution and protect human health. The 13 states that have adopted the California Clean Car standards are Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. British Columbia and Manitoba are among the provinces that have stated they will also adopt the standards.

US Bio Fuels adds greenhouses for green fuel production

PR Web - July 3

California-based US Bio Fuels, Inc. is preparing to launch green fuel production with recent gains of twelve greenhouses covering more than eight acres in Sun Valley, Idaho. Each greenhouse will be constructed and renovated to grow algae in a closed system, using the photobioreactor (PBR) process for the production of biofuel. US Bio Fuels intends to produce biofuel year-round from these greenhouses and hopes to complete the greenhouses by 2010. From these, the firm aims to produce more than 4 million gallons of biodiesel gas.

Venture funding for clean-tech rebounds

Mercury News - July 2

After two sharp quarterly declines, worldwide venture funding for clean technologies rebounded in the second quarter of 2009 amid rising confidence -- particularly in Silicon Valley and throughout California. From April to June, venture investments in clean tech totaled \$1.2 billion across 94 companies, according to preliminary results released by The Cleantech Group, a San Francisco research and strategy firm, and Deloitte & Touche. Total investments were up 12 percent from the previous quarter, though down 44 percent from the same period a year ago.

Santa Monica law eases going solar

The LookOut News - June 30

Santa Monica City Council has passed a law that makes it easier to install solar panels on commercial and multi-family buildings in Santa Monica. The ordinance allows solar energy systems that "meet objective development standards" to be approved without a public hearing and also allows them to encroach into setback areas and extend above current height limits. The provision requires that the panels "be installed in the location that is the least visible from abutting streets directly facing the subject property" unless it significantly decreases performance or significantly increases costs, the ordinance states. The ordinance -- which excludes single-family homes -- sets specific height limits and sets limitations on installation in the required side and rear yard setbacks.

New wind monitoring system from San Diego firm

Alternative Energy Retailer - July 1

San Diego-based [Helix Wind Corp.](#) has added smart-grid technology to its line of Small Wind Vertical Axis Turbines. According to the company, the new Helix Wind Wind Turbine Monitoring System (WTMS) monitors, records and reports in real time on performance metrics, including wind speed, turbine output, inverter data, generator frequency and a variety of other variables. Phase 1 of the platform will monitor and report information to Helix Wind's Network Operating Center.

Burbank utilities say renewable bills too costly

Burbank Leader - July 3

Burbank Water and Power officials are urging the City Council to oppose legislation that would force them to produce a third of their energy from renewable sources by 2020, arguing the requirements would drive up utility rates and strain existing electric transmission assets that the state is in short supply of. The council last year voted to increase the city's renewable portfolio standard from 20 percent by 2017 to 33 percent by 2020, mirroring the proposed bills. But the divergence between the city's plans and the bill's requirements comes in delivery. Nine percent of the utility's renewable energy comes from a mix of hydrologic and wind projects in states such as Utah, Oregon and Washington. Another two percent comes from in-state, bringing the utility's total to 11 percent. Burbank is on pace to have 20 percent of its energy come from renewable sources by 2011. And Glendale, which is at 21 percent with about 12 percent coming from out-of-state, passed its goal of reaching 20 percent by 2017. General managers for both utilities said they opposed the legislation.

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

[Nordic Windpower offered DOE loan guarantee to expand wind turbine plant](#)

North American Windpower - July 2

Berkeley-based [Nordic Windpower USA Inc.](#) has received a conditional commitment for a \$16-million loan guarantee offer from the Department of Energy (DOE), supported through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The company will use funds to support the expansion of its wind turbine assembly plant in Pocatello, Idaho. Nordic Windpower manufactures and sells two-bladed, utility-scale wind turbines with proprietary, flexible teeter hub technology.

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Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)



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Chambers and Partners
2002 - 2009

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

Upcoming Events

Your Voice:
Developing Local
Renewable Energy
Projects -
Sierra Program

Folsom, CA
July 10

South Coast Air
Quality Management
District "Green Tech
Connect Forum"

Pasadena, CA
August 3 & 4

[Energy In California](#)

San Francisco, CA

September 14 & 15

[Developing Wind Power Projects in California](#)

Marina del Rey, CA
Sept 17 & 18

[2nd Renewable Energy Finance Forum – West](#)

San Francisco, CA
September 29 & 30

[Solar Power International](#)

Anaheim, CA
October 27-29

Recent Opportunities

[Southern California Edison \("SCE"\) Issues Its 2009 Request for Proposals for Renewable Electric Energy Products](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric \("PG&E"\) Issues Its 2009 Renewable Portfolio Standard Solicitation](#)

[LADWP and Power Solar Photovoltaic Systems And Professional Services](#)

[RFP](#)

[Los Angeles Unified School District's Solar Site Surveys Services RFP](#)

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

[Inland Empire Utilities Agency Extends Deadline for Fuel Cell Power Generation Systems Design-Build RFP](#)

[Deadline Extended for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Renewable Energy General Systems RFP; and Marin Energy Authority Renewable Energy Opportunity](#)

[New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program](#)

[Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals](#)

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