# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins market intelligence publication

Allen Matkins
attorneys at law

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## Report: 2009 best year yet for wind energy

*The Associated Press - Jan 26*

The U.S. wind industry had its best year yet in 2009, with enough new generating capacity installed to power the state of Washington, according to a report. The nearly 10,000 megawatts of generating capacity added in 2009 expanded production of the nation's wind fleet by 39%, said the report from the American Wind Energy Association. Wind now rivals natural gas as the leading source of new electric generation in the U.S. with the two combining to account for 80% of the new capacity added in the U.S. last year. Wind generates about 2% of the country's electricity, and is being counted on to help move the country away from traditional sources of fuel that contribute to global warming. Texas leads the country in wind generation with about three times the production of the next highest state, Iowa. After Iowa are California, Washington and Minnesota.

## Renewable Energy Focus

### Solar energy developers say red tape is slowing their projects

The Press-Enterprise - Jan 22

Large-scale solar energy developers asked a panel of state and federal officials to speed up environmental reviews so their projects can move forward in time to qualify for federal subsidies. Representatives of five energy development companies said they are dealing with several agencies on issues such as wildlife habitat, groundwater and potential damage to archaeological sites. Delays caused by red tape could jeopardize their projects, they said. They need state and federal approvals by this fall in order to meet a Dec. 1 deadline to qualify as "shovel ready," a requirement for federal economic stimulus dollars.

## U.S. geothermal industry hits 3GW in 2009

*RenewableEnergyWorld - Jan 29*

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is reporting that geothermal energy supplies a total installed capacity of 3.15 GW to the U.S., in states including Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The report identifies up to 6.44 GW of new geothermal power plant capacity under development in the U.S. in those states as well as Oregon, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi. This pushes the prospects of nearly 10 GW of installed capacity in the coming years over a broad section of the nation. At that level, geothermal power will satisfy the needs of over 10 million people in 14 states and still have tremendous growth potential.

## Green Energy Live pursuing opportunities in biomass

*TransWorldNews - Jan 27*

Green Energy Live is pursuing opportunities to leverage its proprietary gasification technology to develop on-site manure-to-electricity conversion systems to convert animal waste into clean energy. This will provide solutions for the thriving clean energy market which, according to new industry reports, is expected to achieve significant growth this year.

## FERC explores efficient integration of renewables into the grid

*Transmission & Distribution World - Jan 25*

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is taking a new look at

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***Editors***
William R. Devine
Patrick A. Perry
Emily Murray

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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

regulatory policies to integrate the rapidly increasing number of variable energy resources into the nation's power grid in the most efficient and non-discriminatory manner while maintaining power system reliability. FERC issued a Notice of Inquiry seeking public comment on whether to reform any of its rules or procedures as the nation's generation portfolio expands to include more variable energy resources such as wind, solar or non-storage hydro generating plants.

## Obama's State of the Union address highlights renewables' role

*RenewableEnergyWorld - Jan 28*

In his first State of the Union address, President Obama has highlighted the key role of renewables in the economic development of the country. In a speech clearly weighted in its call for a move to more bipartisan politics, and in the wake of a recent Republican Senate victory in Massachusetts, Obama warned of the consequences of delaying legislation. For other green energy highlights as pulled by Renewable Energy World, click here.

## U.S. pledges 17 percent emissions reduction by 2020

*Washington Post - Jan 29*

The United States has pledged to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 17% by 2020 from 2005 levels under an international climate agreement, though it made its commitment contingent on passing legislation at home. The Obama administration submitted its reduction target to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat under the Copenhagen Accord, a non-binding deal brokered by the U.S. at the U.N.-sponsored climate talks. Under the deal President Obama helped secure in Copenhagen, major emitters of greenhouse gases are expected to "inscribe" their reduction targets by Jan. 31.

## Climate, energy programs could see boosts despite budget freeze

*Greenwire - Jan 27*

Climate change and clean energy programs, which the Obama administration has championed, are expected to remain priorities at U.S. EPA and the Energy Department in the president's fiscal 2011 budget request despite a request to freeze non-military discretionary spending for the next three years. The freeze could potentially target key discretionary programs at U.S. EPA and the Energy Department. Because the budget would not increase with inflation, in practice the limit would essentially be a cut for some agencies. Climate change programs at EPA, the Interior Department and the Forest Service received $385 million under the fiscal 2010 appropriations bill, a $155 million increase over 2009 levels. Overall, EPA received $10.3 billion for fiscal 2010, a 36% boost over 2009 levels.

## Lawmakers fishing for input on climate bill

*ClimateWire - Jan 27*

Key Senate climate bill advocates are searching for something that can serve as a legislative compromise for capping U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The lawmakers' fishing expedition has led them into a series of meetings with moderate Democrats and Republicans, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel as they try to maintain momentum on an issue in the face of stiff opposition from senators who want to keep the focus on the economy. Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) all said they have are open to new ideas when it comes to tackling climate change.

## California aims for permit auction in cap-and-trade

*Reuters - Jan 25*

California is aiming to auction off all its permits to emit greenhouse gases -- rather than give them away -- in its cap-and-trade program, but how quickly it will reach that target is still unclear, said the chair of the

**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**:

**California Public Utilities Commission's Grant Proposal Solicitation for Improved PV Production Technologies and Innovative Business Models**

**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects**

**City of Willows 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**

California Air Resources Board. California's strategy on cap-and-trade could influence how allowances are distributed in a future national carbon market. While a U.S. climate bill has been delayed, any problems or successes with state carbon auctions could help lawmakers decide in future years whether permits in a national market should be given away, mostly sold to build revenues for clean energy programs or given directly to consumers.

### California ISO wind forecasting improves

*Renew Grid - Jan 28*

The California Independent System Operator Corporation (California ISO) says a year-long forecasting competition has yielded a 20% improvement in its forecasting for wind generation. In 2008, California ISO issued a request for bids from wind forecasting services. Three companies responded to the challenge to see which one could provide the most accurate and cost effective forecasts over a 12-month period. Each company submitted forecasts for wind resources in three of the major wind areas in California. California ISO selected AWS Truewind LLC as the winner.

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## Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

### California energy storage project heralded

UPI - Jan 27

The Southern California Public Power Authority says it plans to create the nation's first cost-effective, utility-scale, distributed energy storage project. Officials said the 53-megawatt project, to be built in collaboration with the Ice Energy Corp., will be designed to help permanently reduce peak electrical demand by shifting as much as 64 gigawatt hours of on-peak electrical consumption to off-peak periods every year, reducing exposure to costly peak power and improving the reliability of the electrical grid. Ice Energy of Colorado said it delivers distributed energy storage and smart grid solutions for transforming energy system efficiency and improving grid reliability.

### California utilities tap energy storage to cut peak demand

Dow Jones - Jan 27

A group of California municipal utilities said they plan to install energy-storage devices made by Ice Energy to cut the amount of electricity used by air conditioners during the warmest parts of the day when power demand is at its highest. The Southern California Public Power Authority, which represents 11 municipal utilities, said it signed an agreement with Ice Energy to use the company's storage technology to shift 53 megawatts of peak-time power usage to evening or late-night hours when demand is lowest. Energy storage is increasingly viewed as a key tool for conserving energy and expanding the use of renewable energy, much of which is generated intermittently, like wind power, and not necessarily during the hours of the day when power demand is at its peak.
Related News: Storing energy as ice?

### FERC approves transmission incentives for battery storage devices

Transmission & Distribution World - Jan 27

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved rate incentives for battery storage devices that are proposed to help improve the operation and reliability of the California ISO grid. Western Grid Development LLC is proposing to build and operate three sodium sulphur batteries of 10 to 50 MW at specific sites along the California ISO grid. The company says the batteries are similar to substation equipment, such as large electricity capacitors, that are used in many wholesale transmission system facilities.

### Plans for fast-charging car stations raise concerns among California utilities

GreenInc. - Jan 28

The electric vehicle maker Think has plans for fast-charging stations in California, but it's giving utilities pause. The Norwegian electric automaker announced a deal with California company AeroVironment, a maker of

electric vehicle charging stations, to introduce fast-charging stations that can charge its battery-powered City car to 80% capacity in as few as 15 minutes. A conventional charger can take eight or more hours to charge an electric car, depending on the battery. But utilities are concerned that fast-chargers could overload the electricity grid. The utilities commission is working with automakers, charging station companies and utilities to develop regulations for the deployment of an electric car infrastructure in California.

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