# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins market intelligence publication

# Allen Matkins attorneys at law

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### States pass Feds in encouraging renewable energy

AOL Energy - Nov 22

State-based targets for green electricity generation have been so successful in developing renewable energy projects that any current proposals for a federal clean energy standard could require little or no additional capacity, according to scientist Ryan Wiser of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He said that recent data showed that any proposed federal RPS would require fewer additions than were seen in 2008 to 2010 to meet state-based Renewable Portfolio Standards targets. Recent renewable capacity additions in 2008 and 2010 had been growing at 6GW to 11GW a year. Projections for 2011 to 2025 to meet state RPS targets would only require an additional annual average of 4GW to 5GW of renewable capacity.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

## U.S. clean energy needs private funding as stimulus wanes, report finds

Business Week - Nov 22

U.S. renewable energy developers will need to find new sources of funding after incentives backed by federal stimulus programs wind down, according to a <a href="report">report</a> from Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Renewable energy companies received more than \$65 billion in tax credits, grants and loans through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the company said. Renewable energy projects will still be eligible for tax credits and large public companies seeking to reduce their tax burdens may become a new source of investments.

## Governors urge prompt extension of wind energy tax credit

AWEA Blog - Nov 16

In a <u>letter</u>, Governors Lincoln Chafee (I-R.I.) and Terry Branstad (R-Iowa) urged Congress to "promptly pass a multi-year extension of the wind tax credit." Chafee is chair of the <u>Governors' Wind Energy Coalition</u>, a group that includes 23 governors, including Jerry Brown (R-Calif.). The letter refers to the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC), which is currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2012. Passing the American Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit Extension Act introduced by Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-Wash.) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) would extend the PTC for four years.

## Energy experts: San Francisco may not be as green as advertised

New York Times - Nov 19

Based on an analysis by Mayor Edwin M. Lee's environmental office, San Francisco had cut carbon emissions by 12% since 1990, a rate he said was higher than had been reported by any other American city. However, some energy experts and environmentalists have raised questions about the city's calculations. Although San Francisco has taken significant steps to shrink its carbon footprint, these critics said, the numbers are misleading, and the end result is not nearly as green as the city claims. According to an analysis by The Bay Citizen, the real decrease in carbon emissions may be only one-fourth the percentage cited by the city.



Past issues

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#### **Upcoming Events**

AWEA WindPower 2012 Atlanta, GA June 3-6, 2012

#### **Recent Opportunities**

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Development Opportunities on Metropolitan Property in the I-10 Corridor

Sonoma County Water Agency Wind Energy System Request for Proposals

Southern California Public Power Authority Request for Proposals for Renewable Energy Projects

## Report looks at public support for climate & energy policies in November 2011

Yale Project on Climate Change Communication - Nov 21

A report by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication looks at public support for climate & energy policy during the month of November 2011. The report found that 90% of Americans say developing sources of clean energy should be a priority for the president and Congress. The data also revealed 65% of Americans support a revenue neutral carbon tax that would "help create jobs and decrease pollution."

### Edison discusses new energy transmission projects

Desert Dispatch - Nov 20

Southern California Edison discussed two proposed transmission line projects in the High Desert with the public. The South of Kramer project, a project that would interconnect Daggett, Lucerne Valley and Hesperia, is designed to bring power generated north of Kramer Junction to High Desert residents. The Lugo-Pisgah project, which would connect Pisgah and Hesperia, would help bring the power from future renewable energy projects in the area to Southern California residents. Both projects are still in the licensing phase and will not begin construction until 2014 or 2015. Construction of each is expected to take three years.

## U.S. has large geothermal resources, but recent growth is slower than wind or solar

The Financial - Nov 19

U.S. geothermal net electricity generation totaled 10,898 million KWh during the first eight months of 2011, up 10% from the same period in 2008, according to EIA's <u>Electric Power Monthly report</u>. Compared to all generating sources, geothermal produced just 0.4% of electricity from all sectors nationally during the first eight months of 2011. Most geothermal power plants are located in the western states with California producing the most electricity from geothermal, about 5% of the state's total power generation.

## Nevada to assess market for renewable energy with potential delivery to California

Nevada News Bureau - Nov 21

Gov. Brian Sandoval of Nevada issued an executive order directing a state agency and task force to assess the regional market for Nevada's renewable energy resources. It was explained that the assessment is intended to help determine if alternative energy resources can be developed in the state for transmission to California to meet its ambitious alternative energy goals. The order directs the New Energy Industry Task Force to facilitate "the timely development of transmission facilities and renewable energy resources in this state."

EPA approves hybrid gas, solar power plant project in



Allen Matkins is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys practicing in seven offices throughout California. Some of the areas of focus at Allen Matkins include green and sustainable construction, construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. More...

#### California

Reuters - Nov 21

The EPA issued a permit to the City of Palmdale in California to build its Palmdale natural gas/solar power plant. The EPA said the 570MW natural gas-fired power plant, with 50MW of solar energy generation, is the first of its kind in the nation required to limit greenhouse gas emissions. The solar input will provide around 10% of the peak power generated by the plant. The city has planned for commercial operation of the plant, which has been estimated to cost about \$950 million, for the summer of 2013.

## UC Davis wind experts advise on revolutionary wind-powered skyscraper

UC Davis - Nov 17

The winds of downtown San Francisco streets will help to power a skyscraper set to open in fall 2012 -- and could pave the way for a new world market for energy-generating wind turbines in new buildings. The building, headquarters for the San Francisco PUC, will use a design developed with the help of UC Davis engineering professors. Incorporating an external vertical "wing" of wind turbines that stretch up to the roof, the design will produce at least 7% of the building's energy needs.

### KB Home widens solar power offering in Southern California

Business Week/AP - Nov 21

KB Home said that it now includes solar power as a standard feature in 28 home communities in Southern California, up from 10 communities in March, and plans to include it in the homes it builds in the region in 2012. KB Homes said sales at these homes have been 30% greater than in communities that do not offer homes with the system. When it launched its solar standard initiative in March, KB Homes offered photovoltaic systems of 1.4kW each that generate enough electricity to cut energy costs about 30% for a home of 1,800 to 2,000 square feet. Now, the company will offer homes with solar power systems ranging from 1.8kW to 3.15kW with the highest-end system being capable of reducing monthly energy bills by up to 80%.

### SPG Solar installs pair of PV power systems in San Diego, Napa

PV-Tech - Nov 21

SPG Solar, along with Quattrocchi Kwok Architects, installed a 1MW ground and rooftop solar system at Napa Valley Unified School District's American Canyon High School and installed a 620kW PV and 54kW solar thermal hot water system at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in San Diego. The 1MW project in Napa is said to be able to produce up to 80% of American Canyon High School's electricity at full occupancy. Both PLNU projects are projected to create over 917,000 kWh of combined electricity every year and save the university up to \$1.6 million over 20 years.

### NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

### NRG Energy acquires San Francisco's Solar Power Partners

NRG Energy - Nov 21

NRG Energy has acquired San Francisco-based Solar Power Partners (SPP), a developer of commercial and industrial distributed solar projects. In addition to 30MW of distributed solar projects in operation or under construction, NRG also will secure development rights to SPP's extensive pipeline of development projects in California, Hawaii, Arizona, Connecticut, New Mexico, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ontario and Puerto Rico. Financial details were not

disclosed.

### California's Sungevity takes stake in Dutch solar startup

Forbes - Nov 17

California solar installer Sungevity has taken a stake in Zonline, a Dutch solar company, and will remotely design rooftop photovoltaic arrays for its customers in the Netherlands. Sungevity declined to reveal the size of the investment in Zonline, but indicated that it is a "substantial but minority stake" that marks Sungevity's move into overseas markets. As part of the deal, Sungevity will receive a fee for the solar arrays it designs.

### SunPower, Mission College announce 1.1MW solar power system

SunPower - Nov 18

SunPower announced the dedication of a 1.1MW solar power system at Mission College in Santa Clara, Calif. The 1.1MW parking lot canopy structure will generate approximately one-third of Mission College's electricity demand, while reducing energy costs and providing shading for parked vehicles. The system will generate up to 50% more energy for the college than a similarly-sized system with conventional solar panels. Over the 25-year-life of the system, Mission College is expected to save approximately \$8.5 million in electricity costs.

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