

April 21, 2009

[California funds collaboration to spur solar development](#)

Environment News Service - April 15

The California Energy Commission has established the first California Solar Energy Collaborative by providing a two-year, \$700,000 grant to two University of California campuses to expand the development and use of solar energy in the state. The solar energy collaborative falls under the commission's California Renewable Energy program, which includes three other existing collaboratives focused on biomass, geothermal and wind energies. The new collaborative aims to help California install 3,000 megawatts of solar power in California by the year 2017.

Renewable Energy Focus

Attend our upcoming
**Renewable Energy
Project Finance Panel**

April 28, 2009

4 pm - 7 pm

City Club

Los Angeles

[Additional information](#)

[RSVP here](#)



**Renewable Energy
Project Finance
Panel**

April 28, 2009
4 pm - 7 pm
panel discussion followed by cocktails
City Club
333 S. Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071

This seminar will cover the various mechanisms available for financing renewable energy projects, including direct lending, tax credit financing, and stimulus legislation financing.

Panelists to include:

- **Martin Kurtovich**
Chevron Energy Solutions Company
- **Paul Obico**
Allen Matkins Lock Gamble Malory & Natisis LLP
- **Guy Sheets**
Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.
- **Ricardo Tejada**
Vesto Capital

* Additional panelists to be confirmed

Presented by Allen Matkins
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attorneys at law

[EPRI to facilitate development of 'smart grid' roadmap](#)

RenewableEnergyWorld.com - April 13

The Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology has selected the Electric Power Research Institute ([EPRI](#)) to facilitate the development of a smart grid interoperability roadmap for the electricity sector. The program aims to provide a framework to aid in the modernization of the nation's transmission and distribution system. The interim roadmap, due in early summer, is intended to ensure that different vendors' products will work together effectively, and that consensus standards will drive down the cost of components and systems, reduce the risk of early obsolescence, and spur innovation.

[Green power sales increased 20% in 2008](#)

Sustainable Business News - April 16

Green power sales in 2008 increased by about 20 per cent over 2007, according to new figures released by the Department of Energy. The DOE's [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) (NREL) released its [annual assessment of leading utility power programs](#), showing that more than 850 utilities across the US now offer voluntary green power programs. According to the NREL analysis, some of the most popular programs account for up to 5 per cent of total electricity sales, and wind is the primary source of electricity generated for green energy programs. Using information provided by utilities, NREL developed "Top 10" rankings of utility programs for 2008.

[US to double geothermal capacity in five years](#)

SustainableBusiness.com News - April 15

The US geothermal market is poised to more than double existing capacity over the next five years, according to a new analysis. The United States is the current global leader for installed geothermal capacity and also leads with 4,400 MW in development, according to analyst [Emerging Energy Research](#). The report [Global Geothermal Markets & Strategies 2009-2020](#) states that 120 geothermal projects are under development in 12 Western States, and 190 million acres of federal lands were open to geothermal development at the end of 2008. Changing regulatory processes in the U.S. are expected to further boost the industry.

[Wind turbine imports increasing in US](#)

McClatchy Newspapers - April 10

Although the [American Wind Energy Association](#) estimates that the share of US-made parts in wind turbines has increased from 30 percent to nearly 50 percent since 2005, trade figures show that imports continued to increase at a high rate after years of big growth. According to Customs data, the value of wind turbine imports from Europe and Asia rose from \$60 million in 2004 to \$2.5 billion in 2008. The value of imported AC generators and towers similarly jumped from \$84 million to \$1.6 billion. The numbers suggest that there is potential for U.S. manufacturers to seize some opportunities, and some of the largest turbine makers say they are looking for US suppliers.

[FERC grants incentives for Midwest 'green' transmission superhighway](#)

BusinessGreen.com - April 13

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ([FERC](#)) approved transmission infrastructure investment incentives for a proposed 3,000-mile regional "green power superhighway" designed to deliver wind-powered renewable energy from the upper Midwest to consumers in and around Chicago, Minneapolis and other load centers. [Green Power Express LP](#) designed the project, and estimates that its proposed 765 kV transmission network would cost between \$10 billion and \$12 billion, eventually span seven states, and deliver up to 12,000 megawatts of wind energy and stored energy.

[California marine power not ready for prime time, experts say](#)

New York Times - April 14

While the potential for marine energy is great, technology for tapping ocean waves, tides, and rivers for electricity is reportedly far from commercial viability and lagging well behind wind, solar, and other fledgling power sectors. According to a panel of experts on climate change and marine ecosystems, ocean and tidal energy are renewable sources that could be used to meet California's renewable portfolio standard of 20 percent of electricity by 2010, but the industry has been hampered by uncertainty about environmental effects, poor economics, jurisdictional tie-ups and scattered progress for a handful of entrepreneurs.

[Applied Solar launches Solar Communities Program in San Diego County](#)

Energy Business Review - April 13

Applied Solar has launched a program in San Diego County to increase the number of homes using solar energy by expanding the use of power purchase agreements (PPAs) to overcome two of the most common obstacles to solar adoption: cost and aesthetics. Whereas PPAs have so far only been available for conventional rack-mounted solar panels that many homeowners often rejected as unsightly, the program expands the use of PPAs for the first time for use on premium “building integrated” solar tiles.

[First Solar to build Nevada photovoltaic plant](#)

Associated Press - April 15

Solar manufacturer First Solar Inc. says it will build the largest photovoltaic power plant in the U.S. near an existing facility in Nevada. The 48-megawatt plant will produce power for roughly 30,000 homes. Plant construction will begin this year, to be completed by 2010.

[Two Nevada geothermal plants open](#)

Associated Press - April 16

Nevada's Churchill County is now home to the largest and most technically advanced geothermal plants in the world. [Enel North America](#) opened the two plants in Stillwater and Salt Wells near Fallon. Officials said the Nevada plants will generate 65 megawatts of power, enough to supply 40,000 households.

[California's new power source may be a solar farm in space](#)

San Francisco Gate - April 14

San Francisco's [Pacific Gas and Electric Co.](#) has agreed to buy power from start-up [Solaren Corp.](#), which wants to tap sunlight in space to solve the growing demand for clean energy. Sometime before 2016, Solaren plans to launch the world's first orbiting solar farm, which will pull in near-constant light and provide a steady flow of electricity to receivers on the ground in Fresno which would take the energy - transmitted through a beam of electromagnetic waves - and feed it into California's power grid. PG&E has asked the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) for permission to buy 200 megawatts of electricity from Solaren's orbiting power plant when and if it's built.

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Recent Opportunities

[Renewable Electric Power RFP \(Palo Alto, CA\) & Fuel Cell Power Generation RFP \(Inland Empire, CA\)](#)

[San Diego County Water Authority Solar Power Projects Request for Proposals](#)

[U.S. Department of Energy Technical Support for Solar Projects and County of Los Angeles RFP for Renewable Energy Consultant](#)

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

Related News

[Energy Related Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 May Help California Reach State Renewable Energy Goals](#)

[Pending California Legislation Mandates Dramatic Increase in Renewable Energy Resources](#)

About Allen Matkins

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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