

October 26, 2011

[Radar systems touted as solution to wind power's bird and bat problem](#)

IEEE Spectrum - Oct 20

A company called DeTect thinks it has found a way to mitigate wind energy's impacts on birds and bats. The Merlin Avian Radar System plants a radar transmitter in the midst of a wind farm, and looks out for migratory birds that might be passing through. If it sees some and determines they might fly into the midst of the turbines, it can automatically shut down the turbines in question to allow the birds' safe passage.

Related News:

[Duke Energy shuts wind farm at night to avoid bat deaths](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

[Solar energy industry posts record growth, despite Solyndra collapse](#)

CNN - Oct 19

Despite the Solyndra collapse, the industry has grown into "a major economic force" with a job base that expanded 6.8% the past year, nearly 10 times faster than the overall economy, industry representatives said. The solar business is now a \$6 billion industry, up 300% from 2006, said officials with the Solar Foundation, a nonprofit affiliated with solar energy industry. With 100,237 jobs as of August, solar employers expect their workforce to grow 24% next year, according to the foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2011, completed in partnership with BW Research Partnership's Green LMI Consulting division and Cornell University.

[BrightSource planning 750MW project in California desert](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - Oct 15

BrightSource Energy unveiled plans to build a cluster of three solar power plants in the Southern California desert, a project capable of generating enough electricity for 300,000 homes. The Rio Mesa project would feature three fields of mirrors, each one surrounding a 750-foot-tall tower. Securing permits will probably take more than a year, with construction lasting another 18 months. The Rio Mesa project would produce a maximum of 750MW from the three plants combined.

[GCL-Poly to invest in, build 2 solar projects in California](#)

Bloomberg - Oct 19

GCL-Poly Energy Holdings said it will invest in and build two solar projects in California totaling about 84MW, developed by solar energy developer Solar Projects Solutions. Construction will start in 2011 and commercial operations will begin in 2012, the company said in an e-mailed statement. The projects have power purchase agreements with Pacific Gas & Electric, according to the statement, which did not give financial details.

[U.S. solar industry fights for section 1603 subsidy extension](#)

SEIA - Oct 12

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) urged the U.S. Congress to

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[Pacific Gas & Electric Issues its Renewable Auction Mechanism Program Request for Offers](#)



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,

approve another one-year extension of the Section 1603 Treasury program, citing a newly released study, which found that a longer program would support the creation of tens of thousands of solar jobs nationwide. According to a [report](#) by SEIA, a one-year extension of the 1603 Treasury program through 2012 would have the greatest impact on economic activity in 2012 and 2013; and would enable growth through 2016.

construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy, creditors' rights, intellectual property and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

[Study finds 25% of jobs related to solar energy are in California](#)

Los Angeles Times - Oct 17

One in every four solar energy jobs in America is held by a Californian, and growth in the clean-tech industry is burgeoning nationwide, according to the [National Solar Jobs Census 2011](#). California's solar jobs tally was more than four times greater than runner-up Colorado, which had 6,186 solar jobs. The state ranked first in the nation for generating electricity from both photovoltaic solar panels and concentrated solar power systems that use mirrors to create steam to run turbines, the study said.

[GE takes aim at First Solar with 'more efficient' thin film panels](#)

Business Green - Oct 17

GE is set to take on First Solar by producing thin-film solar panels it claims will convert 14% of sunlight into electricity, which would put them among the most efficient on the market. The company plans to open a new \$300-million factory in Colorado producing the panels next year which, it says, will produce enough panels per year to power 80,000 homes when commercial shipments begin in 2013.

[County supervisor joins Chino Hills fight against Southern California Edison](#)

Contra Costa Times - Oct 19

The PUC has been urged by several officials with ties to Chino Hills - most recently San Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt - to reverse its decision to permit building 19 power line towers in the city. The lines run through five miles of Chino Hills and are part of the \$2.1-billion Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project. "The state of California and Southern California Edison have not reached a point-of-no-return," Ovitt said. "This decision can and should be reversed immediately."

[California treasurer defends tax break for energy firms](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek - Oct 20

Treasurer Bill Lockyer called California's tax break program for clean energy companies a "wise and needed one" despite the failure of its most high-profile recipient -- the solar startup Solyndra. He told a panel of state lawmakers that the program is intended to promote the growth of alternative energy manufacturing plants in California and complements the state's push for renewable energy. He said nearly 70% of all businesses do not make it past eight years, and that risk extends to clean energy companies such as Solyndra.

[Cap-and-trade emissions scheme expected to be approved by California](#)

businessGreen - Oct 20

Californian regulators are expected to finalize the rules for the state's long-awaited emissions trading scheme on Oct. 20, paving the way for the full launch of the scheme in 2013. The California Air Resources Board is poised to release the final version of the rules, confirming that the state's carbon-intensive firms will have to report on their emissions from next January. The scheme will then come into full effect at the start of 2013 when participants will

be required to comply with binding emissions caps and purchase additional carbon allowances if they exceed those caps.

[2008-2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Major Facilities now available](#)

Air Resources Board - Oct 18

Under California's mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, California's largest industrial facilities, including facility operators and electricity retail providers and marketers, reported their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for years 2008, 2009 and 2010. The summaries of reported GHG emissions and electricity transaction data, as well as individual detailed emission data reports, are now [publicly available](#).

NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS

[Proposal finalized for first utility-scale solar-wind hybrid farm](#)

SustainableBusiness.com - Oct 19

Element Power finalized its proposal for the Wildflower Renewable Energy Farm in California's Antelope Valley, combining the best of solar and wind technologies in an area that has some of the strongest, most consistent on-peak winds and sun resources in California. The site is 70 miles north of L.A. near transmission lines. The 250MW farm would deliver 100MW of solar and 150MW of wind, enough to power more than 70,000 California homes.

Related News:

[New Solar-Wind Hybrid Combines the Best of Both](#)

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