

August 10, 2010

## [Industry sees new chance for RES in Reid bill](#)

*The Washington Independent - Aug 4*

A key renewable energy industry source says it is "very likely" that the industry will renew its push to include a renewable energy standard in Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) energy and oil spill response bill. Reid announced that he won't bring the bill to the floor before the August recess. That means the bill will come up for a vote in September at the earliest, but pre-midterm jitters could delay a vote until next year.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOCUS

## [U.S. solar power investments to reach \\$61.1B by 2015](#)

*Environmental Leader - Aug 3*

From 2010 to 2015, U.S. solar power investments are projected to increase from \$22.4 billion to \$61.1 billion. This represents a compound annual growth rate of 21.3% during this time period. The state driving the U.S. solar industry is California, which accounted for 53% of on-grid installations last year.

## [Reid says renewable-energy funds will be restored](#)

*Yahoo News - Aug 5*

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) promised that Congress eventually will restore \$1.5 billion rescinded from an Energy Department renewable-energy loan program to help pay for emergency education and Medicaid aid for states. The Solar Energy Industries Association had urged senators to oppose the rescission to a renewable energy loan guarantee program, which the group maintained would threaten \$15 billion to \$20 billion in investment in the industry, but Reid said the Energy Department could live without the money for now, noting it was awarded \$20 billion in stimulus funds for renewable projects.

## [DOE releases annual wind market report](#)

*U.S. Department of Energy - Aug 4*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released its "[2009 Wind Technologies Market Report](#)." This report, authored primarily by DOE's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, provides a comprehensive overview of trends in the rapidly-evolving U.S. wind power market.

## [NREL seeks proposals for PV technology incubator program](#)

*Energy Central - Aug 4*

The U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory is seeking project proposals as part of recently announced DOE funding to accelerate commercialization of solar energy technologies. The Photovoltaic (PV) Technology Incubator project fosters collaboration between U.S. small businesses and NREL and other DOE laboratories and facilities. Funding is intended to focus attention on high-impact areas that are critical to scaling-up PV technology and meet aggressive DOE goals to reduce the cost of PV-generated electricity and expand installed PV capacity by 2015.

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### Upcoming Events

[Energy in California](#)  
San Francisco, CA  
**September 13-14, 2010**

## [California Energy Commission cancels PACE solicitation](#)

*Solar Industry Magazine - Aug 2*

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has canceled a \$30 million solicitation that would have supported property-assessed clean energy (PACE) programs in 23 counties and 184 cities. The CEC's action, which responded to roadblocks created by recent actions of the Federal Housing Financing Authority, ended awards to five local governments and jurisdictions that were using PACE financing as the cornerstone of their county and statewide energy investment programs. Local governments that would have established PACE programs received \$30 million of this total under the Municipal Financing Program. These entities were expected to leverage \$370 million, create 4,353 jobs, save more than 336 million kWh of energy, and avoid the emissions of 187,264 tons of greenhouse gasses for the first two years of the program, according to the CEC.

### **Related News:**

[California Energy Commission joins critics of federal clampdown on PACE](#)

## [California regulatory agency lifts hold on solar incentives](#)

*Sunpluggers - Jul 31*

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has lifted a hold placed July 9 on some incentives available through the California Solar Initiative. After non-residential applications for incentives spiked to record levels from March through June, the CPUC placed a temporary hold on the issuance of confirmed reservations for certain classes of incentive applicants because the rising tide of applications threatened to deplete the initiative's funding pool sooner than expected. Those affected were primarily commercial customers who apply for what are called production-based incentives for projects over 30 kilowatts of capacity, and government and nonprofit organizations.

## [California utilities face RPS deadline](#)

*Sustainable Industries - Aug 4*

By the end of 2010, California investor-owned utilities must generate 20% of retail power sales from renewable sources, according to a 2002 state law. In 2009, an executive order upped that Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 33% by 2020. A utility failing to meet the standard could be charged a penalty of 5 cents for every kilowatt-hour it falls short, up to \$25 million per year, but thanks to a flexible compliance rule that allows utilities to apply extra renewable procurement to deficit years, utilities aren't likely to have to pony up fines soon.

## [Committee endorses giant Ivanpah solar plant in Mojave Desert](#)

*Sunpluggers - Aug 4*

A proposed large-scale solar thermal power plant in California's Mojave Desert has moved another step closer to construction. A siting committee of the California Energy Commission has recommended approval of plans for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, which would be built next to a flat, dry, ancient lakebed about 4.5 miles from the gambling resort of Primm, Nevada. The solar plant would generate power by using broad fields of mirrors called heliostats to focus heat from the sun on three 459-foot-tall "power towers." The heat would be used to create steam that would drive turbines to generate electricity, as in a conventional power plant.

## [Solar thermal power plants in California, Nevada moving](#)

[Renewable Energy Finance Forum \(REFF\) West](#)

San Francisco, CA

**September 29-30, 2010**

[ICSC RetailGreen Conference & Trade Exposition on Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Design](#)

Scottsdale, AZ

**October 12-14, 2010**

[Solar Power International 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

**October 12-14, 2010**

[FutureBuildLA 2010](#)

Los Angeles, CA

**October 19, 2010**

[2011 VerdeExchange](#)

Los Angeles, CA

**January 23-25, 2011**

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### **Recent Opportunities**

[City of Madera Requests for Proposals for Solar Photovoltaic Rooftop Systems at the John W. Wells Youth Center, Madera Police Department, and Madera Redevelopment Agency Building](#)

[Pacific Gas and Electric's 2010 Solar Photovoltaic Program Power Purchase Agreement Request for Offers](#)

[Los Angeles World Airport's Request for Concepts and Qualifications For the Potential Lease for Development of Renewable Energy Project at Palmdale](#)

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

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## [forward](#)

*Sunpluggers - Jul 30*

A solar company that uses tanks of molten salt to generate electricity after sundown is moving forward with solar thermal power plant projects in California and Nevada. The California Public Utilities Commission has approved a 25-year power purchase agreement between PG&E and Rice Solar Energy, a subsidiary of SolarReserve, which plans a 150-megawatt solar thermal power plant in the desert near the abandoned outpost of Rice, about 25 miles east of the eastern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park.

### **Related News:**

[California regulators give go-ahead to PG&E to buy power from two renewable energy projects](#)

## [Algae fuel generated from bioreactors produces over 3 times the emissions of gasoline](#)

*Energy Boom - Aug 3*

A new study shows that algal biofuel, arguably the most highly touted prospect of the biofuel industry, produces more emissions than gasoline and diesel fuel when the algae is grown in bioreactors. The report, published in the scientific journal, *Energy and Fuels*, states that when algae is grown in clear-tubed bioreactors a large amount of energy is required to move the algae around so that it receives enough sunlight. The process requires so much energy that algae fuel produces 320 grams of carbon dioxide emissions per megajoule equivalent of fuel. This is 3.5 times the carbon footprint of petroleum-based fuel (86 grams).

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## **NOTABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND DEALS**

### [Southern California Edison launches request for offers for renewables standard contracts program](#)

*Energy Central - Aug 3*

Southern California Edison (SCE) has launched a request for offers for renewable contracts from generating facilities 20 megawatts and under. This solicitation will be SCE's first open, competitive call for additional renewable power contracts under the Renewables Standard Contracts program. The goal is to provide a standardized contracting process that minimizes the time required to get to an executed power purchase agreement. SCE's solicitation seeks out long-term contracts for projects powered by solar, wind, biomass, biogas, oceanic, hydroelectric and geothermal fuels located in California.

### [Marin County, California getting 75% of its power from renewables](#)

*Green Beat - Aug 3*

The Marin Energy Authority (MEA), delivering electricity to residents in Marin County, California, was just named one of the top 20 power purchasers for local governments by the EPA. It is the first utility in the country to derive 75% of its energy supply from renewable sources of energy - an impressive figure considering that it is California's goal to get 33% of its energy from renewables 10 years from now. MEA is distinguished not only by the amount of alternative energy it serves, but also by the competitive prices it charges for it - lower than those charged for natural gas and nuclear generated electricity.

### [Brea to cut city's energy use 40% with energy efficiency and solar project](#)

*Environmental Leader - Jul 29*

The city of Brea, California, expects to reduce the city's energy use by 40%

with the start of an energy efficiency and solar project with Chevron Energy Solutions. The city estimates it will realize more than \$13 million in net energy savings over the life of the project, helping the city meet early compliance with the goals of the state's Global Warming Solutions Act. Chevron says Brea will become the largest municipal producer of solar energy in Orange County once the 1.8-megawatts of solar panels are installed at the Community Center, Civic and Cultural Center and Reservoir City Pump Yard.

[Butte College plans solar project expansion to meet 100% of electrical needs](#)

*Solar Industry Magazine - Aug 5*

Butte College in Oroville, California, says it will become the only college in the U.S. that is grid-positive, producing more energy from sustainable on-site solar power than it uses. The college has received approval from its board of trustees to complete its Phase III solar project, which adds approximately 15,000 solar photovoltaic panels producing 2.7 MW to its current 10,000 solar panels producing 1.85 MW. The new 15,000 modules will be placed atop rooftops and will create covered parking areas and walkways, in addition to being mounted on the ground. The total funding for the project is \$17 million, \$12.65 million of which was funded by federal Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, and up to \$4.35 million of which will be funded by the college.

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