

May 19, 2009

## **California Sees Three-Fold Increase in Solar Installations**

*Greentech Media - May 12*

The number of solar energy installations has nearly tripled this year, with new applications showing that residential business is sluggish while the government sector is booming. Solar service companies put in nearly 90 MW of solar power systems from January through April this year, compared to 33.4 MW for the same period in 2008, according to the California Solar Initiative.

## **Renewable Energy Focus**

### **First Compromises on Climate Bill**

*Reuters - May 13*

A "discussion draft" is what Reps. Henry Waxman and Ed Markey called their initial proposal for a climate and energy bill last month. The original draft proposed to mandate a cut in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. Waxman says Democrats have now agreed on a new reduction target of 17 percent by 2020. Also, the national renewable portfolio standard (RPS) has so far survived negotiations, but not without taking a hit. The original draft required electricity suppliers to generate 6 percent of their energy from clean sources by 2012, gradually increasing to 17.5 percent by 2020 and 25 percent by 2025. The negotiated mandate is now 15 percent by 2020, plus 5 percent in efficiency gains.

## **Wind Power Focus Shift: Slow Wind, Big Turbines**

*Cnet News - May 14*

Some wind-turbine makers are shifting their focus toward building bigger wind turbines that can harvest the lower-speed winds that are more readily available. This next generation of wind turbines' rotors have a diameter the size of a football field. In general, wind turbines get more powerful and efficient with taller turbine towers and larger areas swept by the blades, according to the American Wind Energy Association. Several manufacturers are rolling out new low-speed turbines to help meet demand. Siemens, Vestas and Nordex all recently released new, large wind turbines directed at low-wind markets. Last year, General Electric released its largest turbine for low-wind use.

## **California Panel Considers Solar Development on Federal Land**

*The Desert Sun - May 12*

Witnesses in a recent California congressional subcommittee hearing said multi-agency cooperation is needed to strike a balance between developing solar energy and environmental preservation. The hearing came as the Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee looks at future solar development on federal land. Officials are creating a statewide renewable energy plan with 37 zones – including sections of Palm Springs, Twentynine Palms and eastern Riverside County – already identified as key for California's solar and wind development.

## **Power Lines Pit Environmental Concerns Against Each Other**

*Sacramento Bee - May 11*

A \$1.5 billion project envisions stringing 600 miles of new lines from northeast California to Sacramento and the Bay Area with a targeted completion date of 2014. It would be the largest power infrastructure venture undertaken in Northern California in nearly two decades, sponsored by a consortium of 15 Northern California municipal power providers. But it's also a new front in an emerging, nationwide fight over green power that pits environmental concerns against each other. In Southern California, opposition – including some from Sen. Dianne Feinstein – is mounting against plans to erect a large array of solar panels in the desert, and the miles of transmission towers needed to connect them to customers in Los Angeles and San Diego.

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## **Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals**

### **PG&E, Brightsource Energy Sign Solar Deal**

*San Francisco Chronicle - May 14*

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Oakland's BrightSource Energy have signed a solar deal that will create a string of seven solar power plants generating enough electricity for 530,000 homes. BrightSource will build the plants in the Southern California desert and sell the power to PG&E for an undisclosed sum. Fields of mirrors at each plant will focus sunlight on centralized towers, boiling water within the towers, creating steam and turning turbines. The first plant could open in 2012 at the Ivanpah dry lake bed in San Bernardino County.

### **Google Looks at Geothermal Development**

*Cnet News - May 14*

Dan Reicher, the director of climate and energy initiatives at Google.org, says enhanced geothermal remains a great untapped source of renewable energy. Google has invested in a handful of energy companies, including an enhanced geothermal systems outfit AltaRock Energy, solar thermal provider BrightSource Energy, and wind company Makani Power. Reicher said Google will "very soon" launch PowerMeter, its Web-based home energy-monitoring software that is now in private beta.

### **Edison, BP Wind Power Proposal**

*International Business Times - May 11*

Southern California Edison is pursuing a 20-year contract to buy and distribute power generated by a BP Wind Energy-backed 90-megawatt wind farm in Idaho. The agreement is pending approval by the California Public Utilities Commission, the Wall Street Journal reports. As part of the deal, the Edison International subsidiary would be able to purchase the energy for below market price (about 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour), but transmitting it to California could raise the costs.

### **California Energy Commission Reviews Stirling Energy Systems Solar Project**

*Energy Current - May 11*

The California Energy Commission is beginning to review a large-scale solar project proposed for construction in the desert east of Barstow. The Stirling Energy Systems Solar One project, if completed, would generate a projected 850 megawatts of electricity to power about 600,000 homes per year in Southern California at peak hours, through about 34,000 solar

dishes. Southern California Edison has agreed to purchase the output from the plant, according to information provided by Stirling.

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<http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=eeb79636-d6f5-41d5-bf46-ecd5260324a6>

### **[Rentech Plans Biomass Plant](#)**

*Trading Markets - May 12*

Rentech Inc. plans to build a plant in Rialto, California, for the production of ultra-clean synthetic fuels and electric power from renewable waste biomass feedstocks. The company said that the Rialto Renewable Energy Centre is designed to produce approximately 600 barrels per day of renewable synthetic fuels. It is also expected to export about 35 megawatts of renewable electric power that is expected to qualify under California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program. The primary feedstock for the project will be urban woody green waste such as yard clippings, for which Rentech is currently negotiating supply agreements.

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#### **Editors**

**[William R. Devine](#)**

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#### **Recent Events**

Allen Matkins has attended the following events in 2009.

A [summary can be found here.](#)

#### **VerdeXchange Green**

**Marketmakers**

**Conference**

Los Angeles, CA

#### **Renewable Energy**

**Technology Conference**

**& Exhibition**

Las Vegas, NV

#### **Renewable Energy**

**World North America**

**Conference & Exposition**

Austin, TX

#### **Green Cities Conference**

**and Expo**

Portland, OR

#### **Financing Renewable**

**Energy Conference**

San Francisco, CA

#### **Windpower 2009**

**Conference and**

**Exhibition**

Chicago, IL

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<http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=eeb79636-d6f5-41d5-bf46-ecd5260324a6>

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on [Renewable Energy Project Finance](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

[South Coast Air Quality Management District "Green Tech Connect Forum"](#)

Pasadena, CA  
August 3-4

## **Recent Opportunities**

[Inland Empire Utilities Agency Extends Deadline for Fuel Cell Power Generation Systems Design-Build RFP](#)

[New RFP's - LADWP; Navy and Marine Corps.; Marin Energy Authority](#)

[California Energy Commission issues Addendum #5 for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program](#)

[San Diego County Water Authority Extends Its Deadline for Solar Power Projects Request for Proposals and Issues Addendum No. 1](#)

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

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

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