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State Senate Committee Proposes Net Metering Compromise

GreentechSolar - July 7

The California state Senate committee on Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee has agreed to raise the net metering cap, but has reduced it from the previously proposed 10% to 5% instead. The Committee voted 9-1 to pass the bill known as AB 560, though the reduction in the proposed cap indicated that lawmakers are heeding concerns raised by utilities. Net metering allows a utility's customers to get credits on their bills for producing more renewable electricity than what they could use at home or business, with the excess electricity going to the grid. The bill now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Renewable Energy Focus

G-8 Agrees to Cut Emissions By 80%

BusinessGreen - July 9

Climate change negotiations at the world leaders' summit in Italy move into a crucial phase as the G8 group of industrialized nations attempt to secure support from developing economies for new global emissions targets designed to limit temperature rises to no more than two degrees above pre-industrial levels. As widely anticipated, the members of the G8 agreed for the first time to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 as part of efforts to cut global emissions in half by the same date. However, the final communiqué left considerable room for interpretation as to how the targets should be calculated.

Northern California Powerline Project Hits Setback

Tracy Press - July 3

Plans to run 600 miles of power lines from Lassen County and through San Joaquin County are called into question, as the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District withdrew its support for the project. The utility completed a feasibility study that a spokeswoman said raised concerns about cost and actual benefit of constructing new high-voltage transmission lines. The \$1.5 billion project is spearheaded by a group called the Transmission Agency of Northern California. The withdrawal throws the future of the project into question, said a transmission agency spokesman.

Related News: [Massive power project in doubt](#)

Los Angeles Looks to Reduce Cost of Solar

L.A. Times - July 8

Los Angeles County and local municipalities are charging significantly higher fees and taking longer to issue solar panel permits than neighboring areas, according to a recent survey by two Southern California Sierra Club chapters. Solar panel permitting fees in L.A. County average \$1,143, more than twice the average permit fee. In response to the findings and a Department of Public Works review of county inspection costs, county supervisors unanimously approved a proposal that the county lower solar panel permitting fees to \$370.

Algal Biomass Organization Names Executive Director

Business Wire - July 8

The [Algal Biomass Organization](#) (ABO) has appointed Mary Rosenthal as the organization's first Executive Director. Rosenthal's main focus will be to help the organization accelerate the development of the algal industry through increasing awareness of the benefits of algae among commercial industry, the general public and policymakers. Founded a year ago, the Algal Biomass Organization (ABO) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and advocate for the development of commercially-viable transportation and power generation fuels as well as other non-energy applications for algal biomass. The ABO will present the third annual [Algae Biomass Summit](#) in October in San Diego.

U.S. Joins the International Renewable Energy Agency

EERE News - July 8

The United States has officially joined the [International Renewable Energy Agency](#) (IRENA), increasing the number of countries participating in the organization to 136. IRENA was initially founded on January 26 with 75 member nations, and its membership now includes most of Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, as well as Australia, Greenland, India, Japan, and parts of South America. The agency will engage governments around the world in promoting a rapid transition toward the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy on a global scale. The IRENA interim headquarters will be located in the Masdar City district of Abu Dhabi.

Senate Climate Bill Wars Begin

Earth2Tech - July 7

For climate legislation, clearing the House last month by a seven-vote margin marked a step toward passage of the first comprehensive regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. This week, the Senate begins in earnest the effort to produce its own version of the legislation with a set of hearings that will help shape key, controversial issues in the draft - including the role of agriculture in offsetting carbon emissions and producing alternative fuels, how to control emissions while competing in a global economy, and how to manage international trade.

Related News: [Climate bill won't work without farm role: USDA](#)
[Senate democrats begin quest for 60 votes on climate bill](#)

Pickens' Energy Campaign Marches On

The Associated Press - July 7

Over the past 12 months, T. Boone Pickens pressed the public to rethink its use of energy. His \$60-million "Pickens Plan" called for a number of changes such as investing in wind and solar energy, rebuilding the country's electrical grid and replacing gasoline with natural gas in cars and trucks. But after spending millions on a marketing campaign that took him to 74 cities and 22 town halls, his plan has run into hurdles, most notably a crash in energy prices. Pickens has scrapped plans for the world's biggest wind farm, and California voters rejected a natural gas initiative he backed. Still, he says the fight continues.

Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals

Solyndra Signs \$238M European Sales Contract

Clean Edge News - July 8

[Solyndra, Inc.](#), a manufacturer of photovoltaic systems, has signed a new long-term sales contract with solar integrator Umwelt-Sonne-Energie GmbH, based in Germany. The Euro-based contract, reportedly worth up to \$238 million, extends through 2013 and brings Solyndra's contractual backlog to more than \$2.0 billion. According to the company, the solar panels for these contracts will be manufactured at Solyndra's facilities in Fremont and Milpitas.

PG&E Chooses Solon for its First Utility-Owned Project

Greentech Media - July 8

[Solon](#) has become the first company selected by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for installing a solar energy project as part of the California utility's proposed plan to develop and own 250 megawatts of solar energy systems. The German solar panel maker and project developer plans to contract Silverwood Energy to construct the 2-megawatt project, which would be located next to a PG&E substation in Vacaville. PG&E is

calling the 2-megawatt system by Solon a pilot project because the utility plans to use it to learn about owning and operating solar energy systems.

[Mecasolar to Manufacture Solar Trackers in San Francisco](#)

SustainableBusiness.com News- July 7

[Mecasolar](#) plans to open a new production plant in San Francisco for one- and two-axis solar trackers, as well as fixed structure mounts for utility-scale solar power plants. Mecasolar said the production facility is expected to reach full operating capacity of 200 megawatts (MW) per year in the first quarter 2010. Engineering and distribution company Proinso will distribute the fixed structure and the 1-Axis and 2-Axis Seasonal Azimuth trackers. Mecasolar has five factories in Spain, and one in Greece, and plans to open two more in Italy and the U.S. in 2009, as part of its expansion program.

[California Indian Manpower Consortium Partners with USST](#)

North American Windpower - July 7

The [California Indian Manpower Consortium](#) (CIMC) has begun a statewide alliance with U.S. Science and Technology (USST), a renewable energy project development company. Through this partnership, CIMC will use USST's engineering and project management expertise to explore the feasibility and development of renewable energy installations across tribal communities in California. Under the alliance, USST will identify suitable renewable energy solutions by assessing wind and solar resources and critical waste management problems across California's tribal communities.

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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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Chambers and Partners
2002 - 2009

Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009.

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

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

Energy In California

San Francisco, CA

September 14 & 15

**[Developing Wind Power
Projects in California](#)**

Marina del Rey, CA
Sept 17 & 18

**[2nd Renewable Energy
Finance Forum – West](#)**

San Francisco, CA
September 29 & 30

**[2009 Algae Biomass
Summit](#)**

San Diego, CA
October 7-9

**[Solar Power
International](#)**

Anaheim, CA
October 27-29

**Recent
Opportunities**

**[Southern California
Edison \("SCE"\) Issues
Its 2009 Request for
Proposals for
Renewable Electric
Energy Products](#)**

**[Pacific Gas and Electric
\("PG&E"\) Issues Its
2009 Renewable
Portfolio Standard
Solicitation](#)**

**[LADWP and Power Solar
Photovoltaic Systems
And Professional
Services RFP](#)**

[City of Willows](#)

[Opportunity](#)

[Deadline Extended for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Renewable Energy General Systems RFP; and Marin Energy Authority Renewable Energy Opportunity](#)

[New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program](#)

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

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