



Green Power and Market Research News

A free bi-weekly news service from Western's Renewable Resource Program covering green power, renewable energy and market research strategies for educational purposes.

Responsibility for the factual accuracy of each press release rests entirely with the individuals or organizations identified on the release.

Week of October 24, 2011

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Green Power

Colleges Going Solar in a Big Way

Solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on college campuses have increased 450% in the last three years to 137 megawatts (MW) according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

Although 137 MW isn't a huge amount of solar, it's trending strongly up. In 2010, the market for on-campus solar was over \$300 million in the U.S., taking a 5.4% share of of the US total of 956 MW. [Read more](#). *Source: Sustainable Business, 10/11/11*

Green public power for San Francisco clears major hurdle

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to move forward with CleanPowerSF, a public power option derived completely from renewable sources. (AP file photo)The City's ambitious plan to offer residents greener power than PG&E took a significant step forward Tuesday.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission approved a term sheet Tuesday with Shell Energy North America to run CleanPowerSF, The City's proposed public power program, and next week Supervisor David Campos will introduce it to the Board of Supervisors. [Read more](#). *Source: San Francisco Examiner, 10/12/11*

St. Louis Rams Make a Play for Midwest Wind Power

Ameren Missouri Pure Power announced today that the St. Louis Rams will match 100 percent of the electricity used to power the Edward Jones Dome for home games this season with green power produced by Missouri and Midwestern wind farms.

"By enabling the St. Louis Rams to match every megawatt-hour of electricity used at our home games with a megawatt-hour of electricity generated at Missouri and Midwestern wind farms, we encourage regional wind farm development while mitigating the environmental impact of our energy use," said Lisa Boaz, marketing manager, St. Louis Rams. [Read more](#). *Source: MENA FN, 10/6/11*

Green Power Planet now online

In this edition of the Green Power Planet:

- Washington, DC and Brookeville, MD Win First Green Power Community Challenge
- Launch of 2011-2012 GPC Challenge
- Top 50 Purchasers Step Up Their Green Power Purchasing
- Deadline for October Top Partner List Updates
- Partner Spotlight: Clif Bar & Company
- Welcome New Partners!
- GPP Hosts Webinar on Converting Food Waste to Energy
- Upcoming Webinars
- NREL Report on Consumer Attitudes toward Renewable Energy
- U.S. Department of Energy Adds New Resources to Green Power Network Website
- GPP Events - Register Now for Renewable Energy Markets Conference 2011!
- 2011 EPA Combined Heat and Power Partnership Meeting

[Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 9/27/11*

Walgreens Marks Its Continued Commitment to Sustainability With its 100th Solar Power Installation

Drugstore chain on track to have the most solar power installations among retailers nationwide

Walgreens today marks its continued commitment to sustainability with its 100th rooftop solar power system installation in Mason, Ohio.

Since its first solar installation in 2007, Walgreens has expanded its plans to include stores and distribution centers in Connecticut, New Jersey, California, Oregon and Ohio, for a total of more than 130 installations nationwide by the end of the year, more than any other U.S. retailer. Typically, rooftop solar systems help offset energy usage by an estimated 15 to 20 percent. [Read more](#). *Source: MarketWatch, 9/23/11*

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV): Technologies and Global Markets

Building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) currently make up a small but noticeable part of the world PV market. The global market was valued at 1,201 megawatts in 2010 and is expected to increase at a 56 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) to reach a capacity of 11,392 megawatts in 2015.

BIPV roofing is the largest near- and mid-term market segment. The global market for BIPV capacity in the roofing sector was 404 megawatts in 2010 and is expected to reach 3,197 megawatts in 2015, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 51 percent.

The market for architectural fabrics may be very large and expanding, but the rate of adoption of BIPV elements will be slow for a period of time. This sector had a capacity of .2 megawatts in 2010 but is expected to increase at a 670 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) to reach a capacity of 5,439 megawatts in 2015. [Read more](#). *Source: World of Photovoltaics, 10/19/11*

Biowaste to Fuel 2 MW Organic Rankine Cycle Facility

A contract to deliver a 2 MW biomass heat recovery facility in Vanderhoof, British Columbia has been awarded to Pratt & Whitney Power Systems.

According to Pratt and Whitney (P&W), the power plant will provide clean, carbon-neutral power to the for Nechako Green Energy Ltd's Premium Pellet plant operation, and marks the first ever Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) installation in a forest products facility

The ORC unit is to be built by Italy based Turboden, a Pratt & Whitney Power Systems subsidiary, and includes a special evaporator/preheater and turbine that will operate at 280 degrees Celsius, providing the pellet plant with 2 MW of renewable electrical power at max load. [Read more](#). *Source: Waste Management World, 10/17/11*

3TIER US Solar Performance Maps Show Substantial Variability

Significant Anomalies Underline the Value of Solar Assessment and Performance Reconciliation

3TIER, a global leader in renewable energy risk analysis, today released solar performance maps of the US for June, July, and August 2011. The anomaly study, which illustrates how solar irradiance varied from its long-term norm, shows strong correlation with a series of weather events that impacted the US this past summer. The findings demonstrate that solar energy is not immune to climatic variability, the risk of which needs to be factored into the financial structure of projects and regularly monitored.

"The 2011 study shows that some areas experienced above or below normal irradiance levels at extremes of +/-30-40 percent," said Dr. Mark Stoelinga, senior scientist at 3TIER. "In comparing the results of 3TIER's 2010 solar performance study, this summer's irradiance anomalies, both positive and negative, were much stronger than last summer. This shows us that high amounts of variance, even in peak production months, are not unusual." [Read more](#). *Source: 3Tier, 10/12/11*

Another path to home solar energy

Several companies are stepping up campaigns in the region to broaden the residential solar market by offering to install the expensive systems at little or no up-front cost to homeowners.

Solmentum Inc., a San Francisco solar-marketing company, will formally launch operations Wednesday in Mount Laurel to target Garden State homeowners who have big, sunny roofs that are ideal for solar panels.

Photovoltaic solar cells convert sunlight directly into electricity.

Solmentum works with another San Francisco company, SunRun Inc., which opened a Philadelphia office in June. SunRun, which has established partnerships with a stable of installers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, owns and maintains home solar

systems and charges homeowners a monthly fee for the power they consume. [Read more](#). *Source: Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/12/11*

Deepwater to build first U.S. offshore wind farm

Deepwater Wind is racing to build the first U.S. offshore wind farm off Rhode Island and hopes to parlay that into a string of East Coast farms that could partially replace embattled nuclear power plants.

The privately held U.S. wind power developer plans to begin construction of the \$205 million, 30-megawatt Block Island project in 2013 or 2014, ahead of a farm proposed by Cape Wind which had been expected to be the nation's first offshore facility, according to Deepwater's CEO. [Read more](#). *Source: Reuters, 10/13/11*

Why we must support clean energy in U.S.: our national security

There is a lot of debate and discussion about clean energy these days.

Should we press ahead as a nation to move away from fossil fuels? Should the government continue supporting the nascent clean-energy industry, similar to what it has done for decades for the oil and gas business? Do we really even need clean energy in our country?

Based on our collective years of service in uniform, totaling more than a century in both peace and war, we think the answer should be, unequivocally, yes.

The reason, in our opinion, has nothing to do with politics or business and little to do with what we all pay at the gas pump.

Continuing to move our country toward a future powered by clean energy is, first and foremost, a matter of national security.

[Read more](#). *Source: Tampa Tribune, 10/9/11*

SRP Agrees to Purchase Energy from Arizona Biomass Plant

Renewable Energy is Generated from Wood-Burning Facility near Snowflake

Salt River Project has signed a one-year agreement to purchase up to 13 megawatts of energy generated from the Snowflake Power LLC., a biomass power plant located in the White Mountains of Navajo County in northern Arizona.

The Snowflake plant, owned and operated by Snowflake Holdings, LLC, a portfolio investment of the Najafi Companies, generates electricity through a wood-burning boiler using forest thinning (wood-waste material from the area's forest industries) and waste recycled paper fibers from an existing newsprint paper mill located adjacent to the biomass facility. [Read more](#). *Source: SRP, 10/12/11*

New Study Shows Significant Job Growth in 2012 from One-Year Extension of Successful Treasury Program

Study by EuPD Research finds extension of cost-effective 1603 Treasury Program will create more than 37,000 American jobs next year driven by solar market growth

Today, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) released "Economic Impact of Extending the Section 1603 Treasury Program," a report by renowned global energy analysis firm EuPD Research. The report examines projected job growth and solar deployment associated with a one-year extension of the Section 1603 Treasury Program.

According to the report, a one-year extension would result in the solar industry supporting an additional 37,394 jobs in 2012. In addition, a one-year extension would result in nearly 2,000 additional megawatts (MW) of solar installations above baseline by 2016, enough to power 400,000 homes. The report also analyzed scenarios for two and five-year extensions of the program. [Read more](#). *Source: Solar Energy Industries Association, 10/12/11*

Biomass Power Developers Are Busy Generating Jobs

A Topic to Be Discussed at the Southeast Biomass Conference & Trade Show in Atlanta, GA, Produced by BBI International

In some areas of the country, people are finally starting to realize the potential for biomass plants to create jobs. Recently there have been many news stories of project developers starting construction, breaking ground or just announcing their projects.

Most recently, Rentech Inc.'s Northwest Renewable Energy Center in Port St. Joe, Fla., was approved by the City Commission. The \$225 million plant will produce 55

megawatts of electricity from 930 tons of woody biomass a day. The plant is expected to create 200 construction jobs and about 85 direct and indirect jobs once it is up and running. [Read more](#). *Source: MarketWire, 10/11/11*

Conditions Clearing for Take-Off in US Offshore Wind Power

Though well established and growing fast in Europe, offshore wind power has yet to get off the ground – or in the water – in the US. That's despite the tremendous potential offshore wind holds in terms of supplying vast amounts of clean, renewable electricity to highly populated areas all along the US East, West, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes' coasts.

Pike Research forecasts that investment in US offshore wind power will rise steeply over the next six years, with revenue reaching \$104 billion by 2017. That's a 56 percent constant annual growth rate (CAGR). They could reach as high as \$130.5 billion under different assumptions incorporated in a "more aggressive scenario," according to Pike Research's "Offshore Wind Power" report. [Read more](#). *Source: Clean Technica, 10/11/11*

Austin Energy to use wind to power homes, businesses

Austin Energy will soon go green. The company plans to test a small wind turbine in Northeast Austin to see whether winds can be used to power homes and businesses.

The 60-foot turbine is being built near Decker Lake and is capable of generating about 2.5 kilowatts. It's the first of its kind in Austin and will help power the caretaker's home near Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. *Source: KVUE News, Austin, TX, 9/23/11*

PNM Customers Served by Grid-Tied Solar Storage Facility (Ind. Report)

The [Public Service Company of New Mexico](#) (PNM) Prosperity Energy Storage Project, located south of the Albuquerque International Sunport near Mesa Del Sol, New Mexico, can produce 500 kW of power and uses high-tech batteries to create firm and dispatchable energy derived from a renewable energy source. It is the first of 16 smart grid projects partially funded by stimulus monies to be fully operational. The project began in 2008 when PNM and the [Electric Power Research](#)

[Institute](#) (EPRI) began planning a project to demonstrate smart grid technology in PNM's distribution system

When the U.S. DOE announced its Smart Grid Storage Demonstration Program funded from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, PNM and EPRI quickly reshaped their plans and submitted a proposal to federal officials.

Using 2,158 solar panels, 1,280 advanced lead-acid batteries, smart grid technology and sophisticated metering and monitoring technology, the storage system can automatically smooth the output of the solar panels, making the renewable power more dependable. The system can store solar power, or energy produced by other facilities connected to the PNM grid. Other New Mexico companies that contributed to the project include Albuquerque's SCHOTT Solar, Cameron Swinerton, and Positive Energy. (Source: PNM, September, 21, 2011)

Contact: Pat Vincent-Collawn, President, PNM, 505-241-4548; [Clay Perry](#), EPRI, 202-293-6184. *Source: Energy Overviews, 9/23/11*

EIA: Renewable Energy Grows Fastest Among All Generation Sources

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has released its International Energy Outlook 2011 (IEO2011) report, which shows an average 2.3 percent annual increase in global demand for electricity through 2035.

This growth, which will be most pronounced in developing nations, ultimately reflects a net global electricity generation total of 25.5 trillion kWh in 2020 and 35.2 trillion kWh in 2035. These figures compare to a total of 19.1 trillion kWh in 2008, according to the EIA. [Read more](#). *Source: Renew Grid, 9/21/11*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

DOE Highlights Report on Hybrid Ground-Source Heat Pump Technology

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today highlighted a recent report, *Hybrid Ground-Source Heat Pump Installations: Experiences, Improvements and Tools*, demonstrating hybrid ground-source heat pumps (GSHP) as a viable solution to

reduce energy use in commercial buildings. The report finds that new hybrid systems dramatically decrease up-front costs while delivering financial and environmental benefits nearly equivalent to standard ground-source heat pumps. With its lower price, hybrid GSHP technology could be deployed widely, saving energy and money in new and existing commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings, according to the report. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 10/18/11*

IREC Releases Annual Updates and Trends Report

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) today released its Annual Updates & Trends Report, recognized nationally for its collective information and leading insight into growing and emerging trends in the renewable energy and energy efficiency space.

The report, with chapters authored by many of the nation's top experts in renewable energy, covers: regulatory issues, policies and incentives, installation and market data, clean energy workforce development, credentialing and training. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 10/17/11*

Free webinar examines geothermal development from utility perspective — Nov. 16, 10 AM MT

The Department of Energy's Geothermal Technologies Program (GTP) has teamed up with Western Area Power Administration, is offering a free one-hour webinar, Exploration and Geothermal Power Development: Navopache Electric Cooperative Experience.

Navopache Electric Cooperative (NEC) began assessing geothermal potential in its service territory over 25 years ago with the goal of developing a geothermal power plant. The presentation will cover the setbacks and progress in NEC's plans, including the need to meet Arizona's renewable energy standard. Topics include exploration, land acquisition, siting, environmental studies, economic analysis, funding, geothermal field design, balance of plant construction and transmission issues and opportunities. [Read more](#). *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 10/13/11*

New Berkeley Lab Report on PV Cost Trends: "Tracking the Sun IV"

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is pleased to announce the completion of a new Berkeley Lab report: "*Tracking the Sun IV: An Historical Summary of the Installed Cost of Photovoltaics in the United States from 1998 to 2010.*"

This report provides a comprehensive summary of installed cost trends for grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in the United States from 1998 through 2010, and provides preliminary cost trends for systems installed in 2011. The report, which updates three previous editions of the report series, is based on project-level data from approximately 116,500 PV systems, totaling 1,685 MW of capacity and representing 79 percent of all grid-connected PV capacity installed in the United States through 2010. The report also includes, for the first time, a separate analysis of utility-sector PV cost trends. [Read more](#). Source: Redwood Coast Energy Authority, 9/15/11

Berkeley Lab Report: Smart Grid Key To Renewable Energy Penetration

The penetration of renewable energy technology in the U.S. is expected to increase dramatically over the next decade, as many states are implementing policies to expand this sector. However, the variable—and oftentimes, unpredictable—production of certain renewable energy resources—such as wind and solar—poses integration challenges for bulk-power system operators.

These findings come from a recently released study from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory entitled "*Mass Market Demand Response and Variable Generation Integration Issues: A Scoping Study.*"

Proponents of the smart grid, of which advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) is an integral component, assert that system-wide implementation of AMI enables a significant increase in demand-response (DR) capability, which could help facilitate the integration of variable generation resources in the bulk-power system. [Read more](#). Source: North American Windpower, 10/13/11

Wind Turbines Going In At Kansas Schools

Four Kansas school districts will each receive \$5,000 to fund the installation of wind turbines as part of a national program that aims to show students firsthand how wind energy is an important source of renewable energy, and how its advancement can promote job development in rural areas.

The grants were announced by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Kansas, and are part of the USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant

program, which backs organizations that promote the creation and growth of small businesses in rural areas. The four districts—Central Plains, Eudora, Halstead-Bentley and Jefferson West—are all participating in the Wind for Schools project, an arm of the Wind Powering America initiative to promote knowledge and awareness of wind power. [Read more](#). *Source: Earth Techling, 10/12/11*

OpenStudio: Building Design Expertise at Your Fingertips

Like many weekend warriors, I enjoy tackling small home improvement projects, like replacing a door or installing an underground sprinkler system. But I want to get expert advice before I start, so I can avoid costly mistakes and achieve the best results.

Commercial building designers faced with energy efficiency concerns share the same feeling. It's complicated trying to make decisions about advanced HVAC systems in different climates or determining potential energy savings from winter daylighting. That's why the Energy Department created OpenStudio, a software kit and suite of advanced energy modeling tools. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 10/12/11*

Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC)

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) is a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the use of biomass for heat and other thermal energy applications. Established in January 2009, BTEC is an association of biomass fuel producers, appliance manufacturers and distributors, supply chain companies and non-profit organizations that view biomass thermal energy as a renewable, responsible, clean and energy-efficient pathway to meeting America's energy needs. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 10/12/11*

Innovating Sustainability 2011 Report

Each and every day, Business Roundtable member companies are challenging themselves to do things better, smarter and with results that improve the life we live. In Business Roundtable's 2011 Sustainability Report, *Innovating Sustainability*, you will learn how 115 chief executive officers are addressing sustainability using innovative approaches that are smart business choices and raise the quality of life on our planet. Sustainable business strategies are no longer an option; they are now rooted in a corporation's core business plan. [Read more](#). *Source: Business Roundtable, 4/20/11*

Pursuit of 25x'25 renewable energy goal will generate millions of new jobs

With the United States on a path to achieving the 25x'25 clean energy goal, an estimated 1.4 million new jobs would be created by 2015, 2.9 million jobs by 2020, and 4.7 million by 2025, according to a University of Tennessee study. Released by the 25x'25 Alliance, *25% Renewable Energy for the United States by 2025: An Analysis on Jobs Created By Meeting this Goal* shows that the jobs will be created by annual economic growth in the renewable energy sector, reaching \$208 billion by 2015, \$411 billion in 2020, and \$646 billion by 2025. [Read more](#). Source: *Drovers CattleNetwork*, 9/25/11

Windustry presents Northeast Region Conference – Oct. 26-28, Albany, NY

Windustry brings practical “how to” information on Community and Small Wind to the Northeast Region. National experts will provide the full range of what's needed for rural landowners, local investors, and community leaders to unlock the economic growth potential of locally-owned wind energy. [Read more](#). Source: *Windustry*, 9/21/11

Learn more about [education and outreach activities](#).

News from Washington

Solar Industry Fights For Extension Of Subsidies

U.S. solar industry trade group is lobbying a new offensive to save a popular federal incentive program by releasing a report Wednesday to show that an one-year extension of the program could create 37,400 more jobs and add nearly 500 megawatts in 2012.

The 37,400 jobs will represent a 12 percent boost over the number of new jobs that would otherwise materialize in 2012 without the federal program, according to the report by EuPD Research. If the program continues through 2013, then the solar industry will add another 51,000 jobs and 1,266 megawatts in 2013. The jobs include manufacturing and installation of solar electric and thermal equipment as

well as those from suppliers to the solar industry. [Read more](#). *Source: Forbes, 10/12/11*

Energy Tax Credits Need Extension, GEA Tells House Committee

The extension of the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC) to geothermal energy in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has been a principal factor in the growth of geothermal energy, according to a statement submitted to the Select Revenue Measures and Oversight subcommittees by the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA). But, many geothermal projects will not be completed by the current tax credit expiration deadline, which will undermine future industry growth according to the GEA.

Since 2005, the US geothermal market has grown from 2737 MW of installed baseload capacity in 2005 to 3102 MW in 2010. Going forward even more projects are under development. According to GEA, there are projects under development in some 15 states. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 10/12/11*

White House to speed federal review of wind, oil and gas projects

The Obama administration has included three energy projects in a list of 14 infrastructure projects for which it plans to accelerate the permitting and environmental review process as part of a broader effort to create jobs, the White House said Tuesday.

The administration announced the projects after President Barack Obama in August directed agencies to speed environmental reviews and permit decision for a number of "high-priority" infrastructure projects that will create a significant number of jobs, have already identified necessary funding and where the significant steps remaining before construction are within the control and jurisdiction of the Federal government and can be completed in 18 months. [Read more](#). *Source: Platts, 10/11/11*

White House Fast-Tracks Calif. Inland Wind Project (Ind. Report)

A plan to generate power and local jobs through the construction of 52 wind turbine generators in the Cleghorn Ridge Wind Project in San Bernardino National Forest is among 14 countrywide projects selected by the Obama administration to move

forward at an expedited pace, the White House said Monday. The federal review period for the Cleghorn Project will be cut from as long as three years to as short as 18 months under the order, according to guidance released Monday evening.

The decision stems from an August presidential memorandum in which President Barack Obama instructed agencies to speed up environmental reviews and permitting decisions for high-priority infrastructure projects that have secured necessary funding and can create a significant number of jobs.

It was not immediately clear how many jobs would be produced by the project, which involves the turbine generators being aligned in an east-to-west direction along Cleghorn Ridge west of Lake Silverwood and south of Highway 138. The federal agencies with jurisdiction over the project include the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Air Force. The White House said the project has been proposed by a company called Cleghorn Ridge Wind LLC.

Source: Press Enterprise, 10/11/11

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

BP Plans To Build Big Wind Farm In Kansas

BP Wind Energy has announced plans to build a 419-megawatt (MW) capacity wind farm with 262 GE wind turbines on a 66000-acre site about 43 miles southwest of Wichita in south-central Kansas.

The Flat Ridge 2 Wind Farm will be located on a 66,000-acre site approximately 43 miles southwest of Wichita in south-central Kansas. The wind power plant will use 262 GE (NYSE: GE) wind turbines with a rated capacity of 1.6 MW each.

Kansas Gov. Brownback leads wind energy summit. Brownback's summit came a day after BP announced plans to build Kansas' biggest wind farm. Flat Ridge Wind Farm 2 will be the 14th, and the largest, wind farm by BP Wind Energy in the US. Gov. Sam Brownback urged leaders from the energy industry to work together to help spur job growth and ignite economic opportunities powered by wind power are rich in Kansas. Executives representing some of the largest players in that potential

growth agreed they could do that—as long as the state was willing to provide the proper tax incentives. [Read more](#). *Source: REVE, 10/17/11*

ND Regulators Reviewing \$600M in Wind Projects (Reg. & Leg.)

North Dakota state regulators on Wednesday approved construction of a 105-MW wind turbine farm in west-central North Dakota, and began reviewing three other wind projects that developers want to build next year. The four projects will cost \$600 million and add about 350 MW of power to North Dakota's wind-generation capacity, according to Public Service Commission filings. Tony Clark, the PSC's president, said the state's wind energy development pace is accelerating because of next year's possible loss of a federal tax break for wind energy, and a requirement in neighboring Minnesota that utilities supply 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025. Low interest rates are another factor in the boomlet. "It's a cheap time for utilities to borrow capital," Clark said.

North Dakota's wind projects now have the ability to generate 1,424 MW of power, which is enough to provide electricity to 430,000 homes, according to AWEA.

On Wednesday, the [ND PUC](#) approved a construction permit for Bison 3, a Minnesota Power wind project in Morton and Oliver counties that calls for construction of 35 turbines capable of generating 105 MW of power. Minnesota Power, a unit of Allte Inc., is based in Duluth, Minn., and serves northeastern Minnesota. It earlier received regulatory approvals to build the Bison 1 and Bison 2 projects in the same general location in west-central North Dakota. Sixteen of the first project's 31 turbines are operating, and Minnesota Power expects the remaining 85 turbines to be running by the end of next year.

Separately, the PSC began its reviews on Wednesday of three additional wind projects in McHenry, Morton and Burleigh counties. Meadowlark Wind I LLC has filed an application to build 63 wind turbines in southwestern McHenry County, south of Velva.

Two companies formed by NextEra Energy Resources, based in Juno Beach, Fla., have applied to build 30 turbines in north-central Morton County and 62 turbines in northern Burleigh County, the commission said. The three projects will cost almost \$450 million to build and be capable of generating about 250 MW of power, PSC filings say. (Source: Center Daily, October, 12, 2011)

Contact: [Tony Clark](#), President, North Dakota PSC, 701-328-2400. *Source: EPOverviews, 10/13/11*

Anchorage wind farm clears regulatory hurdle

A state regulatory agency has essentially given the green light for a large-scale wind power project on Fire Island.

Three of the five commissioners with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska -- Paul Lisanskie, Robert Pickett and Jan Wilson -- issued a ruling late Monday saying the state's largest electric utility, Chugach Electric Association Inc., can purchase power from Fire Island Wind Inc., a subsidiary of a regional Native corporation.

Under the deal blessed by the RCA, Chugach will purchase 48,500 megawatt hours of electricity from 11 turbines to be built by Fire Island Wind, at a 25-year fixed cost of 9.7 cents a kilowatt hour. The \$65 million project in Turnagain Arm, three miles west of Anchorage, will provide about 4 percent of Chugach's power, enough to power 6,000 homes, and reduce its reliance on natural gas. [Read more](#). *Source: Alaska Dispatch, 10/12/11*

Area solar industry grows despite Solyndra failure

Despite the high-profile collapse of Solyndra, the Bay Area's solar industry continues to grow.

Case in point: SunEdison, a worldwide developer of large solar-power projects, is moving its headquarters from Maryland to Belmont. Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday joined the company at its new home, a formerly vacant office building that will hold more than 400 people when the move is complete. [Read more](#). *Source: San Francisco Chronicle, 10/11/11*

State Studies How to Fund Next Round of Clean Energy Programs

With many unanswered questions, the most important may be what level of funding should come from ratepayers.

The state is beginning to examine how to fund clean energy programs over a four-year period beginning in 2013, a decision that could dramatically reshape New Jersey's aggressive policies to reduce energy consumption and to promote cleaner sources of electricity, such as solar and wind. [Read more](#). *Source: New Jersey Spotlight, 10/11/11*

Van Wert fast becoming Ohio's wind farm capital

Van Wert is becoming the center of wind energy in Ohio. Some 210 wind turbines operate near the city in western Ohio and at least 550 more are planned for the region.

Wind turbines rise above flatlands of western Ohio. At the moment the key players here are Iberdrola Renewables, the US unit of a Spanish utility, and Horizon Wind Energy, controlled by a Portuguese energy company. But others are interested, including BP Wind Energy.

Welcome to Van Wert County, which is becoming the Wind Power Capital of Ohio. 210 wind turbines are dotting the rural landscape along U.S. 30 near the city of Van Wert, and at least 550 more are planned. The 411-ton wind turbines reach to the skies to catch the best winds high above the soybean and cornfields that dominate the flatlands of western Ohio. [Read more](#). *Source: REVE, 10/11/11*

Plans For Up To 7 Geothermal Plants Approved In NV

Federal land managers have approved plans for construction of up to seven geothermal power plants in a portion of Churchill County southeast of Fallon.

The Bureau of Land Management approved the Salt Wells projects proposed by [Ormat Nevada](#), [Gradient Resources](#) and [NV Energy](#).

The projects include one geothermal power plant proposed by Ormat Nevada and up to six such plants proposed by Gradient Resources.

They also include a NV Energy transmission line that would extend from Fallon south to the Salt Wells area just east of Carson Lake.

The projects are estimated to create about 370 temporary jobs during construction and about 70 permanent jobs.

The BLM issued three records of decision on the environmental impact statement for the projects. *Source: KTVN Reno News, 10/9/11*

Solar Power Shines In San Antonio As Texas Green Movement Gains Momentum

Al Ritter's power bill was pretty high this month. But not as high as it might have been.

Ritter, a retired Air Force electrical engineer, lives in San Antonio—a city hit hard by the great Texas drought of 2011, the worst in the state's history. Temperatures have regularly topped 100 this summer, and the earth is baking. In the Ritters' front yard, the cedar elm, starved for water, is losing its leaves several months ahead of schedule.

Like everyone else in town, Al and his wife have had the air conditioning working overtime. [Read more](#). *Source: Huffington Post, 9/27/11*

Following the Green Energy Lines in SD

A new map and database of proposed clean energy transmission projects across the northern plains includes two projects in South Dakota. It was developed by the Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA).

One line is the "Green Power Express," a broad network that spans more than 3,000 miles, from South Dakota through Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. Johnathan Hladik, an energy advocate with CFRA, says this project would have a broad-based effect. [Read more](#). *Source: Public News Service, 9/26/11*

Ormat Technologies Finalizes Loan Agreement of Up To \$350 Million Under the U.S. Department of Energy's 1705 Loan Guarantee

Ormat Technologies, Inc. today announced that its wholly-owned indirect subsidiary, OFC 2 LLC, and its project subsidiaries ("Ormat"), have finalized and signed the loan documentation for a 20-year loan for up to \$350 million under a financing with John Hancock Life Insurance Company (USA). The transaction will be guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office in accordance with and subject to the Department's Loan Guarantee Program under Section 1705 of Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. [Read more](#). *Source: Market Watch, 9/24/11*

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Environmental Education Sub-Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for the [Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program](#). The RFP will provide support to recipients that make and manage sub-awards to organizations, other than their own, to design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, and/or techniques. \$1.5 million expected to be available, up to 10 awards anticipated. Responses due Nov. 18, 2011. For more information, including Regional contacts, go to Grants.gov. Refer to [Sol# EPA-EE-11-03](#). (*Grants.gov 9/12/11*). Source: Laurie Brown, 10/3/11

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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