



# 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 December 19, 2011**

## **Green Power**

### **Green Power Network Headlines for November 2011**

This update summarizes recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity. Additional information on green power markets and products, as well as links to the companies mentioned below, can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's [Green Power Network website](#).

#### **Headlines:**

#### **Publications**

- [Solar Renewable Energy Certificate \(SREC\) Markets: Status and Trends](#)

#### **Announcements**

- [Webinar: SREC Markets: Status and Trends](#)

#### **News**

- [2011 Green Power Leadership Awards Announced](#)
- [3Degrees Expands its Green Power Programs to CT, ME, and WA](#)
- [REMA Announces 5 Year Renewable Energy Pledge](#)
- [Direct Energy Provides Green Power Option for Norwich \(CT\) Residents](#)
- [Fifteen Global Companies Commit to Use WindMade Label](#)
- [Toms River Schools \(NJ\) Completing 6.2 MW of Installed Solar](#)

- [SunEdison and Staples Reach 30 million kWh of Solar Production](#)
- [San Francisco PUC Moving Forward with Renewable Procurement](#)

## Renewable Energy RFPs

- [Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. \(AECI\)](#)
- [Focus on Energy RFP](#)
- [PECO Energy](#)

Source: *Green Power Network*, 12/9/11

## Program tweaks generate debate

A recently approved makeover of TVA's renewable energy program is aimed at developing green power while keeping prices down for its customers, officials with the public utility say.

Industry observers, however, believe the federal power provider may be painting lipstick on a pig. Among the measures approved by TVA's board at its recent quarterly meeting is to transition the Generation Partners pilot program to permanent status under the new name Green Power Providers. The program targets development of small wind, solar, biomass or hydro generation systems, offering an upfront incentive as well as above-retail rates for power purchased from qualifying customers. [Read more](#). Source: *Power Engineering Magazine*, 12/2/11

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

## Renewable Energy Technologies

### Switchgrass as Ideal Biofuel Feedstock?

#### *Can biofuel be economically coaxed from a modest plant?*

The biofuel sector is aimed at weaning us off our dependence on oil, but what of biofuel producers' dependence on corn?

American bioethanol production is still vastly reliant on corn as a feedstock. In the short term, with total output volume still relatively low, corn remains a viable feedstock option. But as ethanol production continues to ramp up, corn prices will likely increase as biofuel producers compete with corn purchasers in the food and grain markets.

What alternatives do we have? A new research review published today in the journal *GCB Bioenergy* states that switchgrass is indeed viable as a cellulosic feedstock, as has been previously suggested, and that it may have advantages in

carbon accumulation over other options. [Read more](#). Source: *GreenTechMedia*, 12/13/11

## **Biomass Industry Outlook 2012: Cautiously Optimistic**

The long-awaited construction of four major biomass plants will make 2012 pivotal in the expansion of the wood-fired power industry. Coal-to-biomass plant conversions awaiting permits in Virginia could also set the stage for a boom in local use of biomass fuel. That could lead to a European-style scaling of biomass power if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) blesses the industry with friendly regulations. [Read more](#). Source: *Renewable Energy World*, 12/12/11

## **OwnEnergy and local equity partners sell wind farm that will provide clean energy to OG&E and OSU**

OwnEnergy, the leader in Community Wind announced today that it has closed a transaction in Kay County, OK where NextEra Energy Resources will acquire, construct and operate the Blackwell Wind Farm. Blackwell is a project that OwnEnergy has been developing from inception alongside its local landowner partners.

The 60 megawatt project is expected to be constructed by the end of 2012. The clean, renewable energy produced by the wind farm will be sold under a long term contract to Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E). OG&E will use the output from the project to supply Oklahoma State University with clean energy. The Blackwell project is strategically located just up the road from the Stillwater campus. It will provide up to 150 jobs during construction, and approximately three full-time jobs to operate the facility, as well as enhanced economic development for the region due to its Community Wind nature. [Read more](#). Source: *OwnEnergy*, 12/7/11

## **SRP to Purchase 49 Megawatts of Geothermal Energy**

### ***Clean, Renewable Energy Added to Resource Mix***

Salt River Project has signed a second agreement for the purchase of 49 megawatts of geothermal energy from a plant that will be built in Southern California. The proposed geothermal generating station will be owned and operated by Hudson Ranch Power II LLC, and will be constructed in the Imperial Valley near the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea geothermal resource is one of the world's hottest and most prolific for the production of energy.

In 2007, SRP executed an agreement to purchase 49 megawatts of geothermal energy from Hudson Ranch I. That project is nearly complete and is expected to begin producing energy in February. This second 30-year agreement is for SRP to purchase power beginning in mid-2014, when the plant is completed. SRP will arrange transmission of the energy from the point of delivery to Arizona. [Read more](#). Source: SRP, 12/12/11

## **Chicken Fat Biofuel Could Power Navy's Green Strike Force**

The U.S. Navy could soon be using ships powered with biofuel made from chicken fat. Fresh on the heels of its largest algae biofuel test ever, the Navy is plunging ahead with plans to launch an entire Green Strike Force comprised of ships and aircraft powered with non-petroleum fuels, and to that end it has commissioned the largest ever purchase of biofuel by the U.S. government. The biofuel will be made from a wide variety of feedstocks including algae and inedible animal byproducts such as rendered chicken fat. It will be assigned to the Navy's participation in the largest maritime exercise in the world coming up next summer, the Rim of the Pacific exercise off Hawaii. [Read more](#). *Source: Clean Technica, 12/6/11*

**Learn more about [renewable resources](#).**

## **Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies**

### **Updated Wind O&M Guidebook now available**

The 2011 update to the 2008 guidebook titled "Establishing an In-house Wind Maintenance Program" is now available from DOE's Wind Program. The publication was created to support utilities in developing O&M strategies. This update includes significant contributions from utilities and other stakeholders around the country, representing all perspectives and regardless of whether or not they own wind turbines or projects. [Download now](#). *Source: DOE EERE Wind Program 12/13/11*

### **Wind power propels new degree programs**

When 32-year-old Antonio Lara enrolled at Texas Tech University in 2010 as an undergraduate, he was looking for a growth field with opportunities in Texas and around the world.

Lara was one of the first students on board for the university's undergraduate program in wind energy, which officially started this fall.

"I knew it was a growing industry," Lara said. "It feels good to know that you are doing something that offsets the negative effects of the other sources that we get electricity from." [Read more](#). *Source: The Houston Chronicle, 12/11/11*

### **Center for Green Schools at U.S. Green Building Council Releases "Best of Green Schools 2011" List Recognizing Leadership in Creating Sustainable Learning Environments**

From net-zero schools to game-changing policies, recipients recognized for efforts to green U.S. school infrastructure

The U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools, working in conjunction with its founding sponsor, United Technologies Corp., today released its inaugural Best of Green Schools 2011 list recognizing school administrators and government leaders in 10 categories for their efforts to create sustainable learning environments. [Read more](#). Source: *MarketWatch*, 12/12/11

## **Clean Energy Vision Project**

***Complete website for all materials of the Clean Energy Vision Project.***

Western Clean Energy Advocates is a diverse and growing coalition working to transform the way we produce, use and distribute energy across the West. WCEA engages consumers, community leaders, conservation groups, clean-energy companies, utilities, regulators and other decision-makers to move the West to a more secure and sustainable energy future. [Read more](#). Source: *Western Grid Group*, 9/27/11

## **Distributed Wind Policy Comparison Tool and Guidebook**

***Improving the Bottom Line for On-Site Wind: Best and Worst State Policy Practices Web-Based Policy Comparison Tool and Guidebook***

eFormative Options worked with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the North Carolina Solar Center, and other partners on a DOE-funded project to develop a Web-based Policy Comparison Tool and Guidebook to help utilities and policymakers advance the market for on-site wind generation across the nation. The project quantitatively identifies policies most (and least) helpful in making consumer-owned wind turbines more affordable with the goal of expanding the distributed wind market through an improved U.S. policy environment. [Read more](#). Source: eFormative Options LLC, 12/6/11

## **REMA Offers Support, Voluntary Market Recommendations on Bingaman CES**

***Renewable energy trade association commends Senator Bingaman for role in recent Clean Energy Standard analysis***

The Renewable Energy Markets Association (REMA) today applauded Senator Jeff Bingaman's (D-NM) leadership in clean energy as the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration unveiled an analysis of Clean Energy Standard (CES) scenarios requested by the Senator. EIA conducted the analysis and assessed how a variety of clean energy sources such as wind, biomass, solar, nuclear and natural gas could meet 95% of overall U.S. energy consumption by the year 2050. [Read more](#). Source: *Renewable Energy Markets Association*, 12/1/11

## Wildlife Workgroup Calls

The National Wind Coordinating Collaborative's Wildlife Workgroup convenes bi-monthly conference calls to:

- update callers on NWCC wildlife activities,
- provide a forum for the workgroup to learn about interesting work that is occurring related to wind and wildlife issues, and
- give stakeholders an opportunity to share any updates you may have through sector updates.

Members of the Wildlife Workgroup mailing list will receive the call agenda and dial-in information in advance of the call. [Sign up for the mailing list](#) (Select the Wildlife Workgroup box). [Read more](#). *Source: National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, 12/1/11*

## IREC Small Wind Newsletter for Fall 2011

Welcome to the Fall issue of the Small Wind Newsletter.

In this issue, you will learn about the growth in the small wind market during 2010. Continued growth will depend on quality products and installers, in addition to government incentives to lower costs. You will learn about installer certification, as well as new and improved incentives in several states and provinces. We include a few examples of recent installations and profile how a leading consumer publication is covering small wind turbines. [Read more](#). *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 12/1/11*

## NREL report assesses renewable energy supply and demand balance

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has released An Examination of the Regional Supply and Demand Balance for Renewable Electricity in the United States through 2015. This publication expands on a 2007 NREL study that assessed the supply and demand balance on a national basis. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory via Public Renewables Partnership, 11/29/11*

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

## News from Washington

### Wind industry says jobs will be lost if tax credits expire

A new study released by the American Wind Energy Assn. today said 54,000 jobs can be created and maintained if Congress acts to extend the Production Tax Credit, which is set to expire in 2012.

"American manufacturing jobs are coming back, with tens of thousands of new jobs from wind power," said Denise Bode, chief executive of the American Wind Energy Assn. (AWEA). "But these jobs could vanish if Congress allows the Production Tax Credit to expire." [Read more](#). *Source: Los Angeles Times, 12/12/11*

## **U.S. Targets American Indian Lands for Renewable-Energy Projects**

Business Exchange Buzz up! Digg Print Email The U.S. Interior Department plans to require the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to approve leases for renewable-energy projects on land held by American Indians unless the bureau can show why the proposals should be rejected within two months.

Under the proposed rules, the bureau would have to approve proposed projects unless it finds a "compelling reason" not to do so, the department said today in a statement. The bureau would have 60 days to evaluate industrial development and renewable-energy plants, and 30 days to consider residential leases. [Read more](#). *Source: Bloomberg, 11/28/11*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

## **State Activities, Marketing & Market Research**

### **Geothermal exploration in Gypsum is still on the table**

#### ***Company plans to dig 4,000-foot well***

It's taken longer than initially predicted, but the plan to explore geothermal possibilities in Gypsum is still in the works.

Flint Eagle LLC first approached the town of Gypsum in 2010, asking for cooperation in drilling an exploratory well at the Eagle County Regional Airport. The well would be about 4,000 feet deep and 77/8 inches in diameter — just enough to test the water temperature, volume and chemistry.

Lee Robinson, of Flint Eagle, hopes to find water in the Rio Grande Rift that's hot enough to use for heating or energy. The concept of going that deep is a relatively new one. Most geothermal resources that are used today are much closer to the Earth's surface. [Read more](#). *Source: Vail Daily, 12/11/11*

### **California Struggles To Embrace TRECs**

With the implementation of AB32, many solar advocates are hoping that the California TREC program will boost solar development the way SREC markets have in the country's fastest growing solar markets on the East Coast. After much delay, the TREC, or tradable REC or unbundled REC program, finally launched on

December 10th, allowing utilities to procure Renewable Energy Certificates from renewable projects not connected to their service territory in order to meet the RPS. Unfortunately, the legislation and subsequent rules have inadvertently stacked the odds against the distributed solar industry and here is why: [Read more](#).

*Source: Renewable Energy World, 12/13/11*

## **Solar energy purchases in California add to the use of green energy in the state**

Share3 SunPower recently announced it will supply NRG Solar with 54 megawatts of solar power technology, which will be used to support NRG's 26-megawatt Borrego Solar Project in San Diego County, California, along with other power developments.

"With more than 500 megawatts of SunPower power plants generating emission-free, affordable solar power around the globe today, our technology delivers guaranteed long-term performance," said Howard Wenger, SunPower president of regions. [Read more](#). *Source: Cooler Planet, 12/13/11*

## **Dec. 7 ID Energy Update: Idaho Power to Review Coal Fleet; Hells Canyon Relicensing Costs**

Idaho Power relies on out-of-state coal-fired power plants for more than 40 percent of its electric generation. As part of its required power planning process the utility says it will examine each of the coal plants in which it has an interest to determine whether to continue the massive investments required to keep the plants legal, or whether to begin planning to retire them and replace their generation with cleaner resources. Meanwhile, the state's largest electric utility has filed contracts with regulators for three new renewable energy projects – including wind, small hydro and landfill gas generation. Speaking of hydropower, Idaho Power has reported to the PUC that its costs to date in the seven-year-old Hells Canyon hydropower relicensing saga have eclipsed \$141 million, and the case is a long way from resolution. [Read more](#). *Source: Sun Valley Online, 12/7/11*

## **California Integrated Energy Policy Report under review**

As California's energy sector continues to grow in size and complexity, policy makers must strike a delicate balance between often competing priorities. To provide the foundation for California's energy policy decisions, every two years the California Energy Commission prepares an integrated energy policy report.

The report assesses major energy trends and issues in California's electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel sectors. The draft 2011 Integrated Energy Policy Report discusses issues facing the state's energy sectors and provides recommendations to ensure reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound supplies of electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels to meet the needs of the state's economy and growing population.

Public comment on the plan is due Dec. 23, 2011. [Documents from the proceeding](#) are available from the California Energy Commission. *Source: California Energy Commission, 12/5/11*

## **Use of green power may outstrip 5-year plan**

The proportion of China's energy that comes from non-fossil fuels in the next four years and beyond will exceed the figure set in the country's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) and other plans, industry experts said.

Their forecast was based on the country's continued work to make itself more reliant on renewable sources of energy, they said.

The central government has set a goal of having China obtain 11.4 percent of its energy from non-fossil sources by the end of 2015, up from 8 percent now.

And by 2020, the country is to get 15 percent of its energy from non-fossil sources.

"We believe the real proportion will exceed the planned proportion during the period of the five-year plan and beyond, given the country's pace for the development of renewable energy sources," said Han Wenke, director of the National Development and Reform Commission's energy research institute, a government think tank. [Read more](#). *Source: China Daily, 12/6/11*

## **Energy task force named**

Eleven people have been named to a state task force to promote development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Gov. Brian Sandoval wants the task force to initially focus on development of transmission facilities to ship such energy sources as solar and geothermal power out of the state.

Of the 11, only one is from Las Vegas — Tom Morley of Laborers Union 872.

Named from Reno to the task force by Energy Director Stacey Crowley were Ellen Allman of Terragen, Matt Frazer of Associated General Contractors, Jack McGinley of NV Energy, Paul Thomsen of Ormat and John Tull of the Nevada Wilderness Project. [Read more](#). *Source: Las Vegas Sun, 12/1/11*

## **Companies to build geothermal plant in NM**

A Utah-based clean energy firm is one step closer to building a geothermal power plant in southern New Mexico.

[Cyrq Energy Inc.](#) subsidiary Lightning Dock Geothermal has signed a \$65 million engineering, procurement and construction contract with Ormat Nevada Inc. to build the binary plant near Animas.

In addition to building the plant, [Ormat](#) will provide construction financing.

Officials with the project say the Lightning Dock plant is expected to come online by the end of 2013. Early engineering will start as soon as the basic well field characteristics are confirmed.

Cyrq Energy emerged as a restructured company following the bankruptcy of Raser Technologies. Cyrq has one operating geothermal power plant in southern Utah in addition to geothermal interests in other states and Indonesia. *Source: Canadian Business, 11/29/11*

## **Bold energy plan to end reliance on fossil fuels**

### ***Denmark forges ahead to become entirely reliant on renewable energy by 2050, while global efforts to decrease emissions looks increasingly bleak***

Denmark's ambitious plans will see coal power phased out and replaced with wind energy (Photo: Scanpix) An energy plan to end Denmark's reliance on fossil fuels by 2050 and move energy production over to windmills and biomass was launched this Friday by the government.

But while the climate plan might bode well for Denmark's green credentials and self-sufficient future, in the short term workplaces may be lost.

The plan is likely to be expensive for both tax-payers and businesses, and so to prevent companies from moving jobs to lower cost countries, a fund has been established to help subsidise the switchover.

Under the terms of the plan, 250 million kroner a year will be made available until 2014 after which it will rise to 500 million kroner. [Read more](#). *Source: Copenhagen Post, 11/28/11*

**Learn more about [energy analysis](#).**

## **Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News**

### **Tribal Clean Energy Assistance Offered by DOE**

DOE launched on December 2 the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) initiative aimed at advancing clean energy generation in Indian Country. The initiative provides federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native

governments with technical assistance to accelerate clean energy project deployment. This effort furthers DOE's commitment to providing tribes with the tools and resources they need to foster tribal energy self-sufficiency and sustainability, and to advancing economic competitiveness and job creation.

Through START, DOE and national laboratory experts will work directly with community-based project teams to evaluate financial and technical feasibility. The experts will also provide early development technical assistance to better position these projects for financing and construction. The initiative complements the DOE's Office of Indian Energy's efforts to make reliable and technical information and training available to tribal communities throughout the United States.

The START initiative will further serve to help Native American and Alaska Native communities increase local generation capacity, enhance energy efficiency and conservation measures, and create entrepreneurial and job opportunities in the new clean energy economy. Awards through this initiative will be provided through two programs. Tribes selected for the START program will be paired with DOE experts who have clean energy deployment experience relevant to the selected tribe's project development stage and technology. And, under the Alaska START Program, selected Alaska Native participants will leverage the combined technical expertise and resources of DOE and the Denali Commission for training to further clean energy projects such as energy storage infrastructure, renewable energy deployment, and housing energy efficiency. [Concept applications](#) are due Jan. 15, 2012. [Read more](#). Visit the [Office of Indian Energy's START website](#). *Source: DOE Office of Indian Energy, 12/7/11*

## **DOE Awards \$12 Million to Spur Rapid Adoption of Solar Energy with the Rooftop Solar Challenge**

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, today Energy Secretary Steven Chu was joined by Lynn Jurich, the president and co-founder of the solar power company SunRun, and Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman to announce \$12 million in funding for the awardees of the Rooftop Solar Challenge. The Challenge supports 22 regional teams to spur solar power deployment by cutting red tape—streamlining and standardizing permitting, zoning, metering, and connection processes—and improving finance options to reduce barriers and lower costs for residential and small commercial rooftop solar systems. This project is part of the Department's larger effort to make solar energy more accessible and affordable, increase domestic solar deployment, and position the United States as a leader in the rapidly-growing global solar market.

"Through this competition, the Energy Department is helping to unleash America's solar potential by investing in projects that will make it faster, easier, and cheaper to finance and deploy solar power in communities across the country," said Secretary Chu. "These awards will reduce the cost homeowners and businesses pay to install solar energy systems, while at the same time saving money and time for local governments faced with tight budgets." [Read more](#). *Source: DOE EERE Progress Alerts, 12/1/11*

**Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).**

*This news item comes to you as a service of Western's [Renewable Resources Program](#).*