



Green Power and Market Research News

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Week of June 20,
2011

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Green Power

The Green Power Network Monthly Update – May 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](#).

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Source: Green Power Network, 6/7/11

Debunking the myth that clean energy and carbon reduction policies aren't good for ratepayers

There's a common myth perpetrated by the anti-clean energy crowd that renewable energy standards and carbon-reduction policies will make energy costs skyrocket and derail the economy. But experience proves exactly the opposite.

Two reports released over the last month show that these policies cost ratepayers very little; and, when factoring in the inherent benefits of a cleaner, more efficient energy system, actually save ratepayers money. [Read more.](#)

Source: ThinkProgress, 6/1/11

Three Nonprofits Selected for Solar Energy Systems

Savings to Allow Organizations to Direct More Funds to Communities They Serve

[A New Leaf Inc.](#), [Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix](#) and [Hospice of the Valley](#) were each selected to receive a solar energy system, thanks to [SRP EarthWise Energy](#) customers who voted for their favorite charities. The systems, valued at about \$45,000 each, will enable the nonprofits to offset their electricity usage and save money on their monthly electric bills. The savings they will see will help them direct more funds to the communities they serve.

In addition to saving money, the systems will result in a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. A typical 10 kilowatt solar electric system helps to avoid the release of almost 20,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions annually, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Read more.](#) Source: SRP, 6/1/11

Nomination Period Open! 2011 Green Power Leadership Awards

Deadline June 21, 2011

The Green Power Leadership Awards are made annually to recognize organizations that distinguish themselves among U.S. green power market participants. The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Resource Solutions present the awards in three categories: suppliers, purchasers, and marketers. Now in the 10th year, the Green Power Leadership Awards also raise public awareness of the availability of green power options by recognizing market participants that make exceptional contributions to the development of voluntary green power markets. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 6/1/11*

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

Start-up pumped for compressed air wind storage

General Compression said today it has raised money to further develop a method for storing energy from wind turbines with compressed air.

The Boston-area start-up secured the first tranche in a \$54.5 million in a series B round of funding. The full funding is contingent on meeting certain milestones.

General Compression was started in 2006 to adapt air compressors used in other industries to store wind power by pumping pressurized air into underground formations. The company received seed funding in 2007 and has been seeking additional funding and corporate partners to advanced product development. [Read more](#). *Source: Green Tech, 6/7/11*

World's First Zero-Carbon Office Building Debuts in Seoul

South Korean officials are showcasing the world's first zero carbon business building, located in Incheon, near the capital, Seoul.

The twenty-five hundred square-meter building, housing the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), is part of the government's drive to reduce carbon emissions.

A project of the Environment Ministry, the building has been in operation since April.

It cost around \$8 million U.S. dollars and uses 66 different technologies, including solar and geothermal.

A NIER researcher says the building uses passive and active systems to cut energy consumption by 40 percent. [Read more](#). *Source: NDT Television, 6/7/11*

Texas based Company Helps University on Cyprus with Renewable Energy Needs

GCGE Partners with Middle East Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus on Pilot Project

One Texas-based company is helping a university on the other side of the Atlantic devise ways to cope with increasing demand for clean energy while taking advantage of something many people in Texas take for granted -

the sun.

Gulf Coast Green Energy is working with Middle East Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus on a pilot project that generates "clean" electricity by running campus waste water through solar energy collectors, capturing the heat from that hot water and turning it into power with the ElectraTherm heat-to-power "Green Machine." [Read more](#). Source: 24-7 Press Release, 6/2/11

Tucson tech: TEP takes major step to tap power of wind

Despite our gusty spring, most of Arizona doesn't have enough wind year-round to support utility-scale wind-power generation.

Within a month or so, however, Tucson Electric Power Co. will be reaping power from wind blowing some 200 miles away, in eastern New Mexico.

And not long after that, customers of TEP's sister utility, UniSource Energy Services, will start using power from a smaller wind project in one of Arizona's few truly windy corridors, in Kingman. [Read more](#). Source: Arizona Daily Star, 6/7/11

Wind Power Now Included In MISO's Real-Time Market

The Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) says that wind power can now fully participate in MISO's economic dispatch under a new resource designation: dispatchable intermittent resources.

[According to MISO](#), this designation allows renewable energy generation to be treated like any other generation resource in the market and, for the first time, participate in the region's real-time energy market. Now, wind can automatically be dispatched up to a forecasted limit based on an offer price and system conditions, enabling wind to submit offers and receive dispatch instructions rather than be manually curtailed when transmission constraints limit renewable energy generation to reach the broader market region. [Read more](#). Source: Renew Grid, 6/2/11

EERC Process First to Produce Jet Fuel Exclusively from Coal and Biomass Combined

New Domestically Produced Fuel Meets Jet Fuel Specs

The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) at the University of North Dakota announced that its unique refining technologies have produced jet fuel from a combination of both coal and biomass feedstocks. The EERC technology centers on a unique direct liquefaction process utilizing a coal-biomass feedstock and tailoring the product liquids for U.S. military jet fuel applications.

Produced under the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory, the EERC's coal-biomass jet fuel meets key military aviation fuel requirements, providing a pathway to energy security for the U.S. military and the nation's aviation industry. [Read more](#). Source: BusinessWire, 6/6/11

Novel Geothermal technology packs one two punch against climate change

Two Univ. of Minnesota Department of Earth Sciences researchers have developed an innovative approach to tapping heat beneath the Earth's surface. The method is expected to not only produce renewable electricity far

more efficiently than conventional geothermal systems, but also help reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide—dealing a one two punch against climate change. [Read more](#). Source: *Science Daily*, 6/6/11

Ivanpah solar project uses BrightSource Technology

BrightSource's LPT solar thermal system is currently being deployed at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) in California's Mojave Desert. Ivanpah, which started construction in October 2010, is the first project that will deliver power to serve the company's signed contracts with PG&E and Southern California Edison. The project - which counts NRG Solar, Google and BrightSource as equity investors - is currently the largest solar plant under construction in the world. The project is being constructed by Bechtel. [Read more](#). Source: *BrightSource*, 6/6/11

ENERGY: Small wind projects still sprouting up

In Moorhead, MN, the community was looking at something special and that would be cutting edge in energy, but also still within the realm of the expertise of the Moorhead Public Service. They designed two wind turbines that provide a small source of energy for the community.

But maybe more importantly, the wind turbines were built to encourage people in Moorhead to engage energy projects in homes and businesses.

"It does reduce the power we buy," states Dennis Eisenbraun, Energy Services Manager for Moorhead Public Service. "At the time we built the two turbines (in 1998) we had more green power per capita than any other community in the country." [Read more](#). Source: *Prairie Business*, 6/6/11

UN says world could run on 100% renewable energy

Close to 80 percent of the world's energy supply could be met by renewables by mid-century if backed by the right enabling public policies, according to a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Findings from over 120 researchers also indicate that the rising penetration of renewable energies could lead to cumulative greenhouse gas savings equivalent to 220 to 560 Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide between 2010 and 2050. The upper end of the scenarios assessed, representing a cut of around one third in greenhouse gas emissions from business-as-usual projections, could assist in keeping concentrations of greenhouse gases at 450 parts per million. This could contribute towards a goal of holding the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius—an aim recognized in the United Nations Climate Convention's Cancun Agreements. [Read more](#). Source: *Solar Power Engineering*, 5/24/11

SRP to Purchase Power from Arizona's Latest Wind Farm (Ind. Report)

Salt River Project will purchase 100 percent of the electricity generated from NextEra Energy Resource's new 100-MW Yavapai Wind Project in Yavapai County, Arizona. The 25-year power-purchase contract calls for the delivery of 99.2 MW of energy to SRP by Dec. 31, 2012, pending the necessary approvals. SRP also has the option to purchase at a later date approximately 20 MW of solar energy from a planned photovoltaic facility that could be built near the project's wind turbines.

Under SRP's Sustainable Portfolio, the utility must secure sustainable and renewable resources to meet 20 percent of its retail energy needs by 2020. Combined with the output of the existing Dry Lake Wind Farm near Snowflake,

the Yavapai Wind project will bring SRP's purchase of Arizona-based wind energy to almost 225 megawatts, by far the most by any utility in Arizona.

NextEra Energy Resources, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Inc., is the largest generator of wind and solar power in North America. (Source: SRP, May, 2011)

Contact: [Scott Harelson](#), SRP, 602-236-2500. Source: *Energy Overviews*, 5/31/11

Geothermal: The Promise and the Pitfalls

Geothermal promises comparatively cheap, steady power. The millions of dollars required to find it are the problem.

Reno just might be the greenest little city in the world.

[Ormat's](#) Galena Power Plant at the edge of town provides the city with 100 megawatts of carbon-free electricity, or enough for 20 percent of Reno's daytime electricity and 50 percent of its nighttime power. Put another way, you could power every home in town with the electricity from the plant.

Pumps pull 6,000 gallons of water a minute out of reservoirs 3,000 feet below the surface. The water, naturally heated by geologic forces to approximately 300 degrees Fahrenheit (150 C), boils a chemical refrigerant contained in sealed loops. The refrigerant, now a gas, cranks a turbine. [Read more](#). Source: *GreenTech Media*, 5/31/11

Wyoming wind farm project gets bird radar

A wind farm planned just south of Rawlins has added a radar system to monitor birds.

The radar, originally for the military, will help developer Power Co. of Wyoming LLC collect data about the habitat and migration patterns of golden eagles, bald eagles, hawks and other bird species and bats at the proposed 1,000-turbine wind energy project.

The information will be used to help create a management plan for eagles, birds and bats on the company's Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project.

The proposed 2,500 megawatt, \$4 billion to \$6 billion wind farm site will sit on portions of 154 square miles of the Overland Trail Cattle Co. ranch, a 500 square-mile checkerboard of public and private land. [Read more](#). Source: *Caspar Star-Tribune via American Wind Energy Association*, 5/31/11

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Utility Use of Solar Grows Dramatically – And Not Just in the Sunniest Regions

SEPA report shows top utilities expanded solar integration by 100 percent in 2010 Key Findings • Marked growth

in utility solar power in states outside the Southwest • Growth in centralized projects • Major increase in utility ownership of solar capacity

America's electric utilities are ramping up their use of solar power, and not just in the sunny Southwest. That's one of the principal findings of the new 2010 SEPA Utility Solar Rankings report released today by the [Solar Electric Power Association](#).

"More and more utilities are integrating solar power into their energy portfolios, including many in states like New Jersey, Idaho and North Carolina," says Julia Hamm, president and CEO of SEPA. "Solar power has largely been associated only with California and the Southwest, but that's no longer the case." In SEPA's 2008 Rankings report, 75 percent of the new solar capacity was located in California. By contrast, in the 2010 survey, 63 percent of new capacity came from other states. "Utilities nationwide are finding new ways to take advantage of the benefits of solar power for themselves and their customers," said Ms. Hamm. [Read more](#). *Source: Yahoo News, 6/9/11*

The report contains additional details about the total solar capacity of U.S. utilities, rankings by regions, geographical diversity and other utility solar trends. [Read the full report](#).

SEPA will host a free [webinar](#) on Thursday, June 23, 2011, to discuss key findings of the 2010 Utility Solar Rankings report. [Pre-registration](#) is currently open for members and will open to the general public on Friday, June 17.

Wind Powering America 10th Annual All-States Summit Proceedings

May 26, 2011; Anaheim, Calif.

Approximately 110 members of Wind Powering America's network attended the 10th Annual All-States Summit on May 26 in Anaheim. The Summit, which followed the annual WINDPOWER Conference and Exhibition, provided Wind Powering America's network of state wind working groups, state energy officials, DOE and national lab Wind Powering America representatives and its professional and institutional partners an opportunity to review successes, opportunities, and challenges for wind at the state level. [Read more](#). *Source: Wind Powering America, 6/6/11*

Slides and Live Recording Now Available from June 2 REMA Clean Energy Standard Webinar

The presentation slides and full video of the webinar, [National Clean Energy Standard: Voluntary Market Impact and Interaction](#), are now available for download from the Renewable Energy Markets Association. Feel free to share these resources far and wide. *Source: Renewable Energy Markets Association, 6/6/11*

ACORE webinar available online

For your convenience a recording of the Wednesday, June 01, 2011 teleconference, [Chinese Investment in U.S. Renewable Energy](#), is now available online. Program materials from the Wednesday, June 1, 2011 [teleconference](#) can be downloaded by signing in.

Please email [Ethan Zindler](#) of Bloomberg New Energy Finance directly if you would like to access his presentation materials. *Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 6/2/11*

Demystifying RECs and SRECs: What Project Developers Need to Know – June 22, 2011, 2:00 p.m. Eastern (Events & Conf.)

Renewable energy credits (RECs) and solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) are playing an increasingly important role in helping finance the development of renewable energy projects. However, the administration, standards, and prices for RECs/SRECs differ greatly, by region and governing authority. On Wednesday, June 22, at 11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern, AltaTerra Research will present a guide to RECs/SRECs in [Demystifying RECs and SRECs: What Project Developers Need to Know](#).

In this 90-minute interactive online briefing, AltaTerra Analyst Eric Paul will open with an overview on the US renewable energy markets and discuss the growing importance of REC and SRECs as a policy mechanism to incentivize renewable energy and solar.

Jan Pepper, founder and former president of Clean Power Markets and an originator of the REC concept, will provide an overview and outline the basics of renewable energy credits. Pepper will detail common eligibility requirements, which states have compliance REC markets, how pricing is determined, and how REC markets are evolving.

Brad Bowery, CEO of SRECTrade, will then present on the basics of SRECs, which states have SREC markets, and differences between the various SREC markets. He will also discuss the role SRECs are playing in financing projects and end with an outlook of how SREC markets are expected to evolve in 2012 and beyond. "With many states exploring RECs and SRECs as market-based financing mechanisms to incentivize renewable and solar energy, a strong understanding of RECs and SRECs is vital for developers in states with renewable portfolio standards and solar 'carve-outs,'" said Eric Paul. "In New Jersey, a vibrant SREC market has played a crucial role in helping the state become the second largest solar market in the United States. We are excited to have two leading experts help us answer many of the most common questions around RECs and SRECs," he continued. (Source: AltaTerra, June, 1, 2011)

Contact: [Eric Paul](#), Analyst, AltaTerra. Source: *Energy Overviews*, 6/2/11

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

News from Washington

DOE Offers \$2 Billion in Conditional Loan Guarantee Commitments for Two California Concentrating Solar Power Plants

From the DOE Loan Programs Office: U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the offer of conditional commitments to provide loan guarantees to support two concentrating solar power (CSP) projects – the Mojave Solar Project (MSP) in San Bernardino County, California, and the Genesis Solar Project, located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Riverside County, California. The Department of Energy (DOE) is offering a conditional commitment for a \$1.2 billion loan guarantee to support the Mojave Solar Project and a conditional commitment for up to a \$681.6 million loan guarantee to support the Genesis Solar Project. At 250 megawatts (MW) each, the projects' combined capacity will double the nation's currently installed CSP capacity and displace a total of 40 percent of the output from a typical 500MW coal-fired plant. Abengoa Solar Inc., the Mojave Solar project sponsor, estimates that project will create more than 830 construction jobs and 70 operating jobs. NextEra

Energy Resources, LLC, the Genesis Solar project sponsor, estimates that project will create approximately 800 construction jobs and 47 operating jobs. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/14/11*

Department of Energy Announces up to \$70 Million to Advance Technology and Reduce Cost of Geothermal Energy

In support of President Obama's goal of generating 80 percent of the country's electricity from clean energy sources by 2035, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the availability of up to \$70 million in new funding over three years for technology advancements in geothermal energy to accelerate development of this promising clean energy resource. Innovations in exploration technologies to locate geothermal energy resources and improvements in resource characterization, drilling, and reservoir engineering techniques will enable clean energy from geothermal sources to be a key contributor to the nation's renewable energy supply. By targeting funding to research and develop these innovative technologies, the Department aims to reduce the upfront cost of geothermal energy systems, expand their use, and enable the United States to tap the huge potential of this renewable energy resource. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/8/11*

House Energy And Water Subcommittee propose FY 2012 funding cuts for energy efficiency, renewables

This past Thursday, the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee approved the [FY 2012 Appropriations for the Department of Energy](#) (DOE), which makes significant cuts to renewable energy research and development programs. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) receives \$1.3 billion, \$491 million below FY 2011 and \$1.9 billion below the President's FY 2012 budget request. DOE's Office of Electric Delivery and Energy Reliability (EO) receives \$139 million, \$6 million below FY 2011 and \$99 million below the President's FY 2012 budget request.

The Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), receives \$100 million, \$80 million below FY 2011 and \$450 million below the President's FY 2012 budget request. The Energy and Water Appropriations bill will move to the full committee. Democrats have not yet said whether they will offer amendments to restore funding to these programs. *Source: ACORE 06/06/11*

DOE to Host Biomass Program Peer Review in June

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Biomass Program will host its biennial [Program Peer Review](#) on June 27 and 28, 2011, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. The Program Peer Review will review the Biomass Program's overall strategy, portfolio balance, and the results of the project reviews within each technology platform held earlier this year. All programs in DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy conduct a peer review of their funded projects on an annual or biennial basis. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/1/11*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

California, Oregon, Massachusetts top Clean Edge's Clean-Energy Leadership Index

Clean Edge's subscription-based U.S. Clean Energy Leadership Index provides companies, investors and governments with critical data and insights on the clean-energy landscape.

Clean Edge's recently released second annual U.S. Clean Energy Leadership Index provides the industry's most comprehensive and objective analysis and ranking of how all 50 states, and the individuals, businesses, and organizations that operate there, compare across the clean-energy spectrum. According to Clean Edge's assessment and ranking of more than 70 different indicators in technology, policy, and capital, the top 10 states in the nation are California, Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, Colorado, Washington, New Mexico, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Vermont.

Key market indicators tracked by Clean Edge include total electricity produced by clean-energy sources, hybrid and electric vehicles on the road, clean-energy venture and patent activity, and policy regulations and incentives. The 2011 Leadership Index paints an important and insightful picture of the U.S. clean-energy landscape. Based on this analysis the bottom 10 states in this year's rankings (placing 41st through 50th) are Oklahoma, Wyoming, Alaska, North Dakota, Louisiana, Nebraska, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and West Virginia. [Read more](#). *Source: PR Web via American Council on Renewable Energy, 6/8/11*

EERE State News Monthly Report

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) publishes this summary of news stories posted the past month on the [EERE State Activities & Partnerships](#) website. EERE collects news stories dealing with state involvement in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects from EERE technology program Web sites, the State Energy Program and [EERE Network News](#). *Source: U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/6/11*

Record-Breaking German Solar Demand Fuels Green Job Growth

As the cost of generating solar energy continues to decrease, Germany's industry is set to benefit.

Germany's solar photovoltaic (PV) industry now employs more workers than steel production in the USA. With over 100,000 "green jobs" in PV alone, around 75 percent of European solar cells and modules as well as countless components are made in Germany. Record-breaking domestic demand is a key industry driver, with 7.4 GWp of PV capacity installed in 2010. Germany is also a manufacturing platform for other European PV markets: Italy's feed-in tariff revisions take effect this month and include a Made in Europe clause, which is set to benefit manufacturers based in Germany. *Germany Trade & Invest* will have representatives on hand at the 2011 Intersolar Europe in Munich from June 8 - 10 to share the latest market and industry trends in Germany. [Read more](#). *Source: World of Photovoltaics, 6/8/11*

NV Energy Releases Details for Renewable Transmission Initiative

NV Energy today announced its Renewable Transmission Initiative, a process designed to engage renewable developers, load-serving entities, and others to assess their interest in obtaining transmission service from renewable energy zones in Nevada to other markets, particularly California and the Desert Southwest. [Read more](#). *Source: PR Newswire via Street Insider, 6/7/11*

Favorable Winds in Missouri

Steady winds, a healthy business infrastructure, and an educated workforce create an ideal environment for wind farms and component manufacturing.

Missouri may not be the first place you think of for wind energy, but turbines are skirting the highways and farmland as the state builds its case for farming wind: geographic location, green energy legislation, highly skilled workers, and a business-friendly environment. Missouri is poised to help address the planet's ongoing need for clean, sustainable energy. [Read more](#). Source: *WindSystems*, 6/7/11

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Announce Support for China Mountain Wind Project

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes announced their support for the proposed China Mountain Wind Project in the Twin Falls County, Idaho and Elko County, Nevada region. The project, being developed by China Mountain Wind, LLC, a subsidiary of RES America Developments Inc. and NV Energy, will bring renewable energy, new job creation and economic benefits to the area. [Read more](#). Source: *PR Newswire*, 6/6/11

Xcel: Boulder could be 'most green city worldwide' by 2020 under new franchise

If Boulder renews its contract with Xcel Energy instead of becoming a municipal utility, the company claims Boulder will be the "most green city worldwide" by 2020.

But that could come at a cost of higher utility rates—at least until wind power becomes cheaper than coal or natural gas.

Xcel officials said late Monday afternoon that they are prepared to offer the city an energy plan that would provide up to 70 percent renewable energy to Boulder within the first year of a new 20-year franchise agreement. [Read more](#). Source: *Boulder Daily Camera*, 6/6/11

Greening Sonoma County's Footprint

Community Choice Aggregation would give county options where it buys power from and create more incentives for alternative energy companies

When it comes to renewable energy innovation, Sonoma County is at the forefront of the nation. But despite enthusiasm over alternative energy projects, frequently touted by local leaders, the county is decades away from developing enough alternative energy to meet the demand. [Read more](#). Source: *Petaluma Patch*, 6/6/11

Vestas wins Kingdom Community deal

Green Mountain Power and Vermont Electric Company have selected Vestas' turbines for their 63MW, \$150m Kingdom Community Wind project in the Lowell Mountains.

The development will consist of 21 V112 3MW generators. GMP claimed the turbines are 20% more efficient than the unit first considered and reduce the expected cost of power from a projected 10.3 cents per kWh, to 9.2 cents per kWh. The farm is due to come online at the end of 2012. [Read more](#). Source: *reNews US Onshore*, 6/7/11

Dustup over Florida wind farm

Florida is the latest battleground for greens anguished about the ecological costs of green power.

This time, a proposal for a sprawling wind farm just north of the Everglades is facing blowback from environmental groups that worry it could become an avian Cuisinart for the wading birds, raptors and waterfowl that teem in the sprawling marshes nearby.

At least one statewide conservation organization has come out against the project by the St. Louis-based Wind Capital Group, which would feature as many as 100 turbines as tall as the Statue of Liberty stretched across a 20,000-acre swath of sugar cane and vegetable farms in western Palm Beach County. [Read more](#). *Source: Politico, 6/1/11*

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

DOE Announces \$27 Million to Reduce Costs of Solar Energy Projects, Streamline Permitting and Installations

As part of the Obama Administration's SunShot Initiative to make solar energy cost competitive with fossil fuels within the decade, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the availability of more than \$27 million in new funding that will reduce the non hardware costs of solar energy projects, a critical element in bringing down the overall costs of installed solar energy systems.

The funding will support a \$12.5 million challenge to encourage cities and counties to compete to streamline and digitize permitting processes, as well as \$15 million that will be made available to advance innovations in information technology systems, local zoning and building codes and regulations, and more. These process improvements and innovations will help increase U.S. competitiveness in the global solar industry and will play an important role in achieving President Obama's goal of doubling America's electricity from clean energy sources. [Read more](#). *Source U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/1/11*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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

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