



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 November 28, 2011 [Contact us](#) [Subscribe](#) [Previous issues](#)

Green Power

Insights from Renewable Energy Markets Conference 2011: What's Your REC Strategy?

Last week at the Renewable Energy Markets Conference, leading corporations, renewable energy generators, and utilities gathered to discuss the state of voluntary and compliance green power and renewable energy certificate (REC) markets. The conference demonstrated the growing use of green power by corporations and institutions, but also highlighted some of the most pressing challenges facing the industry. [Read more](#). *Source: Renewable Energy World, 11/22/11*

Kohl's is Green Power Partner of the Year for third consecutive year

Kohl's Corp. was recognized with its third Green Power Partner of the Year Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Center for Resource Solutions. The chain is the first retailer to be named Partner of the Year for three consecutive years.

In 2011, Kohl's purchased 1.4 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) of renewable energy, offsetting more than 100 percent of the company's purchased electricity use. The company joined EPA's Green Power Partnership in 2006 and made an initial purchase of more than 80 million kwh of renewable energy credits in 2007. [Read more](#). *Source: Chain Store Age, 11/22/11*

Falling mandatory REC prices threaten solar developers

Sales of renewable energy credits in US compliance markets outstripped that country's voluntary market for the first time last year as states strove to meet their green electricity targets set by Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPSs).

But volatility and low prices for renewable energy credits (RECs) driven by RPS-related oversupply could put projects and developers at risk, according to experts at the Renewable Energy Markets conference in San Francisco last week

Dian Grueneich, a former California Public Utilities Commissioner who now works at law firm Morrison Foerster, said: "How we're going to balance the economics of this so that we can have longer-term capital investments in the voluntary side is going to be tough. That's where the creativity of the financial products in the voluntary market is going to be [because] there is going to be this tension between dropping the price and long-term sustainability for capital investment." [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental Finance, 11/21/11*

States Pass Feds In Encouraging Renewable Energy

State-based targets for green electricity generation have been so successful in developing renewable energy projects that any current proposals for a federal clean energy standard could require little or no additional capacity, according to a leading academic.

Ryan Wiser, a scientist specializing in electricity markets and policy at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, said recent data showed that any proposed federal RPS would require fewer additions than were seen in 2008-10 to meet state-based Renewable Portfolio Standards targets. [Read more](#). *Source: AOL Energy, 11/22/11*

EPA Honors 19 Organizations for Leadership in Clean Energy

On November 16th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented the 11th annual Green Power Leadership Awards to 19 EPA Green Power Partners across the country. Winning partners range from iconic commercial buildings and Fortune 500 companies to local governments and higher education institutions. Through the use of clean, renewable energy sources, partners are increasing our country's energy security, reducing harmful pollution and helping protect people's health and the environment. EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program helping to increase the use of electricity generated from renewable resources among leading U.S. organizations. [Read more](#). *Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 11/16/11*

MetLife Receives EPA Green Power Leadership Award

National Award Honors Leading Green Power Purchasers

MetLife, Inc. announced today that it has received a 2011 Green Power Leadership Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The annual award recognizes the country's leading green power users for their commitment and contribution to helping advance the development of the nation's voluntary green power market. The EPA presented MetLife with the award at the 2011 Renewable Energy Markets Conference yesterday. [Read more](#). *Source: MarketWatch, 11/17/11*

Energy Department Recognizes Nation's Top Green Power Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today recognized four leading organizations for expanding the market for electricity produced from renewable energy sources during the 11th annual Green Power Leadership Awards in San Francisco, California. These organizations' innovative "green power" programs provide consumers with the opportunity to purchase clean energy from environmentally-preferred sources, such as wind and solar energy.

Organizations that offer and promote green power programs support an industry that creates thousands of jobs each year, making clean, renewable energy accessible and affordable to the homeowners and businesses they serve. DOE encourages the growth of these programs nationwide by selecting exemplary programs to receive Green Power Leadership Awards. [Read more](#). *Source: US DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 11/16/11*

Allianz Championship Announces Ambitious "Green" Goals for 2012 Tournament

PGA Champions Tour Event Partners With The Smart Group to Reduce Carbon Footprint, Set Goal of 100% Renewable Energy, and Drive Zero Waste by Vendors, Players and Spectators

The 12th annual Allianz Championship, set for February 6-12, 2012 at Broken Sound Club in Boca Raton, Fla., today announced plans to become one of the greenest golf tournaments in North America. To achieve this goal, the tournament will partner with The Smart Group, an organization of ecologists, scientists, educators, and academic researchers who help clients make sound decisions about environmental management. [Read more](#). *Source: MarketWatch, 11/14/11*

Clean Energy Activists Rally for “Green Power” by Utility Companies

Environmentalists, public health groups and concerned citizens are demanding "green power" from Louisville Gas and Electric (LG&E) and Kentucky Utilities (KU), and they took that message straight to the power companies' offices at a rally last week. LG&E and KU are seeking a rate increase to cover costs to upgrade their coal-fired power plants to meet new federal emission standards. [Read more](#). *Source: Public News Service, 11/14/11*

New NREL Report: Status and Trends in U.S. Compliance and Voluntary Renewable Energy Certificate Markets (2010 Data)

This report documents the status and trends of 'compliance'—renewable energy certificate (REC) markets used to meet state renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requirements—and 'voluntary' markets—those in which consumers and institutions purchase renewable energy to match their electricity needs on a voluntary basis.

This report documents REC activities and trends in the United States.

The compliance REC market analysis includes analysis of REC trading, regional REC markets, REC tracking systems, types of compliance RECs, compliance REC pricing trends, and an overview of compliance with RPS policies. The voluntary REC analysis presents data and analysis on voluntary market sales and customer participation, products and premiums, green pricing marketing and administrative expenses, voluntary REC pricing, and the voluntary carbon offsets market. The report concludes with a discussion of upcoming guidance from the Federal Trade Commission on green marketing claims, the emergence of community solar programs, and the potential impact of Dodd-Frank regulations on the REC market. [Download the report](#). *Source: DOE Green Power Network, 11/8/11*

Companies Commit to Buy Renewable Energy Through 2017

The national 5-Year Renewable Energy Pledge Program recognizes leading companies that have committed to purchase renewable energy for five or more years

The City of Austin, Texas, Southern Oregon University, the Bank of Georgetown (DC and MD), Stevens Pass, Diamond Packaging, and Sandy Alexander are the first to sign the Renewable Energy Markets Association (REMA) "5 Year Renewable Energy Pledge." The national program, which was announced today, recognizes organizations that make a long-term commitment to voluntarily purchase renewable energy for at least the next five years. Today's official REMA-led program launch is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership, Center for Resource

Solutions, and the founding companies, organizations, and municipalities. [Read more](#).
Source: Renewable Energy Markets Association, 11/8/11

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

A Clean Energy Resource Too Large to be Ignored – Geothermal Power Gains Steam

Geothermal power's been something of an orphan when it comes to the drive to transition from fossil fuel to clean, renewable energy economies. That's despite the release of recent studies showing that the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia—Western Australia in particular—have geothermal resources that dwarf their energy needs, and despite the fact that it's a proven, time-tested, economic source of clean, reliable baseload power. [Read more](#). *Source: Triple Pundit, 11/28/11*

Wind Turbines and Bird Fatalities

A bird mortality event at a wind farm had nothing to do with wind turbines. If you want to protect birds, outlaw cats. And windows.

Last month, biologists found 484 bird carcasses at the AES-owned Laurel Mountain wind installation in West Virginia.

The mass mortality event did not involve turbines.

Despite the carnage that lies ahead for turkeys this holiday season in the U.S., most people are pro-bird. There are very few anti-bird initiatives. And nobody wants to connect the naturalists' phrase 'mass mortality event' with them.

But mass mortality events happen. They happen to whales. And seals. And the bees and the birds. [Read more](#). *Source: Wall Street Journal Eco:nomics, 11/22/11*

Oil and Gas Wells Could be Used to Generate Geothermal Power

Scientists believe that abandoned oil and gas wells could be an untapped source of geothermal energy.

As [New Scientist](#) reports, because a significant portion of the cost of geothermal power involves drilling deep down into the Earth's surface to reach areas hot enough to

generate power, already available old oil and gas wells could potentially be a great alternative.

Xianbiao Bu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences believes that these wells could easily be retrofitted to circulate water that could make it easy to tap into the geothermal energy. Each well could produce around 54 kilowatts of energy, a number that becomes more significant when you factor in the 2.5 million abandoned wells across the United States. *Source: Good Clean Tech, 11/22/11*

Clayton seeking help in meeting Green Power Community status

Clayton is asking residents and business owners to help maintain the city's status as the first Missouri city to achieve the Environmental Protection Agency's designation as a Green Power Community.

The EPA requires that by the end of 2011 3 percent of the power used in the city must come from green sources.

To attain that, city officials are urging that by Dec. 31 residents and businesses install solar devices on homes or businesses or enroll in a voluntary green power program.

For details or to enroll, send the resident's or business's name, Ameren Missouri billing address and phone number to Clayton's GPC leader, [Cindy Bambini](#). *Source: St. Louis Today Suburban Journal, 11/22/11*

EIA: U.S. has large geothermal resources, but recent growth is slower than wind or solar

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) geothermal is one of the main renewable energy sources used to generate U.S. electricity, even though its growth has not been as strong as wind and solar over the last three years during a big push to increase generation from renewables. Geothermal energy's greatest growth potential is in the western states.

U.S. geothermal net electricity generation totaled 10,898 million kilowatthours (kWh) during the first eight months of 2011, up 10% from the same period in 2008, according to the latest data from EIA's Electric Power Monthly report. The data in the report reflects power generation facilities of 1 megawatt or larger. Geothermal energy also provides heating and cooling for three million Americans. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration via Penn Energy, 11/21/11*

Energy storage: not so fast

Markets should determine right application, right price

I was among those who reviewed the California Energy Commission's recently released "2020 Strategic Analysis of Energy Storage in California" report, referenced in Phil Carson's column last week, "Energy Storage, EVs and Collaboration." I was listed as an "advisor" to the CEC process that produced the report. In his column, Carson lamented that dissenting views were not published with the report. I'll provide such a view here.

While I agree that storage could be an attractive resource as California pursues the 33 percent renewable portfolio standard (RPS) target, in my view the report is biased toward advocacy and does not give enough weight to several other critical factors. [Read more](#). *Source: Intelligent Utility, 11/20/11*

Wind turbine to bring inexpensive power to utilities agency

Social Media Tools Share

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is getting ready to hit the "on" switch for its latest project just in time for the windy season.

On Nov. 29, the wind turbine situated on Etiwanda Avenue north of Sixth Street will go online and begin producing cheap, clean energy for the regional utilities agency.

"With all of the green projects out there, we try to be leaders and be environmentally responsible," said Michael Camacho, IEUA board member whose district includes Rancho Cucamonga. "You almost wonder why we haven't looked at that in the past." [Read more](#). *Source: Power Engineering, 11/19/11*

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Stover experiments critical to Iowa's future in biofuels

If Iowa hopes to remain a leader in the next generation of biofuels beyond corn-based ethanol, it must figure out cost-effective ways to pick up the cornstalks and leaves left behind at harvest.

That is what several machines have been doing on fields in northern Story County this fall to practice gathering for a noncorn or cellulosic biomass ethanol plant that DuPont will open by 2013 near Nevada.

The same exercise has happened the last three years in a 35-mile radius around Emmetsburg, where Poet of Sioux Falls, S.D., has begun work on a cellulosic plant scheduled to open in 2013. [Read more](#). *Source: Des Moines Register, 11/17/11*

U.S. Navy's Self Defense Test Ship Successfully Transits on Alternative Fuel Blend

The U.S. Navy successfully concluded its largest demonstration of shipboard alternative fuel use Nov. 17, with the successful arrival of the Self Defense Test Ship (SDTS) to Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme, Calif.

The SDTS is a decommissioned Spruance-class destroyer ex-Paul F. Foster (EDD 964) reconfigured to provide the Navy an at-sea, remotely controlled, engineering test and evaluation platform without the risk to personnel or operational assets.

The ship received approximately 20,000 gallons of a 50-50 blend of an algae-derived, hydro-processed algal oil and petroleum F-76 from the Defense Fuel Supply Point at Naval Base Point Loma, Nov. 16. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Navy, 11/16/11*

New geothermal maps show vast potential energy source

Geothermal energy is hardly new. There is evidence that it was used in the U.S. as early as the 1800s. In 1904, a fellow named Piero Ginori Conti opened the first geothermal plant in Larderello, Italy. It was a dry steam reservoir that was used to generate electricity.

But geothermal, like a lot of alternative energy technologies, barely registers in a nation that still depends mostly on oil and coal. Currently, there is only about 3,000 megawatts of installed geothermal energy capacity in the U.S., according to the Southern Methodist University Geothermal Laboratory. That's in a nation with a total energy generating capacity, from all sources, of 1 million megawatts. [Read more](#). *Source: Los Angeles Times Money & Company blog, 11/9/11*

Company moves ahead with SLV solar farm plans

Move comes a week after Xcel Energy announcement that it would hold off on buying green power from utility-scale plants.

A solar developer moved ahead this week with its land-use application for two 100-megawatt plants despite the intention of the state's largest utility to hold off on the purchase of utility-scale green energy for the next seven years.

California-based SolarReserve submitted an application for a land-use permit to the Saguache County Board of Commissioners for the two plants, which would sit on roughly 4,000 acres northeast of Center.

No company officials were on hand for the submission of the application, which was turned in via county land-use staff.

SolarReserve has yet to secure financing for the plants or a power-purchase agreement for its power, according to the application.

The lone buyer of solar energy from the valley's four utility-scale plants has been Xcel Energy. [Read more](#). *Source: Pueblo Chieftain, 11/10/11*

Congressman Grijalva and Energy Leaders Celebrate Arizona's Newest Solar Project at Dedication Event in Florence

Congressman Raul Grijalva today joined state and local officials and energy industry leaders to celebrate Arizona's newest and largest commercial-scale solar power project at the dedication of Iberdrola Renewables' Copper Crossing Solar Ranch in Florence.

Located in Pinal County, the 20-megawatt project sits on 144 acres and began operation earlier this year. Under a 25-year agreement, Salt River Project will purchase the entire output of the project, which is expected to provide enough clean, homegrown energy to power about 3,700 homes each year. [Read more](#). *Source: SRP, 11/8/11*

Direct current electricity could cut power bills, claims creator

The creator of a home electricity system that uses direct current claims it could cut users' bills by up to 30 percent.

Moixa Technology this week unveiled its Smart DC network, which uses solar panels and off-peak grid electricity stored in batteries to power electronic devices in the home such as televisions, laptops, mobile phones and LED lighting.

This reduces energy losses associated with converting alternative current from mains sockets into DC (up to 45 per cent), which most small electronic devices run on, or with converting DC generated by solar panels into AC to sell to the grid (up to 15 per cent).

[Read more](#). Source: *The Engineer*, 10/12/11

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Renewable Energy for America: Harvesting the Benefits of Homegrown Renewable Energy

Investing in renewable energy development will create good, green jobs, boost local and regional economies, strengthen our national security and help curb global warming. This [interactive map](#) will help you figure out where and how harvesting homegrown, clean, renewable energy makes economic sense: Click on a state to zoom in for detailed county-specific information. Use the options below to select the types of facilities and types of energy potential you would like to view. Source: *Natural Resource Defense Council*, 11/23/11

Berkeley National Laboratory announces publications

The team of renewable energy analysts at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has published a number of journal papers, conference proceedings papers, and book chapters. Please contact the authors for more information. Note that many of these papers are based on previous LBNL research that was distributed via LBNL reports some time ago:

- [Wind Energy Facilities and Residential Properties: The Effect of Proximity and View on Sales Prices](#)
Corresponding Authors: [Ben Hoen](#), 845-758-1896; and [Ryan Wiser](#), 510-486-5474.
- [Financial Innovation Among the Community Wind Sector in the United States](#) — Chapter in [Wind Energy International 2011/2012](#).
Corresponding Author: [Mark Bolinger](#), 603-795-4937.
- [The Impact of Rate Design and Net Metering on the Bill Savings from Distributed PV for Residential Customers in California](#), based on an [LBNL report](#).
Corresponding Author: [Naim Darghouth](#), 510-486-4570.

- [Supporting Solar Power in Renewables Portfolio Standards: Experience from the United States](#), based on an [LBNL report](#).
Corresponding Author: [Galen Barbose](#), 510-495-2593.
- [Implications of Geographic Diversity for Short-term Variability and Predictability of Solar Power](#), based on an [LBNL report](#).
Corresponding Author: [Andrew Mills](#), 510-486-4059.
- [The Cost of Transmission for Wind Energy in the United States: A Review of Transmission Planning Studies](#), based on an [LBNL report](#).
Corresponding Author: [Andrew Mills](#), 510-486-4059.
- [Exploration of Resource and Transmission Expansion Decisions in the Western Renewable Energy Zone Initiative](#), based on an [LBNL report](#).
Corresponding Author: [Andrew Mills](#), 510-486-4059.
- [IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation](#).
Corresponding Author: [Ryan Wiser](#), 510-486-5474.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 11/23/11

Geothermal Energy Weekly for Nov. 22

The [Geothermal Energy Weekly](#) news update for Nov. 22 is now available. *Source: Geothermal Energy Association, 11/22/11*

NREL releases 2010 Renewable Energy Data Book

This Renewable Energy Data Book for 2010 provides facts and figures on energy in general, renewable electricity in the United States, global renewable energy development, wind power, solar energy, geothermal power, biopower, hydropower, advanced water power, hydrogen, renewable fuels, and clean energy investments. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 11/22/11*

West Coast Geothermal Energy Finance Forum 2012

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) will be holding a one-day Geothermal Energy Finance Forum on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, at the Marriott Marquis in San Francisco, Calif. This program will bring the finance and investment community of the east and west coasts together and provide a tutorial on geothermal energy investment with top experts and major players in geothermal development and finance. The day's agenda includes presentations and panel discussion on; project development, financing and investment, geothermal risk and reward, international development, government finance and incentives, and case studies from developers and financiers with recent success stories. With a growing demand for sustainable energy, geothermal energy is a

fast growing clean, renewable energy source. [Read more](#). Source: *Geothermal Energy Association, 11/21/11*

Small Wind Certification Council November Newsletter

We are thrilled to announce the release of the first Small Wind Certification Council (SWCC) full certification!

The first fully SWCC-certified wind turbine model signifies a major step forward in creating consistent consumer ratings and aiding incentive programs with eligibility determinations. Our Certification Commission, governing Board, organizational structure and staffing are ready to ramp up and quickly process several additional testing results and analysis reports expected in the coming weeks, spurred in part by the California Energy Commission's reopening of its Emerging Renewables Program with immediate certification requirements.

Out of the 28 turbine models actively under contract to pursue SWCC certification, 16 have either started or completed testing. Four of these have achieved SWCC Conditional Temporary Certification based on their certified status under the UK's Microgeneration Certification Scheme.

Several applicants have indicated plans to pursue SWCC's new Limited Power Performance Certification option to certify power curve results before duration testing is complete. SWCC's Board has adopted a set of Policy updates to clarify details of the certification and public disclosure process, described below.

SWCC encourages funding agencies, utilities, consumer advocates and other stakeholders to continue pressing small wind turbine manufacturers for timely independent certification results.

In this issue:

- [First Certification Complete](#)
- [New State Guidelines](#)
- [Unified Eligibility List](#)
- [SWCC Policy Updates](#)
- [Board Member Profile](#)

Source: *Small Wind Certification Council, 11/18/11*

Take Advantage of Learning and Networking Opportunities with a SEPA Scholarship

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) is pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships for utility employees to attend one of SEPA's upcoming conferences in 2012.

- PV America West, March 19-21, San Jose, CA
- Utility Solar Conference, April 17-18, Tucson, AZ
- Solar Power International, September 10-13, Orlando, FL

Scholarship recipients will receive a complimentary full conference registration, plus a travel stipend for coach airfare and hotel accommodations. More details and eligibility requirements are listed in the application.

Questions about the scholarship program can be directed to [Jessica Sliva](#) via email. **APPLY NOW!** *Source: Solar Electric Power Association, 11/10/11*

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

News from Washington

FERC Issues Proposed Rule on Annual Charges for Use of Government Lands by Hydropower Licensees

Responding to a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued earlier this year (for more information see our January 14, 2011 Alert), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on November 17, 2011 issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Proposed Rule) to revise the way it calculates annual charges for hydropower licensees' use of federal lands. FERC's Proposed Rule is substantially changed from its annual charges rule that it attempted to implement in 2009. The Proposed Rule, if adopted, would result in significantly higher annual charges for many hydropower licensees occupying federal lands. [Read more](#). *Source: VanNess Feldman, 11/22/11*

Secretary Chu: We Can Win Clean Energy Battle

Seven trillion dollars are at stake in the global battle to win market share in renewable energy and the United States can win that battle, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu said during stops in Colorado.

Chu toured a GE-PrimeStar Solar plant in Arvada, Colo., on Nov. 18 that he said was a stellar example of American invention leading to American jobs. Later the same day, he toured the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colo. and spoke to a gathering of NREL and DOE employees.

At PrimeStar, Chu noted that the company adopted technology developed at NREL to build thin film solar panels made of cadmium and telluride. The technology can be more efficient than silicon solar cells and cost much less — because it uses 99 percent less chemical material than more conventional cells. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 11/21/11*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Apple set to build a solar-powered data center in N Carolina

Apple, ranked the least green of the big tech companies earlier this year, is moving quietly to repair its reputation by switching its vast east coast data center from coal to solar power.

Officials in North Carolina say the company is preparing to build a solar farm next to its US\$1 billion data center in Maiden.

The facility could help Apple recover from a Greenpeace report earlier this year which said its cloud-computing operations — run from centers such as the one in North Carolina — were heavily reliant on dirty energy such as coal.

Tech companies are notoriously secretive about their data centers and the energy that powers them. A spokeswoman for Apple would confirm only that the company was preparing the ground next to its center. [Read more](#). *Source: Taipei Times, 11/25/11*

Colorado PUC Approves Xcel PPA

The Denver Post is reporting that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved a contract for Xcel Energy to buy 200 MW of wind energy in Limon, Colo.

According to the newspaper, the PUC voted 3-0 to approve the deal, with members saying the fixed wind-power costs would be a hedge against volatile natural-gas prices. The charge for the electricity from the Limon facility will start at \$27.50/MWh. Since

2007, Xcel's average purchase cost for wind has been \$42.16. [Read more](#). Source: *North American Windpower*, 11/22/11

Iowa wind developer orders 87MW of Nordex turbines

German turbine manufacturer Nordex has won 87.5MW in orders for wind farms in the US state of Iowa.

The 35 N100/2500 machines will be delivered to developer RPM Access for deployment at its Hawkeye and Rippey wind farms.

Work has begun on both projects and turbine delivery is scheduled for May and June next year, with commercial operation due by October.

Electricity from both developments has been bought by Central Iowa Power Cooperative under a long-term power purchase agreement.

[RPM Access](#) has already used Nordex turbines at its Elk Wind Farm development in the state.

The turbine nacelles for the latest machines will be produced at [Nordex's](#) plant in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Source: *ReCharge News*, 11/18/11

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

EPA, DOE Partner to Develop Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are evaluating the feasibility of developing renewable energy production on Superfund, brownfields, and former landfill or mining sites. As part of the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative, EPA is investing approximately \$1 million for projects across the United States aiming to revitalize abandoned sites while protecting people's health, the environment and providing economic benefits to local communities, including job creation.

"The RE-Powering America's Land Initiative is not just about using these sites for energy production but using these sites to re-energize communities," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency

Response. "These studies are the first step to transforming these sites from eyesores today to community assets tomorrow." [Read me](#). *Source: All American Patriots, 11/4/11*

Department of Energy to Invest \$60 Million to Develop Innovative Concentrating Solar Power Technologies

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced a \$60 million investment over three years for applied scientific research to advance cutting-edge Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) technologies. CSP technologies use mirrors to reflect and concentrate sunlight to produce heat, which can then be used to produce electricity. Funded through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, this research supports DOE's SunShot Initiative, a collaborative national effort to reduce the cost of solar energy 75% to make it cost competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade. DOE's SunShot investments in solar energy research will encourage rapid, widespread adoption of solar energy systems across the country, help the solar power industry overcome technical barriers and reduce costs, boost U.S. competitiveness in the worldwide market for solar technologies, and provide support for clean energy jobs for years to come. [Read more](#). *Source: US DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 10/25/11*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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