



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 September 19, 2011

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Previous issues](#)

Green Power

Is Tennis' US Open The Greenest Big Sporting Event In The Nation?

I don't know if the United States Tennis Association puts on the greenest major sporting even in the country, of even if you could define that, but the US Open, held over the first two weeks of September at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens, New York, certainly has to be close to the top.

TreeHugger has been following the USTA's green initiatives for the past couple of years. Here's an update on the Open's ambitious energy, recycling, composting and transportation programs. [Read more](#). Source: *Treehugger*, 9/9/11

BlueCross Goes Solar

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee is adding solar to its environmentally friendly repertoire. BlueCross is partnering with Sustainable Future of Knoxville to install a 198.24kW solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the Gateway Building in downtown Chattanooga.

The system will be the largest installation in the area. [Read more](#). Source: *The Chatanooga*, 9/9/11

Green Power Network Update for August 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.

Announcements

- [Renewable Energy Markets 2011 Conference](#)

News

- [Deluxe Corporations Ranks Highest Among Printers for Green Power Purchasing](#)
- [Santa Barbara Solar Group Purchasing Program Installs 205 kW](#)
- [Oregon Universities Break Ground on 5 MW Solar](#)
- [Viridian Energy Launches Green Power Service for Chicago Customers](#)
- [Lord & Taylor Stores to be 100% Wind Powered](#)
- [DIA Adds 4.4 MW of Solar Power](#)

Renewable Energy RFPs

- [Great River Energy](#)
- [The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [Project Navigator Ltd.](#)

Source: Green Power Network, 9/1/11

Google uses MORE power than Salt Lake City as vast data farms suck up electricity

Google has revealed how much energy it consumes to power YouTube, Gmail and its other services in the internet 'cloud'—and it's enough to power the capital of Utah.

But bosses behind the search engine giant have launched a defence of the unprecedented reveal of its energy consumption.

According to Google Senior Vice-President Urs Hoelzle, the company has maintained a carbon-neutral imprint since 2007. [Read more](#). *Source: Daily Mail Reporter, 9/9/11*

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

The Installed Cost of Solar Photovoltaic Systems in the U.S. Declined Significantly in 2010 and 2011

The installed cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems in the United States fell substantially in 2010 and into the first half of 2011, according to the latest edition of an annual PV cost tracking report released by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab).

The average installed cost of residential and commercial PV systems completed in 2010 fell by roughly 17 percent from the year before, and by an additional 11 percent within the first six months of 2011. These recent installed cost reductions are attributable, in part, to dramatic reductions in the price of PV modules. Galen Barbose of Berkeley Lab's Environmental Energy Technologies Division and co-author of the report explains, "Wholesale PV module prices have fallen precipitously since about 2008, and those upstream cost reductions have made their way through to consumers." [Read more](#). Source: *Livermore Berkeley Laboratory, 9/15/11*

DOE Webinar September 22: The U.S. Billion-Ton Update

The U.S. Department of Energy will host a webinar on Thursday, September 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. EDT about the 2011 U.S. Billion-Ton Update: Biomass Supply for a Bioenergy and Bioproducts Industry, a report detailing biomass feedstock potential nationwide. The report examines the nation's capacity to produce a billion dry tons of biomass resources annually for energy uses without impacting other vital U.S. farm and forest products, such as food, feed, and fiber crops. It provides industry, policymakers, and the agricultural community with county-level data and includes analyses of current U.S. feedstock capacity and the potential for growth in crops and agricultural products for clean energy applications. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 9/13/11*

Second Wind's Sonic Wind Profiler Increases Productivity (Ind. Report)

A Colorado-based research team recently completed a major wind study using [Second Wind's](#) Triton® Sonic Wind Profiler to learn more about one of wind power's biggest unknowns, the wake effect, and its impact on turbine productivity. Triton is one of several remote sensing technologies that TWICS (the Turbine Wake and Inflow Characterization Study) has used to create a detailed, 3D model of the turbulence caused when wind passes over rotating turbine blades. The project's goal is to understand how to enhance wind farms' productivity. Turbine inflow and wake observations will be integrated into a wind energy forecasting model. Understanding how gusts and rapid changes in wind direction affect turbine operations will enable turbine manufacturers to improve design standards and increase efficiency, which will ultimately reduce the cost of energy.

The study is aimed at capturing turbulence and other wake effects in a broad wedge of air up to 7 km (4.3 miles) long and 1 km (3,280 feet) high in front of and behind a multi-MW wind turbine. Triton, along with tower-mounted sensors and other remote sensing systems, profiles the winds in front of and behind a 130-meter high wind turbine located at NREL's National Wind Technology center near Boulder, Colo.

Triton is an advanced remote sensing system that uses SODAR (sound detection and ranging) technology to measure wind in the areas that most affect a wind turbine's performance. By measuring wind speeds at the turbine rotor's hub height and beyond, Triton reduces uncertainty in annual energy production forecasts. Tritons are being used throughout the wind industry, alone or in conjunction with met towers, to streamline the wind farm development process and to improve wind farm operations. (Source: Second Wind, September, 8, 2011) Contact: [Julie Lundquist](#), University of Colorado at Boulder, 303-492-8932; Larry Letteney, CEO, Second Wind, 617-776-8520. *Source: EPOverviews, 9/12/11*

Solar An Economic Bright Spot In US

The United States domestic solar industry continues to be a bright spot in an otherwise down economy, according to a recent report by Solar Energy Industries Association and GTM Research.

The US solar power industry, according to the report, was a global net exporter last year. U.S. solar firms achieved a positive trade flow of \$1.9 billion. Photovoltaic (PV) components accounted for more than 99 percent of the year's exports, with solar heating and cooling claiming the remainder of the positive balance. [Read more](#). *Source: Earth Techling, 9/11/11*

Project of the Week: Stillwater Solar Installation

The world's first solar-geothermal power plant

Last month, at the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced the groundbreaking of the world's first solar-geothermal power plant in Churchill County, Nevada. Enel Green Power will develop the Stillwater solar facility, installing more than 81,000 PV modules to generate an additional 24 megawatts-ac of peak energy at the existing geothermal plant. Adding solar capacity at the current Stillwater facility will not only improve the plant's electrical production, but will also allow use of the existing infrastructure and reduce the environmental impact of the project. The solar retrofit, which is supported by Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, will be an important test run for future projects combining renewable energy sources. Power from the project will be sold to NV Energy upon completion in 2012. *Source: Green Tech Media, 9/4/11*

NREL data set shows clouds' effects on solar power

Measurement stations in Hawaii gauge second-by-second impact

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has produced and made available a rich data set showing what happens, second-by-second, when clouds pass over a solar power installation.

Seventeen measurement stations near Hawaii's Honolulu International Airport on the island of Oahu collected data at 1-second intervals over the course of a year.

The data set is of great interest to utilities, developers of large-scale photovoltaic (PV) systems, forecasters, system operators, laboratories and universities.

By understanding the characteristics of cloud shadows that pass across a large PV system, utility officials can devise strategies to better manage those fluctuations so the grid isn't adversely impacted. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 8/31/11

Hog waste producing electricity and carbon offsets

A pilot waste-to-energy system constructed by Duke University and Duke Energy this week garnered the endorsement of Google Inc., which invests in high-quality carbon offsets from across the nation to fulfill its own carbon neutrality goals. The system, on a hog finishing facility 25 miles west of Winston-Salem, converts hog waste into electricity and creates carbon offset credits. By capturing greenhouse gases from hog waste and burning them to run a turbine, the system produces enough electricity to power 35 homes for a year. It is expected to be able to prevent the release of greenhouse gases equivalent to nearly 5,000 metric tons of CO₂ per year, which is like taking 900 cars off the road. The \$1.2 million prototype system was built at Loyd Ray Farms, a 9,000-head hog finishing operation northwest of Yadkinville, N.C. It is intended to serve as a model for other hog farms seeking to manage waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and develop on-farm renewable power. [Read more](#). Source: *Electric Light and Power*, 9/10/11

A New Wind Turbine Built for Small Buildings

Sauer Energy, the latest entrant in the small wind-turbine market, will launch commercial production of its WindCharger vertical-axis wind turbine in November, and is on schedule to begin distribution in early 2012, the company said. The WindCharger prototype debuted in May, at the WindPower 2011 Conference and Exhibition. According to Sauer, the vertical-axis turbine is cheap to manufacture, contains few moving parts and is designed to be installed by a single worker. [Read more](#). Source: *Earth Techling*, 9/6/11

Primus Green Energy Expands Drop-In Fuel Development Plant in N.J., Increases Total Production Capacity

Primus Green Energy ("Primus"), the leader in renewable, drop-in fuel, has expanded its U.S.-based development facility in New Jersey, enabling the company to build its complete,

integrated thermal-chemical process. Primus' game-changing process for converting biomass into gasoline produces a "drop-in" fuel that can immediately and without modification be distributed, sold and consumed in exactly the same way as standard petroleum-based gasoline using existing infrastructure. [Read more](#). *Source: Market Watch, 9/7/11*

PUD to drill nearly a mile deep in search of geothermal power

The hope of generating geothermal power in Snohomish County could take a giant leap forward in the next few months.

Or, it could send the Snohomish County Public Utility District back to the drawing board.

The PUD in the next couple of weeks plans to begin drilling an exploratory well for geothermal power.

The PUD will drill a hole nearly a mile into the earth in the Cascades and send down a special thermometer to test the water temperature, said Craig Collar, senior manager for energy resource development for the PUD.

Geothermal power is created when steam, heat or hot water from underground reservoirs is used to spin turbine generators. The water is heated by magma farther below. [Read more](#). *Source: Everett, Wash., Daily Herald, 9/3/11*

Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Nevada Utilizes Geothermal Energy

The Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, Nevada, has declared the installation completion of geothermal energy at the resort. The installed facility has entirely substituted the natural gas boilers used for heating its domestic water and for providing heat inside the 2.1 million sq. ft. building.

Earlier in 2007, the resort had implemented geothermal energy for the purpose of heating its household hot water for the Tuscany tower in addition to heating its spas, two outdoor swimming pools, fitness center, and the 43,000 sq ft Spa Toscana. As a part of its initiative to bring down its carbon footprint and to increase its clean energy usage, the company has utilized the services of Reno placed Geo Hills Associates for constructing a new well. The company has also utilized the data collected from its earlier drilling process, which resulted in a rejection well. Dr. Jim Combs of Geo Hills had identified and recommended a potential well site within the property for drilling. [Read more](#). *Source: A to Z Cleantech, 9/6/11*

California Hits a Renewable Energy Home Run

The California Public Utility Commission may be redefining the way we view subsidies for renewable energy. Instead of a government defined feed-in tariff, which is often slow to react and leads to wild swings in demand, California is instituting an auction system that acts similar

to a Dutch auction. This is an auction plan looks eerily similar to a reverse auction this Fool suggested months ago. [Read more](#). *Source: The Motley Fool, 8/22/11*

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

The Installed Cost of Solar Photovoltaic Systems in the U.S. Declined Significantly in 2010 and 2011

The installed cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems in the United States fell substantially in 2010 and into the first half of 2011, according to the latest edition of an annual PV cost tracking report released by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab).

The average installed cost of residential and commercial PV systems completed in 2010 fell by roughly 17 percent from the year before, and by an additional 11 percent within the first six months of 2011. These recent installed cost reductions are attributable, in part, to dramatic reductions in the price of PV modules. Galen Barbose of Berkeley Lab's Environmental Energy Technologies Division and co-author of the report explains: "Wholesale PV module prices have fallen precipitously since about 2008, and those upstream cost reductions have made their way through to consumers." [Read more](#). *Source: Berkeley National Laboratory, 9/15/11*

New 'Freeing the Grid' Report Shows State-Level Renewable Energy Policy Progress

Advocates Release National Report Card and Policy Guide on Net Metering, Interconnection

Renewable energy advocates today released the 2010 Edition of Freeing the Grid, a policy guide that grades states on two key programs: net metering and interconnection procedures. Together these policies empower energy customers to use solar and other renewables to meet their own electricity needs. Now in its fourth year of publication, the 2010 report indicates that states continue to drive progress in the nation's renewable energy economy. [Read more](#). *Source: Network for New Energy Choices, December 2010*

National Geothermal Summit presentations available

If you were unable to attend the GEA National Geothermal Summit in Reno, NV, Aug. 16 to 17, you can now download the [workshop presentations](#). Login with the username: geo; and password: energy#1. *Source: Geothermal Energy Association, 9/12/11*

Dow Corning and U.S. Department of Energy Introduce New Solar Curriculum to Encourage Students to Learn About Energy

Dow Corning, a global researcher, developer and manufacturer of the silicon-based materials used in many renewable energy technologies, is introducing a new middle school curriculum focused on solar energy. The curriculum was developed in partnership with the Earth Day Network (EDN), the American Chemistry Society (ACS) and National Education Association (NEA), and introduces students in grades 5-8 to the principles and potential of renewable energy by showcasing solar power and energy efficiency innovations. [Read more](#). *Source: Glass on Web, 9/12/11*

Energy Institute report looks at renewable generation economics

"The Private and Public Economics of Renewable Electricity Generation," the latest in the Working Paper Series by the Energy Institute at Haas, offers an in-depth cost benefits analysis of alternative energy. [Read more](#). *Source: Berkeley Laboratory, 9/12/11*

NREL reports focus on transmission, integration issues

The Transmission and Grid Integration Group at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has published two new reports:

- [Operating Reserves and Variable Generation. A comprehensive review of current strategies, studies, and fundamental research on the impact that increased penetration of variable renewable generation has on power system operating reserves](#)
- [Advanced Unit Commitment Strategies in the United States Eastern Interconnection](#)

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 9/8/11

The CGEC has a new look!

The California Geothermal Energy Collaborative has recently revamped its website and added additional features. [Take a look](#) at it today. If you have geothermal related events or news that you would like posted on our site, please e-mail [Elise Brown](#).

Features:

- Look up utility, local, state and federal incentives by technology on our "Incentives" page
- Tell us about your GHP system experience
- Learn about geothermal energy in all of its forms
- View recent geothermal news
- Look up geothermal events such as trainings and conferences

- Read our publications
- Use an interactive map to find us
- Like us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Twitter](#)
- Sign up for our [RSS feed](#)

Source: California Geothermal Energy Collaborative, 9/9/11

Industry Hears Details of New FERC Energy Strategy

The Obama administration is briefing industry on a new energy strategy that could create a fast-track approval process for major transmission lines serving renewable energy projects, according to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff comments on the plan.

Under the plan, the Energy Department would delegate to FERC the current DOE authority under the 2005 Energy Policy Act to designate corridors in the United States where power line congestion is most severe. Administration officials hope that the handoff would revitalize FERC's authority under the 2005 legislation to approve and site specific high-profile transmission projects if states fail to act on them. [Read more](#). *Source: New York Times, 9/7/11*

EESI Releases Annual Report with Top Accomplishments of 2010

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute's 2010 annual report is now available!

Never has it been more urgent to move away from fossil fuels and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy. At EESI, we are committed to advancing policy solutions based on sound science and input from a variety of stakeholders. Our annual report outlines our top accomplishments in advancing sustainable energy policy that will slow the effects of global warming, strengthen our economy and national security, and create healthy, sustainable communities. [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 9/8/11*

More than 100 Valley schools purchase solar energy from state's largest solar plant

New Copper Crossing Solar Ranch will generate energy from 66,000+ solar panels on 144 acres in Florence

More than 100 schools in 11 Valley school districts are tapping into the power of the sun this school year to offset a portion of their electric needs. The school districts have agreed to participate in SRP's new Community Solar program and are among the first customers to receive energy from the new Copper Crossing Solar Ranch in Florence.

Copper Crossing Solar Ranch is now producing 20 megawatts of solar energy - enough to power approximately 3,700 SRP customers' homes. The recently completed facility, Iberdrola Renewables' first solar plant in the United States and the largest in Arizona, contains approximately 66,000 high-efficiency solar panels manufactured by SunPower Corp., is located on 144 acres and uses very little water. [Read more](#). *Source: SRP, 9/6/11*

NMAI and Tribes Launch Environmental Website

Working in partnership with four Indian tribes, the [Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian](#) (NMAI) has launched a website that demonstrates how tribes use traditional culture, values, and indigenous knowledge in combination with science and technology to tackle environmental issues.

The site, called "[American Indian Responses to Environmental Challenges](#)" is designed to educate middle school and high school students and teachers. Visitors to the website can watch up to 20 different videos, explore images and objects from the museum's collection, learn Native terms, and test their knowledge by taking quizzes. In addition, the site has an interactive element that enables students to document environmental issues of their own and upload their work to the website.

Environmental stewardship is a deeply held Native cultural value that remains important to many American Indians to this day. The website shows visitors how American Indian communities are dealing with contemporary environmental and cultural issues. The partnering tribes that assisted with this website are the Akwesasne Mohawk of New York, the Campo Kumeyaay Nation of California, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe of Minnesota, and the Lummi Nation of Washington. *Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 9/2/11*

ISO/RTO Releases Renewable Energy Integration Effort Analysis - Reports Attached (Ind. Report)

The ISO/RTO Council has released a briefing paper on variable energy resources, system operations and wholesale markets. The paper looks at the efforts being made by independent system operators (ISOs) and regional transmission organizations (RTOs) to integrate variable energy resources such as wind and solar power.

The variable nature of many renewable resources is prompting changes in market design and system operations, the council says. Although conventional electricity generating resources are relatively stable, schedulable and controllable, and markets and system operating procedures were originally designed around these characteristics, the need to effectively and reliably integrate variable resources has spurred the industry to develop new approaches, processes and tools. (Source: ISO/RTO Council, August, 31, 2011)

The [briefing paper](#) is available from the ISO/RTO Council, and a [more comprehensive paper](#) has been filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. *Source: EP Overviews, 9/7/11*

Nationwide Utility Rates Now on Open EI

NREL researchers Debbie Brodt-Giles and Graham Hill examine some of the web pages available to the public through OpenEI.org, a new site where consumers, scientists, and utility representatives can get information on energy.

Utility rates from cities all across the United States are now available in one place — the U.S. Department of Energy's Open Energy Information platform, or OpenEI.org.

Am I paying too much for electricity? Does it make sense for me to put solar panels on my roof? Should I lease my land to wind-farm developers?

Consumers and businesses are asking, and OpenEI provides the answers. Developed by the DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, OpenEI is where energy officials and consumers alike can go to boost their energy IQs and make better decisions. [Read more](#).

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 9/6/11

Welcome to the Community Wind Toolbox

The Community Wind Handbook offers high-quality practical information for farmers and rural landowners looking to develop commercial-scale wind projects.

The core content of this Toolbox comes from The Community Wind Handbook, developed by Windustry on behalf of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and published December 15, 2006 by a partnership of the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, the Southwest Initiative Foundation, The Minnesota Project, Clean Energy Resource Teams, and the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council. [Read more](#). *Source: Windustry, 8/22/11*

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

News from Washington

DOE and FERC consider refinements to transmission siting policy

Update provided by Lori Pickford, Morgan Meguire

In early September, the [Department of Energy](#) (DOE) and the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) (FERC) issued a bold proposal to try to resuscitate the Federal “backstop” siting authority Congress authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005), which has been hamstrung by court decisions limiting its applicability and invalidating DOE designations of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETCs).

Under the new plan, DOE would, in steps, delegate to FERC its EPCRA 2005 authority to conduct congestion studies, designate NIETCs, and issue permits for construction of interstate transmission projects within project-specific NIETCs.

The DOE set up a [new website](#) to take comments on the revised proposal. *Source: NWPPA, 09/13/11*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

IEPR Committee Workshop on Draft Renewable Power in California: Status and Issues

The California Energy Commission's Integrated Energy Policy Report Committee conducted a workshop to take comments on the staff draft *Renewable Power in California: Status and Issues* report. [Read more](#). *Source: California Energy Commission, 9/15/11*

State of the Week: New Jersey

How political will and renewable energy policy influence the market

New Jersey was arguably the strongest major state market in the U.S. in 2010, growing the fastest of the major markets with yearly installations increasing 139 percent to 137 megawatts. Second only to California, New Jersey had a total installed capacity of approximately 260 megawatts, with 112.6 megawatts coming from non-residential installations, 19.7 megawatts from residential, and 4.8 megawatts from utility at year end.

Unlike other major markets, New Jersey's status in the U.S. PV market is influenced by political will and extensive renewable energy policy rather than abundant solar resources. The solar renewable energy credit (SREC) market in the state drives a significant amount of capacity installation. The credits are created through a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) which requires that a certain amount of energy generated in the state comes from solar. The price of SRECs is determined by the supply of solar generation and the demand to meet New Jersey's RPS requirements. [Read more](#). *Source: Greentech Media, 9/12/11*

\$20m to help support renewable energy research in Iowa

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$20 million, five-year grant to build Iowa's research capacity in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Iowa Power Fund, a state program supporting energy innovation and independence, has also granted the project \$2 million to pay for research equipment. [Read more](#). Source: *Bright Energy*, 9/12/11

CPUC Makes Changes To Self-Generation Incentive Program

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has updated its Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) by modifying the program's eligibility criteria, incentive amounts and payment structures.

Eligibility for participation in the SGIP will now be based on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. Technologies that achieve reductions in GHG emissions will be eligible for the program, including wind turbines, fuel cells, organic rankine cycle/waste heat capture, pressure reduction turbines, advanced energy storage, and combined heat and power gas turbines, micro-turbines and internal combustion engines. [Read more](#). Source: *Renew Grid Magazine*, 9/12/11

Barker: Boise State solar siting tool could help nascent industry

The Department of Energy has awarded the Center for Advanced Energy Studies \$2.8 million to study the suitability of locations for solar power plants.

The three-year project will examine critical factors including how much sun they get, how close they are to water and — importantly — the proximity to electric transmission facilities. [Read more](#). Source: *Idaho Statesman*, 9/12/11

EERE State News Monthly Report Aug. 1-31, 2011

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 Web site. 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.

- [\\$14.5 Million Made Available in Incentives for Building High Energy Efficient Homes](#) August 31
- [DOE Finalizes \\$852 Million Loan Guarantee for California Solar Plant](#) August 31
- [Interior Approves Transmission for California Solar Project](#) August 31
- [USDA Guarantees Loan to Florida Biofuels Facility](#) August 31
- [Kennebec Valley Community College's State-of-the-Art Solar Lab](#) August 31
- [DOE Finalizes \\$197 Million Loan Guarantee for Solar Manufacturing Facilities](#) August 24
- [DOE Offers a Conditional \\$133.9 Million Loan Guarantee for Bioenergy Plant](#) August 24

- [USDA Funds More Than 900 Renewable, Energy Efficiency Projects](#) August 24
- [Interior Launches Leasing Process for Wind Energy Offshore Rhode Island, Massachusetts](#) August 24
- [Energy Efficiency Funds Headed towards Louisiana State Prisons](#) August 19
- [Interior Department OKs 550 Megawatt Solar Project in California](#) August 17
- [DOE Finalizes \\$102 Million Loan Guarantee to Maine Wind Project](#) August 17
- [The Iowa Utilities Board Estimates: 20% of All Energy Generated in Iowa Is from Wind](#) August 16
- [Viridian Energy Launches Green Power Service for Chicago Customers](#) August 16
- [Arizona Solar Project Gets a \\$967 Million DOE Loan Guarantee](#) August 10
- [Governor Cuomo Signs Power NY Act of 2011](#) August 9
- [New Tool for Solar Homes SAVES Homeowners from Guesswork](#) August 5
- [Harnessing Tidal Power, While Protecting Marine Life](#) August 3
- [Solar Startup to Create 250 Jobs in North Carolina](#) August 3
- [USDA Creates New Biomass Production Projects](#) August 3

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 9/2/11

Solving Pak energy crisis

Although, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that it is difficult to overcome country's energy crisis in immediate term but there is still hope. Instead of spending billions on energy sector, Islamabad needs to make a clear and transparent policies on renewable so that public and private sectors can make necessary investments. [Read more](#). Source: *Pakistan Observer*, 9/7/11

Minnesota Green Jobs Program Sees Success

The BlueGreen Alliance Foundation's GreenPOWER job training program has come a long way in its first year. The program, which helps train Minnesotans for green jobs, has helped hundreds and recently celebrated its first birthday. [Read more](#). Source: *Earth Techling*, 9/7/11

Nevada's First Wind Energy Project Takes Off

We've seen a good deal about solar in Nevada, and geothermal in Nevada – and even solar and geothermal paired together in Nevada. But wind? Not so much. That's in line to change, however, as the 150-megawatt (MW) capacity Spring Valley Wind project kicks into gear.

Financing for what will be the state's first wind energy project has been secured, Pattern Energy Group announced. And that's a good thing, since the company held a ground breaking at the site, on public lands 30 miles east of Ely, back in June. [Read more](#). Source: *Earth Techling*, 9/8/11

Gov. Brown signs renewable energy legislation that could mean jobs

A renewable energy bill that could push clean-energy development and green jobs in the state's desert regions was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday

The law ABx1 13, sponsored by Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez, "streamlines" the permitting process for renewable energy projects within the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, according to a press release. [Read more](#). *Source: Imperial Valley Press, 8/31/11*

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Smart Grid, Transmission System Improvements to Create Jobs, Benefit Consumers in 14 States

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that rural electric cooperative utilities will receive funding for smart grid technologies and improvements to generation and transmission facilities. These loans will benefit more than 19,000 rural consumers in 14 states.

"Rural electric cooperatives provide direct jobs and support economic growth in our rural communities," Vilsack said. "By financing electrical system improvements USDA and the Obama Administration helps ensure sustainable growth and business job creation. Investments in smart grid technologies will give rural electric utilities and their consumers one more tool to better manage use of electricity, increase reliability and lower costs." [Read more](#). *Source: USDA, 8/29/11*

Department of Energy Awards up to \$38 Million to Advance Technology and Reduce Cost of Geothermal Energy

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced \$38 million over three years for projects to accelerate the development of promising geothermal energy technologies and help diversify America's sources of clean, renewable energy. Thirty-two innovative projects in 14 states will develop and test new ways to locate geothermal resources and improve resource characterization, drilling, and reservoir engineering techniques, which will enable geothermal energy sources to help reduce the nation's reliance on fossil fuels. Funded through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, these advances will play an important role in achieving President Obama's goal of generating 80% of U.S. electricity from clean energy sources by 2035.

[Read more](#). Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 9/8/11

Funding Opportunities available

Industrial Scale PV Applications – The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for PV Manufacturing Initiative Part 2: SUNPATH (Scaling Up Nascent PV AT Home). Through this RFP, DOE seeks industrial scale demonstration of the applicant's PV module, cells, or substrates that are at least 15 percent lower in cost per watt than the current market leading technology. \$50 million expected to be available, up to two awards anticipated. Responses due Oct. 28, 2011. Contact [SUNPATH](#). Refer to [Sol# DE-FOA-0000566](#). (Grants.gov 8/2/11)

Sustainability Research Networks – The National Science Foundation requests proposals for the Sustainability Research Networks Competition. Through this competition, NSF, in partnership with other agencies, international efforts, and the private sector, aims to support members of the academic research community for projects which produce discoveries and knowledge that will inform decisions leading to environmental, energy, social and cultural sustainability. \$36 million is expected to be available, up to four awards anticipated. Preliminary proposals due Dec. 1, 2011, final proposals due April 1, 2012. For more information, visit the [National Science Foundation](#) website. Refer to [NSF 11-574](#). (Grants.gov 8/25/11)

Undergraduate Environmental Fellowships – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals from undergraduate bachelor level students in environmental fields of study for the [Greater Research Opportunities Fellowships Program](#). Areas of interest include: Natural and Life Sciences; Environmental Sciences and Interdisciplinary Programs; Engineering; Social Sciences; Physical Sciences and Earth Sciences; and Mathematics and Computer Science. \$1.956 million is expected to be available, up to 40 awards anticipated. Individual awards not to exceed \$48,900. Responses due Dec. 12, 2011. Contact [Georgette Boddie](#). Each area of interest has a different RFP number. (Grants.gov 8/23/11)

Emerging Technology Demonstrations (California) – The California Energy Commission requests proposals for the Emerging Technology Demonstration Grant Program. Through this RFP, CEC seeks to support emerging technologies that are past the “proof-of-concept” stage and are ready to be demonstrated in an industrial setting. Project should target industrial, agricultural, or water energy efficiency areas for cumulative electricity, natural gas, or electricity demand reduction in California. \$14 million is expected to be available, individual awards not to exceed \$2 million. Abstracts due Oct. 6, 2011, final proposals due Dec. 22, 2011. Contact [Crystal Presley-Willis](#). Refer to [PON# 11-501](#).

Source: Laurie Brown, Washington State University, 9/7/11

Advanced Hydropower Technologies

U.S. Department Energy Secretary Steven Chu and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar today announced nearly \$17 million in funding over the next three years for

research and development projects to advance hydropower technology. Sixteen projects in 11 states were selected through a competitive grant process for their ability to contribute to the development of innovative technologies that produce hydropower more efficiently, reduce costs, and increase sustainable hydropower generation. The funding will help advance the Obama Administration's goal of meeting 80 percent of our electricity needs from clean energy sources by 2035. [Read more](#). Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 9/6/11

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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