



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.

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Week of March 5, 2012

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Green Power

Walmart Broadens ROI for Green Power

At the recent GreenBiz Forum in New York, I was surprised by an on-stage interview with Fred Bedore, an executive from Walmart. I've followed the greening of the retail giant fairly closely for years, so I wasn't expecting a lot of new information from Bedore, Walmart's Senior Director of Business Strategy and Sustainability.

But amidst a seemingly scripted set of responses on Walmart's supply chain and operational greening efforts, the discussion took an interesting turn. When addressing the company's aspirational goal of using 100% renewable energy, Bedore said two noteworthy things. [Read more](#). *Source: Harvard Business Review Blog, 2/7/12*

Green Power News Network update for January 2012

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](#).

News

- [Gunderson Health System Completes 5-MW Wind Project](#)
- [IKEA Powering Cincinnati Store with Solar](#)
- [Super Bowl XLVI Goes Green](#)
- [Climate Registry General Reporting Protocol Open for Public Comment](#)
- [SRP Opens Community Solar Program to Businesses](#)
- [NJ Resources Clean Energy Ventures Installs 14-MW Solar](#)
- [Ithaca Goes 100% Renewable](#)
- [Oregon Community Wind Farm Provides Green Power for Seattle](#)

Renewable Energy RFPs

- [City of Portland](#)
- [Public Service Company of New Mexico](#)
- [ZeroPoint Clean Tech](#)
- [Ameren Illinois](#)
- [California Department of Water Resources](#)
- [City of Denton, Texas](#)
- [City of Tacoma, Washington](#)
- [FirstEnergy Corp.](#)
- [Department of Defense](#)
- [Innovative Solar Systems](#)

Source: Green Power Partnership, 2/6/12

EPA Recognizes Top Green Power Users

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing its lists of the top organizations within the Green Power Partnership using the most renewable electricity. EPA's lists include the National Top 50, Top 20 Retail, Top 20 College & University, Top 20 Local Government, and Top 20 On-site Generation, among others.

Topping the National Top 50 list as the Partnership's largest single purchaser of green power is the Intel Corporation, which was recently honored with a 2011 EPA Green Power Partner of the Year award. Intel uses more than 2.5 billion kWh of green power annually, equivalent to avoiding the CO2 emissions from the electricity use of more than 215,000 average American homes. The four companies following Intel in the rankings are Kohl's Department Stores, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. /

California and Texas Facilities, Whole Foods Market, and Johnson & Johnson, respectively, all of which increased their green power use relative to the previous quarter's Top 50 list update. Rounding out the top 10 are the City of Houston, TX; Starbucks; City of Austin, TX; Staples; and Hilton Worldwide. [Read more](#). *Source: Green Power Partnership, 1/31/12*

State wants to buy more 'green' power

DWR seeks bids for up to 180,000 watt-hours a year 'Eill assist DWR in meeting its goal of reducing its greenhouse gas footprint'

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has issued a Request for Proposals to buy up to 180,000 WHh of energy a year from qualified renewable energy sources for the State Water Project power portfolio.

"The purchase of renewable energy will assist DWR in meeting its goal of reducing its greenhouse gas footprint to 50 percent below its 1990 emissions," says Mark Cowin, DWR director. "This step also helps achieve the Governor's goal of increasing the use of renewable energy in California."

Veronica Hicks, chief of the DWR's State Water Project Power and Risk Office, says the power purchase is anticipated to be the first in a series of requests to further supplement with renewable energy the SWP energy portfolio, half of which already, on average, consists of clean hydropower. *Source: Central Valley Business Times, 1/30/12*

Compromise sought on green-power mandate

Power companies this month are facing mandates voters imposed in 2006 to either produce green energy or buy credits from those who do.

Utilities complain that Initiative 937 requires them to buy power they don't need—especially with the economic downturn depressing demand—and say they are passing costs to their customers. Environmentalists credit the law for Washington's burgeoning green-power industry, which they say has invested \$7.5 billion here.

Now the chairmen of the House and Senate energy committees, Rep. Dave Upthegrove and Sen. Kevin Ranker, have crafted what they hope will be a step toward compromise. [Read more](#). *Source: The News Tribune, 1/25/12*

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

Renewable Energy Technologies

Oneida selects biomass plant operator

Oneida Seven Generations Corp. has chosen PIC Group Inc. to operate and maintain its biomass gasification project currently underway in Green Bay, Wis.

The plant, dubbed the Oneida Seven Generations Renewable Energy Facility, will be located in an industrial area in the city's west side and will consume 150 tons of municipal solid waste per day. Nonhazardous, nonrecyclable materials will be separated from the waste and gasified to generate 5 MW of electricity to be sold to Wisconsin Public Service. [Read more](#). *Source: Biomass Power & Thermal, 2/13/12*

Navajo Teams Up With Lab On Tribal Energy Policy

One of the country's largest American Indian tribes has partnered with a national laboratory to study what technologies would be best for developing natural resources on the vast reservation.

The Navajo Nation has large deposits of coal and uranium, along with potential for wind and solar energy, but it hasn't historically been a major player in developing those resources. The tribe signed a three-year agreement with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on Wednesday to look into carbon capture and sequestration, clean coal technology and renewable energy, among other things. [Read more](#). *Source: The Street via Associated Press, 1/25/12*

Renewable Energy Deals Hit Record Level in 2011, But Is Rise Sustainable?

A new report from PriceWaterHouse Coopers (PwC) says the value of global renewable energy mergers and acquisitions jumped 40 percent from \$38.2 billion in 2010 to a record high of \$53.5 billion in 2011.

The report, "Renewables Deals: 2012 Outlook and 2011 Review," says much of 2011's deal activity was due to the renewable energy industry "undergoing a growing maturity and consolidation phase." This trend indicates that deal activity will remain significant in 2012, but depends on how the European Union financial crisis unfolds. [Read more](#). *Source: Clean Technica, 1/20/12*

New Heat Engine Could Make Geothermal Power Accessible to the World

The Geological Survey of Canada put out a research paper in 2010 that concluded the country has enough geothermal heat to power itself many times over.

The big question is how much of that heat can be economically tapped?

As a general rule, the hotter and shallower the resource the more economical it is to exploit based on current technologies. The higher the temperature the easier it is to extract the volume of heat required to spin a turbine and generate electricity.

[Read more](#). Source: *Oilprice*, 1/23/12

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

Webinar looks at progress on RPS compliance

Whether due to statute or new legislation, many state RPS mandates are in transition in 2012 and 2013. Register for the REMA webinar and hear from two renewable energy experts as they delve into generation technologies, sourcing requirements, and other revisions changing the face of renewable energy in the states. [Read more](#). Source: *Renewable Energy Markets Association*, 2/14/12

Thermal Storage Gets More Solar on the Grid

It's 4:45 on a sweltering August afternoon, and the rooftop solar panels are starting to lose juice. The sun's lower angles and that huge cottonwood tree are interfering with the efficient photon-to-electricity transfer.

What is an environmentally conscious — but air-conditioning-loving — homeowner to do?

Peak demand for electricity in the United States typically hits between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., which doesn't quite line up with the sun's schedule. It's fortunate that the sun is high in the sky during many of the hours when the air conditioning is in demand. But in summer, people tend to need air conditioning during the dinner hour and beyond, when kitchen appliances are whirring, lights are on, and TVs are blaring. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 2/14/12

NREL Seeks Leaders for National Executive Academy

Applications are currently being accepted for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) 2012 Executive Energy Leadership Academy (Energy Execs). Energy Execs is a leadership program focused on educating business, community, and government leaders about clean energy solutions through energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

The two Energy Execs learning opportunities are the Leadership Program and the Leadership Institute. Both programs are designed to provide executive decision-makers with information and tools to guide their organizations and communities in energy-related planning. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/13/12*

California's Grid System Operator Confronts the Prospect of 33 Percent Renewables by 2020

The ISO CEO's five-year plan has four simple components—and they may require fossil fuels.

Building enough new solar and wind capacity to meet California's 33 percent renewables by 2020 mandate will not be easy—but reliably getting the electricity generated by those resources to the places where it will be consumed may be even tougher. That is the responsibility of the California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO).

The ISO has just released a five-year strategic plan that lays out what needs to be done in four steps. [Read more](#). *Source: GreenTech Media, 2/3/12*

Report looks at wind energy costs

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have jointly released a report that summarizes a recent analysis of onshore wind energy cost trends.

[Recent Developments in the Levelized Cost of Energy from U.S. Wind Power Projects](#) analyzes wind energy costs in three time periods: projects installed in 2002-2003, projects installed in 2009-2010, and projects based on current wind turbine pricing and to be installed in ~2012-2013. The research shows that wind energy technology was far from static over this period, and estimates that the levelized cost of wind energy is now trending towards an all-time low within fixed wind resource areas.

Portions of this work were also presented at a [Wind Powering America webinar](#) in December 2011, and a [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available as well. *Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2/1/12*

Wind for Schools Project Installs Turbines in Arizona and Virginia

In December, Wind for Schools project teams in Arizona and Virginia each installed a new turbine. The Arizona Wind for Schools team announced the installation of a Skystream turbine at the Orme School in Orme. On the installation day, Wind for Schools state facilitator Karin Wadsack and Northern Arizona University student employee Marilla Lamb taught science classes at the school. [Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2/3/12*

Online Resources Available: Clean Energy Calculators, Decision Tools and Resource Maps

The Tribal Energy Program is please to forward information on a variety of on-line clean energy calculators, decision, analysis, prospecting and mapping tools offered by the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory. [Read more](#) (scroll down page to story). *Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 1/30/12*

NREL's REDB Connects Smart Grid Research

Plug-n-play has become so integrated into daily life that most computer users don't give a second thought to hooking up a camera or smart phone to a laptop or tablet. Now, take the same concept and apply it to the nation's complex electrical systems when it comes to "plugging in" renewables or smart grid technologies.

To make that a reality, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is building electrically interconnected laboratories as part of its Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF) where research partners can literally plug in and test new energy technologies on real and simulated power systems before hooking them up to the grid. [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/27/12*

Second edition of in-house wind O&M guidebook now available

To support power providers who are exploring alternative way to add wind generation to their portfolios, DOE's Wind Program has updated [Establishing an In-House Wind Maintenance Program](#).

Since the guidebook was first published in 2008, more utilities have taken the path of setting up in-house O&M programs. The latest edition reflects their experiences, as well as advances in technology and other changes in the wind industry.

Cosponsors of the publication include [Western Area Power Administration](#), [Utility Wind Integration Group](#), [American Wind Energy Association](#), [American Public Power Association](#), [National Rural Electric Association](#) and [Wind Powering America](#). *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 1/27/12*

Renewable Energy Project Finance Analysis at NREL

Happy New Year from the Finance Team at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)!

New Analysis:

- [Looking Under the Hood: Some Perspective on the Loan Guarantee Program](#) — The Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program has been getting significant attention lately, most notably for the fall-out surrounding Solyndra. However, most of the loan guarantees have been issued to relatively secure power generation projects, and less than 10 percent were issued to manufacturing projects that are perceived to be comparatively more risky. This article explains the program and examines why the risk profile for manufacturers, like Solyndra, differs from that of generation projects.

Market Insights Analysis

- [RE Finance Tracking Initiative Re-opens](#) — New poll seeks to shed light on 2H 2012 RE financings. Provide your insight!
- [Rhode Island Feed-in Tariff](#) — Under this incentive program, the state will provide significant payments for solar and wind, with a focus on distributed PV systems.
- [FERC Order 1000](#) — New regulations could positively impact renewable energy transmission planning.
- [Solar Photovoltaic R&D Funding](#) — The U.S. has been both a leader and a laggard in solar PV industry investments.

- [Economizing Distributed Solar](#) — Learn how two companies are implementing extensive distributed solar programs.
- [1603 Cash Grants Scrutinized](#) — Find out more about why Treasury and the IRS are reexamining some of the awarded 1603 Cash Grants.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/26/12

Watch solar energy webinar online

The presentations from the webinar, "[Understanding Clean Energy Standards](#)," is now available. *Source: Solar Power World, 1/26/12*

FY 2012 Rural Energy for America Program NOFA has been issued

The FY 2012 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Solicitation has been issued.

Application deadlines:

- RE/EE Grant Applications and Combination Loan/Grant Applications: March 30, 2012
- Guaranteed Loan Only Applications: June 29, 2012
- RE Feasibility Study Applications: March 30, 2012

[Read more](#). *Source: IREC Small Wind Newsletter, 1/26/12*

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

News from Washington

Chu: President's 2013 Energy Budget Makes Critical Investments in Innovation, Clean Energy, and National Security

Critical investments in innovation, in the job-creating clean energy technologies, and in our national security strategy.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu today detailed President Barack Obama's \$27.2 billion Fiscal Year 2013 budget request for the Department of Energy, emphasizing the President's commitment to an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes critical investments in innovation, in the job-creating clean energy

technologies, and in our national security strategy. The budget request for the Department is part of the President's blueprint for an American economy that is built to last based on American energy that is cleaner, cheaper, and full of new jobs. At the same time, the FY 2013 budget request also represents tough choices aimed at focusing taxpayer resources on areas that will yield the greatest benefit over time.

"The United States is competing in a global race for the clean energy jobs of the future," said Secretary Chu. "The choice we face as a nation is simple: do we want the clean energy technologies of tomorrow to be invented in America by American innovators, made by American workers and sold around the world, or do we want to concede those jobs to our competitors? We can and must compete for those jobs. This budget request includes responsible investments in an American economy that is built to last." [Read more](#). *Source: World of Renewables, 2/13/12*

AF 'Energy Horizons' paper

The Air Force's Energy Horizons paper was released Feb. 9 and describes how the Service plans to increase energy supply, reduce demand and change the culture to meet mission requirements.

Energy Horizons, which was signed Jan. 25, is the Air Force vision for energy science and technology focusing on core Air Force missions in air, space, cyberspace and infrastructure, according to the preface by Mark T. Maybury, Air Force Chief Scientist. [Read more](#). *Source: U.S. Air Force, 2/9/12*

Energy Department Announces Over \$12 Million to Spur Solar Energy Innovation

As part of the Obama Administration's blueprint for an American economy built to last, today U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced over \$12 million to speed solar energy innovation from the lab to the marketplace through the Energy Department's SunShot Incubator program. The funding will accelerate American innovation in solar energy and manufacturing by supporting advancements in hardware, reductions in soft costs, and the development of pilot manufacturing and production projects. [Read more](#). *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2/8/12*

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Groups oppose rush toward northern Wisconsin power lines

Two advocacy groups want to slow down the process for developing a \$1 billion project that would add new power lines in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The new lines are needed in part to address the potential shutdown of the We Energies coal-fired power plant on Lake Superior in Marquette, Mich.

But We Energies signaled this month that it may be able to keep the power plant operating if it moves ahead with a joint venture with a Michigan power cooperative. That venture would result in the coal plant being retrofitted to add pollution controls required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Read more](#). *Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/22/12*

Idaho Asserts 'Primary' Jurisdiction Over Transactions

Idaho regulators say they have primary jurisdiction over proposed power sales agreements between Idaho Power Co. and two Idaho-based wind projects that want to sell their output to the utility's customers in Oregon, where the developers can receive higher rates.

The projects are qualifying facilities under the provisions of the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), which requires regulated electric utilities to buy output from small-power producers.

Because Idaho Power customers (95 percent in Idaho and 5 percent in Oregon) would end up paying Oregon's higher avoided-cost rate, the utility sought a declaratory order from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC) that would assert Idaho eligibility requirements and rates—rather than Oregon's—over the projects. [Read more](#). *Source: Renew Grid, 2/13/12*

New Solar Homes guidebook now online

The California Energy Commission has finalized the fourth edition of the [New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook](#). The New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) provides financial incentives and other support for installing eligible solar energy systems on new residential buildings¹ that receive electricity from specified investor-owned utilities. *Source: California Energy Commission, 2/7/12*

Iberdrola laying off 25 in Portland

Officials at Iberdrola Renewables said Tuesday that the company would lay off 50 employees in the U.S., including 25 at its headquarters in Portland.

Citing a weak market driven by low energy prices, a poor economy and regulatory uncertainty, the company said in a statement that it will focus on operations rather than any new renewable energy projects in 2012. [Read more](#). Source: Sustainable Business Oregon, 1/24/12

Project to pour water into Oregon volcano to make power

Geothermal energy developers plan to pump 24 million gallons of water into the side of a dormant volcano in Central Oregon this summer to demonstrate new technology they hope will give a boost to a green energy sector that has yet to live up to its promise.

They hope the water comes back to the surface fast enough and hot enough to create cheap, clean electricity that isn't dependent on sunny skies or stiff breezes — without shaking the earth and rattling the nerves of nearby residents. [Read more](#). Source: USA Today via Associated Press, 1/15/12

Geothermal Could Become California's Baseload Power: Commissioner

Geothermal resources could become California's "bread and butter" baseload power as nuclear and gas-fired plants are retired, a state commissioner said this week.

The licence for the San Onofre nuclear power plant is due to expire in 2022, and the Diablo Canyon plant will not be permitted to continue generating after 2024, unless it applies for a 20-year extension. The facilities have a combined nameplate capacity of around 4,300 MW. [Read more](#). Source: AOL Energy, 1/23/12

Learn more about [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

EPA Announces Solicitation of Applications for \$1 Million in Environmental Justice Grants

Applications due Feb. 29, 2012

The Tribal Energy Program is please to forward information on a possible grant opportunity offered through the Environmental Protection Agency. Please note the dates for the pre-application teleconferences.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Agency is seeking applicants for \$1 million in environmental justice small grants expected to be awarded in 2012. EPA's environmental justice efforts aim to ensure equal environmental and health protections for all Americans, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution.

The 2012 grant solicitation is now open and will close on February 29, 2012. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits or tribal organizations working to educate, empower and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls on Dec. 15, 2011; Jan. 12, 2012; Feb. 1, 2012 and Feb. 15, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the environmental decision-making process. Since 1994, the environmental justice small grants program has provided more than \$23 million in funding to community-based nonprofit organizations and local governments working to address environmental justice issues in more than 1,200 communities. The grants represent EPA's commitment to expand the conversation on environmentalism and advance environmental justice in communities across the nation. [Read more](#). *Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 1/30/12*

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).

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