

Looking Forward to October

This month's newsletter discusses the 2011 RPS National Summit and two upcoming webinars on regional transmission in October to be hosted by Clean Energy States Alliance. It also includes news updates from the country.

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Newsletter Spotlights

- National Summit on RPS October 26-27. Registration deadline is October 10, 2011.
- 2 New Webinars on Transmission Planning
- CA Renewable Auction Mechanism Gets Ready to Launch
- Rapid Pace of Solar Installations Leads to Falling Solar REC Prices
- DC Increases Solar Carve-Out
- Rhode Island Feed-In Tariff Being Implemented Quickly
- Solar Cost Trends - New Report from LBNL

Upcoming Events

2011 RPS National Summit—October 26-27

Room Block Closes for Hotel—Sept. 22nd

Last Call for Registrations—Due Oct. 10th

The National Summit on RPS is shaping up to be an exciting and useful event for policymakers, regulators, and others interested in sharing information and ideas about state renewable portfolio standards. Twenty states have indicated that they will be sending representatives to the event. Those state officials will be joined by representatives of the federal government, businesses, NGOs, utilities, and service providers.

The Summit will take place on October 26 and 27 in Washington, DC. For the most recent agenda and registration form, click [HERE](#).

Please pass along information about the Summit to other people who may not be part of the RPS Collaborative but could be interested in the event. There is a \$45 registration fee for non-government participants. The Registration deadline is October 10th. The Summit's room block will close on Thursday, Sept. 22nd. If you need a reservation at the L'Enfant Plaza hotel to attend the Summit or if you have any questions, please contact Maria Costello at maria@cleanegroup.org.

Sign Up for Upcoming Webinars

The State-Federal RPS Collaborative is offering two webinars in early October on regional transmission planning and its potential impact on renewables. The regional transmission planning processes that are currently underway in the eastern and the western United States could shape the future of long-distance electricity transmission and significantly affect the future of renewable energy. It is important for policymakers and regulators who are involved in administering state RPS policies to understand how RPSs may be affected by these regional planning efforts. Here is the basic information about the two webinars:

October 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM eastern time: Regional Planning in the West. The webinar will present information about the planning efforts being undertaken by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council and the Western Governors' Association. The speakers will be Thomas Carr, Attorney and Economist at the Western Interstate Energy Board, Byron B. Woertz, Jr., the Sr. Project Manager of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, and Heidi Pacini, Staff Engineer at the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. To sign up for this webinar, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/888335168>.

October 6 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM eastern time: Regional Planning in the East. The webinar will present information about the planning efforts being undertaken by the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC) and the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council (EISPC). The speakers will be EISPC Executive Director Marya White and EIPC Executive Director David Whiteley. To sign up for this webinar, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/398383513>.

News Updates

California Renewable Auction Mechanism Gets Ready to Launch

The California Public Utilities Commission has begun to implement the Renewable Auction Mechanism (RAM), which is a reverse auction for renewable power projects in the 1-20 MW range. Under the California program, the state's investor-owned utilities will be required to hold biannual auctions for power purchase agreements with ready-to-build energy projects with a goal of selecting 1,000 MW of projects in two years. Bidders will stipulate the minimum price or subsidy level that they will accept for their output and the utilities will accept the lowest ones. The California PUC believes that this approach eliminates any potential conflicts with FERC's exclusive authority to set wholesale power prices under the Federal Power Act and PURPA. The first auction will take place in November. The winning bidders will then have 18 months to complete their projects. You can see the PUC's website about RAM at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Renewables/hot/Renewable+Auction+Mechanism.htm>. For a news story that discusses some of the issues that have emerged related to RAM and that discusses its potential advantages over a feed-in tariff, see <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20110830/california-feed-in-tariff-auction-europe-spain-germany-solar-power>.

Rapid Pace of Solar Installations Leads to Falling Solar REC Prices

With the help of state RPSs and with falling prices for solar panels, photovoltaic systems are being installed in many states at a rapid pace. But in some places, this has led to a sharp drop in SREC prices, which could hinder future installations. New Jersey has passed the 10,000 solar installation milestone, second only to California, but SRECs are now trading at much lower prices than a year ago. In Pennsylvania, with 100 MW of solar installed, there is much more generation eligible for the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard than expected. That has caused a sharp drop in REC prices. Legislators in the two states are proposing policy fixes to stabilize SREC prices. In New Jersey, the Senate passed legislation in June that would move up the state's RPS targets by one year and there is some bipartisan support for the legislation in the House. Meanwhile, the Governor has issued a draft Energy Master Plan that would reduce SREC Alternative Compliance Payment levels and the state's total RPS targets, but those reductions would not begin to kick in until 2016. In Pennsylvania, Representative Chris Ross (R-Chester) is crafting a Solar Jobs Bill that would temporarily increase the AEPS targets with the goal of stabilizing the SREC market.

DC Increases Solar Carve-Out

Justin Barnes of the North Carolina Solar Center and the DSIRE website reports that the District of Columbia enacted legislation in August revising the solar carve-out portion of its RPS. "The legislation increases the overall standard from 0.4% by 2020 to 2.5% by 2023.... Because the solar carve-out is actually part of the Tier I renewables requirement (20% by 2020), the increase in the solar portion correspondingly reduces the requirement for other Tier I resources." The legislation limits eligibility for the solar carve-out to facilities of no more than 5 MW either in the District or connected to a distribution feeder that serves the District.

Rhode Island Feed-In Tariff Being Implemented Quickly

Rhode Island passed legislation in late-June establishing a feed-in tariff for distributed generation. The tariff levels will be set later this month and the program will launch next month. The program will enter into agreements with 40 MW of projects by 2014. For a news story about it, see <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2011/09/rhode-island-rapidly-implementing-feed-in-tariffs-for-distributed-generation>.

Solar Cost Trends

Galen Barbose and others at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab have just released a useful and revealing report on *Tracking the Sun IV: An Historical Summary of the Installed Cost of Photovoltaics in the United States from 1998 to 2010*. It is available at <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/emp/reports/lbnl-5047e.pdf>.

State-Federal RPS Collaborative webpage on CESA Website

CESA has revamped its website (www.cleanenergystates.org) and includes a section specifically for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative and its activities (www.cleanenergystates.org/projects/state-federal-rps-collaborative/). RPS Collaborative webinar presentations and reports can be found here, along with webinar recordings. In the coming weeks, we will add more RPS-related resources and information to the website.

Join the RPS Collaborative Listserv

If you are not already a member of the States Advancing RPS listserv (SARPS1) for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative and want to receive future issues of this newsletter and announcement of collaborative events, please join us. To add or remove your name from the SARPS1 listserv, please email Maria@cleanegroup.org and put "States Advancing RPS" in the subject line. Thank you!

The State-Federal RPS Collaborative is generously supported by the Energy Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy

The State-Federal RPS Collaborative, a joint project of the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) and Clean Energy Group, was established to advance dialogue and cooperation among a broad network of state government officials and NGO experts. The Collaborative provides a forum for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned regarding the implementation of state RPS policies and the marketing of RECs or credits of the U.S.

For more information about the RPS Collaborative visit
<http://www.cleanenergystates.org/projects/state-federal-rps-collaborative/>