


XFINITY[®] X1 Triple Play

Get started at **\$89⁹⁹**
 a month for 12 months

Save when you bundle

[Get It Now](#)



GREEN TECHNOLOGY

 [Weather](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Subscribe](#)

Search

[Go](#)

[Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs](#)

[News](#) ▾ [Sports](#) ▾ [Business](#) ▾ [Entertainment](#) ▾ [Lifestyle](#) ▾ [Obituaries](#) ▾ [Opinion](#) ▾ [My Town](#) ▾ [Marketplace](#) ▾ [Tools](#) ▾

[Home](#)

[Green technology](#)

New state guidelines likely to jump-start clean energy



MOST POPULAR

[DAY](#) [WEEK](#) [NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [BIZ](#) [A&E](#) [EMAIL](#) [LIFE](#)

Update: Tassajara Fire 65 percent contained; residents assess and hope

Fatal shooting in Sand City parking lot

Dead humpback whale washes ashore near Cannery Row in Monterey

From 'CHiPs' to Carmel volleyball coach

Whales

Monterey Jazz Festival: Plenty of hidden gems to discover

Monterey County, SCRAMP ponder Laguna Seca future

Salinas High student arrested for making online threat

JLM Energy's Zefr micro wind turbine blade spins as it generates electricity on the rooftop of Intel's corporate headquarters in Santa Clara on May 21. (LiPo Ching -- Bay Area News Group)

By Louis Hansen, Bay Area News Group

POSTED: 09/13/15, 6:56 PM PDT

UPDATED: 1 WEEK, 2 DAYS AGO

0 COMMENTS

Despite a testy and drawn-out political battle, the new green mandates just approved by state lawmakers — higher efficiency standards for buildings, more reliance on renewable energy — signal good news for the state's clean-energy industry.

The guidelines are expected to draw new investment and jump-start wind and solar projects, benefiting many Bay Area companies. But industry insiders also say the burgeoning market still faces regulatory challenges ahead.

"The most important thing the businesses need is a market signal," said Steve Chadima, director of California initiatives for the industry group Advanced Energy Economy. The new standards send a clear message to the sector, he said: "Continue hiring. Continue growing."

Lawmakers last week fought over the measure, SB 350, and stripped out controversial requirements for higher efficiency standards for gas vehicles. Still, clean-energy advocates say the altered proposal provides a boost for long-term projects, research and development and jobs. The bill passed the state Assembly and Senate late Friday night and is expected to be signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The mandate requires the share of electricity drawn from renewable sources by the state's utilities to increase from 33 percent to 50 percent by 2030. It also calls for doubling the efficiency of existing buildings. It's designed to dramatically decrease the state's reliance on fossil fuels and combat climate change.

While the new standards are expected to primarily benefit large projects — electricity generated from residential rooftop solar is not included — the bill is expected to drive future demand for green products and technologies.

Randy Zechman started Clean Solar, a commercial and residential solar installation company, in San Jose around 2005. He has grown his business from two employees to 45, serving the Bay Area. Even though the state mandate does not directly benefit installers, Zechman said, it creates a good business environment for solar energy. Increased standards, he believes, have "been very good for our industry as a whole."



Taylor Farms windmill in Gonzales in 2014. (David Royal - Monterey Herald)

BAYVIEW
design showroom

"...a job perfectly done." **Suzanne Irwin**

Monterey Local Guide

Featured Businesses

[California Council of the Blind](#)
[The Monterey County Herald](#)
[Shankle Real Estate](#)

Afinity

"You're running. I'm crawling."
- Patrick

Cisco DeVries left government to start his company, Renew Financial. Based in Oakland, the company offers financing to lower upfront costs for energy efficiency renovations and solar installations. DeVries, a former chief of staff to Berkeley's mayor, said the state is an important market for his business.

"California has been an incredible leader in solar and renewables," said DeVries. He sees the new standards as part of a system that supports the clean tech industry. "It's really critical that the traffic signals all stay green."

Nancy Rader, executive director of California Wind Energy Association, said the requirements will encourage companies investing in expensive, long-term developments such as wind farms and transmission infrastructure. A typical lead time for major projects is seven to 10 years, she said.

California solar advocates also see more stability and lower risks for long-term investments. Bernadette Del Chiaro, executive director of the California Solar Energy Industries Association, said the market for large-scale solar projects has slowed as utilities approach meeting the state's earlier standard of getting one-third of their electricity from renewable sources. "The wheels start turning again" for developing big projects, she said. The last 2 1/2 years have seen explosive growth in the state's solar industry, she said.

"We want it to be as commonplace as a cellphone," she said.

The clean-energy sector employs about 431,800 in California, with about one-quarter of those jobs related to energy generation, fuels and grid technologies, according to a 2014 survey by the Advanced Energy Economy Institute. The Bay Area has about 104,000 clean tech workers, second only to Southern California in the state. The advanced energy sector, which includes energy efficiency and wind and solar power, was projected to grow by more than 70,000 jobs in 2015.

But even as state lawmakers offer another endorsement of the industry, other regulations may curb potential growth. Del Chiaro cautioned that other state and federal policies could create "a tremendous amount of uncertainty."

Solar advocates are concerned about state energy rate proposals that could dramatically change the cost and payback time for installing rooftop panels. A potential loss of federal tax credits for solar installation next year would also be a blow to the industry. The solar industry added 7,500 jobs statewide in 2013-14, according to the industry survey. The bulk of clean energy jobs, about 300,000, come from energy efficiency contracting.

Rader said federal rulings on public land could limit turbines from vast stretches of the California desert, some of the best remaining land for wind farms in the state. Elected officials in Los Angeles and San Diego have also fought to keep turbines from being erected in their counties.

Still, clean energy industry officials see the latest round as a victory. The mandate section of the bill was largely uncontroversial. Rader said it's a marked difference from a decade ago, when the phrase "climate change" was too radical to mention. Del Chiaro called the legislative journey a unique, bipartisan success story for the state.

The CrossRoads Carmel
J R Rouse Real Estate

Find Monterey Attractions

Search for a business

Search by keyword or Zip

灌

Add your business here +



“Government intervention,” she said, “has actually worked.”

FROM AROUND THE WEB

selected for you by a sponsor



Celebs you didn't know passed away: #17 is Shocking

Your Daily Dish



16 Pro Footballers Whose Life Fell Apart

Sports Mozo



After Death of Family of Five in Minnesota, a...

The New York Times



Ranked: US Presidents By Net Worth

InsideGov

MORE FROM THE WEB

The Most Hilarious Locked-Out-Of-Your-Home Stories *AT&T Digital Life*

The Sexy Girls of Burning Man Will Burn In Your Memory... *BoredLion*

20 Celebrities Who Committed Horrible Crimes *Your Daily Dish*

10 Most Affordable Cars of 2015 Drive Across the... *Kelley Blue Book*

Bosch: Indian auto supplier's shares slump amid... *Nikkei Asian Review*

Meet The Stunning Female Golfers Driving The Internet... *FitStyleLife.com*

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

Fatal shooting in Sand City parking lot

Stock car racing firm declines to submit Laguna Seca...

Mountain lions spotted in Pacific Grove, Monterey

Tassajara Fire 75 percent contained

Federal officer to be charged after pointing gun at...

UPDATE: Remains of woman missing since 1982 found in...

Recommended by outbrain

TOP STORIES



Update: Tassajara Fire 65 percent



Unraveling the mystery of tinnitus



Spectacular whale breaching that



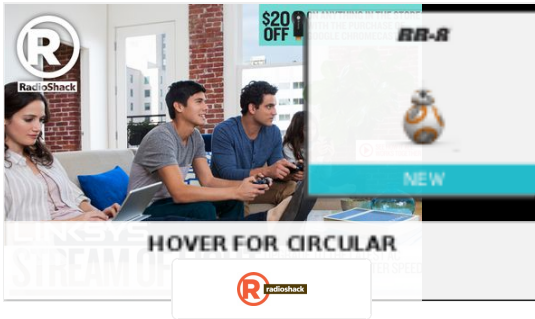
Dead humpback whale washes

contained;
residents assess

narrowly missed
kayakers pushes

ashore near
Cannery Row in

This Week's Circulars



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

[View comments](#)

Drivers Are Shock

Drive Less Than 50 Miles Per Day? Better
Read This



[Copyright © Monterey County Herald](#) [Copyright notice](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Map](#) [Digital First Media](#)