

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

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ALTERNATIVE SOURCES MAGAZINE

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## Corporations getting on renewables bandwagon

The growth of the renewable energy marketplace in the last 24 months has been breathtaking, says a new report from accounting and consulting firm PwC. Billions of dollars have been invested in building renewable generating capacity, which is, in turn, lowering costs and creating more demand.

Corporations have taken notice and are starting to think proactively about how the energy they use is being produced and consumed. More than ever, there are broad efforts by commercial and industrial companies to incorporate significant renewable resources into their energy mix. Renewables purchases not only help companies save money and serve as a very visible corporate point of pride—the companies that are making them are helping to drive a transformation for the collective energy system, says the report.

To better understand what is motivating corporate renewables purchases—and what's holding companies back from doing even more—PwC took a survey of the U.S. renewables leaders, the companies that are engaged in the renewables marketplace and are driving corporate renewables purchases, which yielded some interesting findings:

- The appetite for renewables is growing. A strong majority of these companies (72 percent) are planning renewable purchases in the next 18 months, and 63 percent have become more inclined to purchase in the last six months.
- The decision is cross-functional. More than 60 percent said facilities/energy management and sustainability executives are the key decision makers, followed by finance, operations, and procurement who were cited by nearly half of respondents.

The companies that are making corporate renewable purchases are playing an increasingly important role in the evolution of the industry,

both in terms of their growing share of the market and their increasingly sophisticated needs and procurement approaches, says the report.

## Arizona High School solar project wins Intersolar award

The 2016 Intersolar Award for "Outstanding Solar Project" has been presented to S.O.L.I.D. and Adroit Energy Inc., for their solar cooling system installation at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale, Arizona. Selected by a panel of international industry associations, the award recognizes a particularly inspiring solar project that is leading the way toward global energy transformation.

The Arizona project has been confirmed as the most powerful solar cooling system in the world. The Austrian solar thermal company, S.O.L.I.D., partnered with San Diego-based Adroit Energy Inc. to create the system.

Situated in one of the hottest locations in the U.S., it provides 100 percent of the building's cooling needs during the summer. In Desert Mountain High School's arid desert climate, air conditioning systems are typically responsible for 75 percent of the building's electrical energy expenses.

These A/C systems distribute the air unevenly, making it less efficient. They also produce harmful allergens from dust and dirt circulating inside the building.

"This project shows the U.S. that solar thermal technology does not only have to offset natural gas, but electric loads as well. Unlike grid tied PV, solar thermal driven chillers can greatly reduce peak demand charges by switching the cooling load to a thermal load," says Justin Weil, president of Solar Thermal at Adroit Energy.

The solar thermal collectors—50,000 square feet of them—were mounted on the roof and carport structures. With a chiller cooling capacity of 1,750 kW/500 tons, the solar cooling system is keeping

2,600 students and school staff cool during hot days. S.O.L.I.D. predicts an annual solar energy yield of 3.9 GWh, or 800 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> of collector area.



## GE begins shipping offshore turbine nacelles to U.S.

The GE Renewable Energy offshore wind turbine plant in Saint-Nazaire, France, recently manufactured its first commercial series Haliade Offshore wind turbine nacelle, and five of the 370-ton nacelles were shipped to the U.S. They will equip the Block Island Wind Farm, the first of its kind in the U.S.

The project is situated off the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island. Ordered by Deepwater Wind, instal-