

Allen Matkins

In 2009, Allen Matkins has attended the following events addressing developments in the **renewable energy** field:

- VerdeXchange Green Marketmakers Conference, Los Angeles, CA;
- Renewable Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition, Las Vegas, NV;
- Renewable Energy World North America Conference & Exposition, Las Vegas, NV;
- Green Cities Conference and Expo, Portland, OR;
- Financing Renewable Energy Conference, San Francisco, CA; and
- Windpower 2009 Conference and Exhibition, Chicago, IL

These events were all well attended by industry representatives, government, and environmental activists. Panels addressed a variety of renewable energy issues, from new and pending legislation, to emerging technologies.

At the forefront of every agenda were finance and feasibility issues. It is clear that state and local government agencies are feeling enormous pressure to implement the goal of procuring increasing amounts of energy from renewable sources. However, a lack of available financing is a major obstacle to many renewable energy projects. Incentives are increasingly becoming available, for example pursuant to the Recovery Act, and there has been much discussion as to how these incentives might be maximized. Permitting and transmission are also hurdles that the government and industry are facing. A number of ideas for overcoming these hurdles have been presented at the conferences.

Despite the issues and risks associated with the development of renewable energy projects, the recurring theme throughout the events we attended was positive. Even during times of global economic difficulty, technologically and financially successful projects are attainable.

We would be happy to discuss the current obstacles to developing renewable energy resources and our recommendations for addressing such impediments. Please contact Bill Devine, Patrick Perry, or Emily Murray at 213-622-5555 at Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP.