

## San Diego Regional Renewable Energy Study Group

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# Renewable Energy Study Fact Sheet

**Background.** A scientific study conducted by a group of local energy experts has found a large potential to develop renewable energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal in the San Diego region by 2020. The study did not consider cost or policy issues, which will ultimately determine how much of these resources are developed. The study examined the potential in San Diego and Imperial counties and in the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico, including the possibilities for development of wind power, solar energy, geothermal, biomass resources, and hydroelectric power.

- Members of the study group include San Diego State University,(SDSU), Rohy Consulting Associates, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO), the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC), Resley Consulting and Tanaka Research and Consulting. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory also participated in the study.
- The report estimates that it could be possible to generate more than 5,000 megawatts (MW) from solar panels during periods of peak usage. Solar thermal resources – in San Diego and Imperial counties – would add another 35,000 MW. (SDG&E's peak usage is approximately 4,000 MW.)
- While there are no major wind systems in the San Diego region right now, the study shows that wind energy could be a robust electricity resource. Potential power production could reach 1,400 to 1,500 megawatts. Wind power varies significantly by time of day and season.
- The study indicates that geothermal power – as close as Imperial County – could generate close to half of today's maximum power demand in the San Diego region. Unlike wind and solar power, geothermal energy can be produced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The study also found small but significant roles for renewable resources such as biomass and hydroelectric energy.