

Hawaii Top 40 list tracks pace of renewable-energy projects

State Energy Office's list shows some companies on the move

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See correction at end of article.

A list of Hawaii's Top 40 renewable-energy projects is changing, reflecting activity in one of the state's fastest-growing industries.

Compiled by the State Energy Office, the list, which features projects in solar photovoltaic, hydroelectric, biofuel, wind and geothermal, is updated quarterly and was last changed in October.

The biggest jump from the previous quarter came from the Kalaeloa Home Lands Solar LLC 5-megawatt PV project in Kapolei. The development, which is being built on 29 acres, moved up 12 spots from No. 32 to No. 20.

"Its big jump is due to the fact that its environmental-assessment application was submitted and is available for public review, which is a big step for the project," said State Energy Office Administrator [Mark Glick](#).

Glick said his staff looks at a variety of factors in updating the list, including projected size, status of permitting, status of power or fuel off-take agreement, and site control.

He said the tracking of renewable-energy projects is part of the state's efforts to obtain 70 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030. The list recognizes projects that are demonstrating progress in becoming commercial enterprises and have the potential to help reach the clean-energy goals, he said.

Glick said movement on the list can be due to contracts being approved by the state Public Utilities Commission or other projects falling off.

Remaining atop the list is First Wind's 69-megawatt Kawaihoa Wind Farm.

Sempra Generation's 21-megawatt Auwahi Wind Farm on Maui sits right behind Kawaihoa after gaining two spots in the latest update.

"The reason for the change to the Auwahi Wind Farm project's ranking is [that] the latest update takes into account its power-purchase agreement having been approved," Glick said.

Honua Technologies' waste-to-energy 6.6-megawatt project, which is expected to create enough firm renewable energy to power about 12,000 Oahu homes, slid down two spots to No. 4.

"It is actually at the same stage as the top-three projects — Kawaihoa Wind, Auwahi Wind Farm and Honolulu Emergency Power Facility," Glick said. "When projects are at similar stages, they are then ranked by their projected size. Honua is now at No. 4 because they have the smallest projected size."

The list also includes some companies with more than one project. For instance, REC Solar's 12-megawatt Anahola Solar PV project on Kauai is ranked 15th, up two spots, and its 300-kilowatt MP2 Solar Project, also on Kauai, is ranked 36th, down 13 slots.

But [Drew Bradley](#), Hawaii regional manager for REC Solar, told PBN that a power-purchase agreement for MP2 is all but signed, which may reverse its slide and move it up a few spots.

"From a marketing standpoint, if I were looking to do a project and I didn't know who was doing this type of work, at least this [the list] would help," he said.

Gen-X Energy Development, which has three 100-kilowatt, Big Island wind projects on the list, sees the list as creating benefit because it's another medium that touts and publicizes projects and possibly helps to add value.

"It also probably develops more interest," said [Leo Caires](#), co-founder of Gen-X Energy Development. "It says that the state looks at our projects, and that's a good thing,"

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Correction

This story has been corrected to delete the erroneous reference to the Kawaihoa Wind Farm being out of service.

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.