

## Utilities, IPPs, developers and investors jockey for solar plant ownership

The ranking of owners of utility-scale solar power stations published today shows a broad range of investors entering the market for PV generation assets. The list, produced by Wiki-Solar, ranks the world's leading owners and operators of large-scale solar plants – defined by solar generation experts Wiki-Solar as installations over 10 megawatts.

Top of the list since 2010 is the French electricity company EDF; while the Californian utility Pacific Gas and Electric also has a portfolio of assets under its Utility Owned Generation Program. But the list includes a greater number of independent power producers (IPPs) such as NRG Energy, Canada's Enbridge and Italy's Rete Rinovabile (RTR). Other prominent players are pure financial investors, including Warren Buffet's MidAmerican Energy Holdings; and solar project developers, who retain a portfolio of their own completed projects, like Enerparc, Saferay and AES Solar.

The top twenty owners ranked by the capacity of their 10MW+ installations are:

Rank	Chg	Owner / operator	Sites	MWp
1	→	EDF Energie Nouvelle	13	315
2	↑	Enerparc	9	273
3	↑	NRG Energy	5	247
4	↓	Altira	5	195
5	↓	Enbridge	3	176
6	↑	Commerz Real	2	157
7	↑	Rete Rinovabile (part of Terra Firma Capital)	7	146
8	↓	Saferay	5	134
9	↑	MidAmerican Energy	1	125
10	↑	Consolidated Edison Development	3	117
11	↓	CEZ Group	4	109
12	↑	AES Solar	4	93
13	↑	LHI	5	93
14	↑	Luxcara	1	91
15	↓	First Reserve Energy Infrastructure Fund	2	91
16	↓	Pacific Gas & Electric	4	90
17	↓	Nobesol	3	87
18	↓	Blue Forrest Solar Holdings	1	80
19	↓	Renovalia	2	80
20	↓	Natural Energy Development	1	73

“Solar power generation is the fastest-growing sector of the global electricity market”, says Wiki-Solar's Philip Wolfe, “and is attracting a broad range of investors. The top twenty



owners we are listing today include utilities, IPPs, developers and investors who together own over 30% of the 8.3GW of capacity on our database.”

“It will be interesting to see if other utilities follow EDF and PG&E into this sector, especially after recent reports that the German utilities, which have been sceptical about renewable energy investments, are starting to lose control of their markets.”<sup>[1]</sup>

“The risers and fallers in the list partly reflect the geographical changes to the market [reported last month](#), with the leading investors in Spain’s 2008 solar boom now slipping down the list”, said Wolfe.

E N D S

**Notes for editors:**

The statistics for utility-scale solar projects of 10MW and over are collated by [wiki-solar.org](http://www.wiki-solar.org) and published on its website at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/company.html>. At present there are over 300 projects of this size worldwide. Wiki-Solar also maps these projects at: <http://www.wiki-solar.org/map.html>. Projects of 10MW are typically capable of providing an annual output equivalent to the consumption of 3,000 households.

The [owners’](#) figures in the ranking list are derived from all projects in the database against which an owner is listed. The data may not be fully complete, and Wiki-Solar encourages companies to validate project information. Where several companies are listed against a project, the capacity is divided between them equally irrespective of the individual contributions.

The database includes a total of over 300 operational solar generating stations of 10MW and above, with a further 200+ sites under development (but not included in the figures, until they become operational).

Projects are now being development at capacities up to ½ GW. The largest plant currently operating – and still under construction – is the Agua Caliente plant in the South West corner of Arizona being developed and built by First Solar. This topped 250MW in capacity in September and will eventually total over 300MW.

The book “Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market was published by [Routledge](#) in October.

<sup>[1]</sup> See [this Reuters article](#), for example.

**For more information:**

+44 (0)7971 786417  
[philip@wiki-solar.org](mailto:philip@wiki-solar.org)

**Photograph:**

Enbridge’s Sarnia Solar Power Plant – the world’s largest until last October      *Courtesy: First Solar*

