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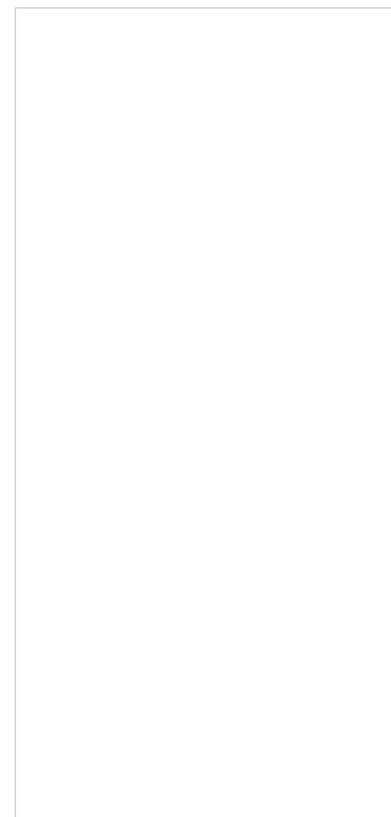


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- Abound Solar consumed \$70 million of its \$400 million Energy Department loan guarantee. The company, based in Loveland, Colo., blamed Chinese subsidy payments and European subsidy cuts for falling prices in its thin-film-panel sector. On July 2, Abound Solar [filed](#) for Chapter 7 liquidation and prepared to lock shop and fire its 125 employees.
- Solar Trust envisioned Earth's [largest](#) solar-power plant. DOE enthusiastically offered it a \$2.1 billion loan guarantee in April 2011, provided that it raised private capital. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar [attended](#) the company's groundbreaking in Blythe, Calif., and hailed "a historic moment in America's new energy frontier." Solar Trust missed DOE's benchmarks, however, and [filed](#) for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on April 2.
- Energy Conversion Devices, a solar-laminate supplier, received a \$13.3 million stimulus tax [credit](#) in January 2010 to update its factory in Auburn Hills, Mich., and to hire some 600 people. ECD pleaded Chapter 11 [bankruptcy](#) on Valentine's Day.
- Ener1 received a [\\$118.5 million](#) DOE stimulus grant in August 2009. Vice President Joe Biden traveled to Greenfield, Ind., to tour Ener1 on January 26, 2011. "Here at Ener1," Biden said, "we're going to harness electricity and bring it to the world, like Edison did more than a century ago." The electric-car-battery company filed for Chapter 11 [bankruptcy](#) on January 26, 2012, exactly one year after Biden's visit.
- [Aptera](#) Motors aspired to build three-wheel electric cars. DOE offered it a \$150 million [ATVM](#) loan, conditioned on Aptera's raising \$150 million in non-government capital. Aptera never convinced private investors to finance glorified tricycles. So, on December 2, CEO Paul Wilber announced that "after years of focused effort to bring our products to the market, Aptera Motors is closing its doors, effective today."
- Massachusetts-based Beacon Power Corp. received a \$43 million loan guarantee in October 2010 — DOE's second such subsidy. The energy-storage concern declared Chapter 11 [bankruptcy](#) on October 30, 2011.
- Solyndra, the most notorious of Obama's green-energy baubles, filed for bankruptcy on August 31, 2011. Taxpayers are liable for this solar-panel maker's \$535 million in loan guarantees — the first that DOE made under Obama.

In death, Solyndra has proved anything but green. As San Francisco's KCBS-TV reported in April, Solyndra's facility in Milpitas, Calif., features metal drums marked "hazardous waste." Cadmium, lead, unidentified black chemicals, and other [toxins](#) haunt the premises. A company called iStar said it would remove these poisons — as soon as Solyndra pays its bills.

Solyndra also [discarded](#) still-valuable solar-panel components, even though selling them could have generated capital to reimburse its creditors, including America's taxpayers.

- In June 2009, SpectraWatt [scored](#) a \$500,000 grant from the PV Technology Pre-Incubator project of DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. In June 2010, it received \$150,000 from the National Science Foundation. Facing stiff Chinese competition, this solar-cell manufacturer closed its factory in Hopewell Junction, N.Y., and dismissed all of its 117 workers in April 2011. SpectraWatt filed for Chapter 11 [bankruptcy](#) protection on August 19, 2011.
- Raser Technologies [received](#) a \$33 million Treasury Department stimulus grant in February 2010. As its dreams of a geothermal plant in Beaver County, Utah, turned to steam, its payroll subsequently evaporated from 42 workers to 27 to 10. Raser declared Chapter 11 [bankruptcy](#) in April 2011.

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