

**For Immediate Release**

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Screeners available by request

**KQED's *Climate Watch* and *QUEST* Investigate California's 'Smart Grid' of the Future*****Unlocking the Grid*  
Premieres August 25 on KQED 9HD**

San Francisco, CA, August 10, 2009 - [Climate Watch](#) and [QUEST](#), two of KQED's multimedia series covering science and environmental issues, jointly investigate the "Smart Grid" of the future – the multi-billion-dollar overhaul that California's massive electrical network needs if the state is going to expand renewable energy and reduce global warming emissions. The 30-minute television special, ***Unlocking the Grid***, will air at 7:30pm on **Tuesday, August 25** and at 7:30pm on **Friday, August 28** on KQED 9HD.

"The mass conversion to clean energy is proving to be a huge challenge," said Craig Miller, Senior Editor of *Climate Watch* and host of the special. "We talk to engineers, environmentalists, power companies and private industry leaders who are scrambling to get renewables like wind, solar and geothermal energy up and integrated into the grid, to see what those challenges are and how we might attack them."

Illuminating important issues on how electricity is generated and moved around, *Climate Watch* and *QUEST* head out to:

- Explore the technical challenges of harvesting wind power at a cattle and sheep ranch in the coastal hills of Tomales in West Marin;
- Inspect the Bay Area's existing transmission lines and the state's "mission control" in Folsom that shuttles 80 percent of California's electricity from power plants to population centers as it's needed;
- Examine the opposition facing renewable energy growth as exemplified by "green gridlock" over one windmill at a ranch in Marin County that produces olive oil.
- Uncover the plans for a digital makeover of our 100-year-old grid to create the so-called – "Smart Grid", which will include "Smart Meters" in every residence by 2012 to help customers better monitor and understand their energy consumption and ultimately help to reduce electrical waste.

Additional online features will include blog posts by the producers, an educator guide, and three web extras -- a home energy audit with surprising results, a show-and-tell on how the "Smart Grid" will work with your home appliances, and a report about the first wind turbine erected in Marin County.

Also of note, on **Monday, August 24** at 6:30 and 8:30am on **88.5 FM, QUEST Radio** will report on the "New Nuclear," investigating the prospects for expanded nuclear power in California despite the current three-decade ban on building new nuclear power plants. QUEST will also look into fourth-generation or "Gen-IV" nuclear technology that is already being deployed elsewhere in the world in the push to eliminate the use of fossil fuels.

***Climate Watch*** is KQED's new multimedia series providing in-depth coverage of climate-related science and policy issues from a California perspective. It features the latest climate news and analysis on its *Climate Watch* blog in addition to radio stories that air on *The California Report*. For more information, visit [kqed.org/climatewatch](http://kqed.org/climatewatch).

**QUEST** is KQED's Northern California multimedia science and environment series on television, radio and the web. Unique features include Flickr photos, web extras, a science blog, and educator guides that meet California's science teaching standards. Discover all of its media at [kqed.org/quest](http://kqed.org/quest).

## About KQED

**KQED** ([www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org)) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television, the nation's most-watched public television station, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way*; and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento), home of *Forum* with Michael Krasny and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service. KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at [www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

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