



## HELLO CERT PARTNERS AND FRIENDS AND WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2007 ISSUE OF OUR MONTHLY UPDATE!

CERTs was featured on the front page of the U of M's Minnesota Daily in regards to the clean energy posters created in partnership with the Color & Form in Surface Design class <http://www.mndaily.com/articles/2007/05/01/71789>.

Posters will be sold for a suggested \$10 donation at CERT meetings and project sites across the state. We still have a few posters unaccounted for, so if your community-based project is looking for a small fund-raising mechanism, let us know. For example we have some nice geothermal-themed posters in need of a home... This month we are going to highlight a few of the Earth Day celebrations and activities that took place across the state...Enjoy!

LISSA, NETTY & JOEL

## *Regional Highlights/Experiences*

### CENTRAL REGION

\* The Minnesota Science Teachers Association Spring Conference, All About Energy, was held April 20-21, 2007 at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, MN. The keynote speaker was J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director for Fresh Energy. A tour of 30 teachers then visited the Hunt Utilities Group (HUG) campus in Pine River Saturday the 21st; also on the 21st, Happy Dancing Turtle from HUG worked with Pine River-Backus students to do a zero waste day.

### NORTHEAST REGION

\* "Green Green Water" was shown at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College on April 20th, 6:00 pm in Auditorium. The filmmaker, Dawn Mikkelson was at the screening to discuss the film.

\* Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College also hosted a four day solar PV training, April 20-21 and April 27-28. This is one component/module of their "Clean Energy Technician Certification Program" and the workshop was open to all interested parties. To learn more, visit <http://phpserve.fdlcc.edu:16080/board/news.php?item.106>.

\* There was a good turn out on April 20th at Proctor High School as they and the community celebrated "Earth Fair for Proctor's Future," with a wind tur-

bine dedication and Lonnie Dupre, an arctic explorer, who spoke about global warming.

### NORTHWEST REGION

\* Over fifty people attended the Northwest CERT Cellulosic Fuel & Product Industry Forum in Thief River Falls on April 25th. Topics covered included big picture industry potential, case studies, and a panel discussion on how to make projects happen in NW Minnesota. The summary and presentations will be posted soon to the CERTs website.

### SOUTHEAST REGION

\* On April 26th, over 200 people attended a Town Hall Forum in Rochester hosted by ConocoPhillips. Earlier that day nine CERT members sat down with the visiting executives for breakfast and spoke about their visions of a clean energy future, with locally-owned projects and perennial crops creating a more sustainable and diverse bioenergy economy. ConocoPhillips has recently partnered with Tyson foods to produce 175 million gallons of biodiesel annually from animal waste and also announced a \$22.5 million dollar partnership with Iowa State in Ames, Iowa.

## SOUTHWEST REGION

\* Broin is now renamed Poet Bio Refining (reported in the April 16th Worthington Daily Globe). The Poet website news releases provide more information. <http://www.poetenergy.com/news/releases.asp>

\* MinnWest Canby Campus dedicates turbine. (reported in the April 27th Marshall Independent Newspaper) <http://www.marshallindependent.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=12143>

\* A forum called "Managing High Energy Costs II: Discussion of Alternatives & Opportunities" was held at the Redwood Area Community Center on March 13. The presentations given at the forum are now available at the following weblink: [http://www.mncpoe.org/Previous\\_events/previous\\_events.htm](http://www.mncpoe.org/Previous_events/previous_events.htm).

\* On April 27th the Redwood County Environmental Office hosted an Earth Day Open House with information on wind and biodiesel development, discounts on compost bins and more.

## WEST CENTRAL REGION

\* Over 500 people participated in the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center Earth Day Celebration. Director Dave Pederson said they had to improvise a little when it rained the first hour, but all went well, and now they are gearing up for the Youth Energy Summit. Visit [www.prairiewoodselc.org](http://www.prairiewoodselc.org) to learn more.

## *Action Alert: Use the Home Energy Saver Website!*

<http://hes.lbl.gov/>

The Home Energy Saver is designed to help consumers identify the best ways to save energy in their homes, and find the resources to make the savings happen. The Home Energy Saver was the first Internet-based tool for calculating energy use in residential buildings. The project is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), as part of the national ENERGY STAR Program for improving energy efficiency in homes, with previous support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's PATH program, and the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program.

## *Link of the Month: Overview of Renewable Electricity Standards across the U.S.*

[http://www.ucsusa.org/clean\\_energy/clean\\_energy\\_policies/res/overviewstates.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/clean_energy_policies/res/overviewstates.html)

For those interested in comparing and contrasting what states are doing in regards to renewable energy, the Union of Concerned Scientists has a handy overview of each state that has a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES); click on Minnesota in the lower left corner.

(Thanks to Netty Bair for forwarding these websites.)

## *Upcoming Events*

(Note: The Regional Clean Energy Resource Team meetings are generally free and open to all. To find out more about a specific meeting or to RSVP, please contact Joel Haskard @ [haska004@umn.edu](mailto:haska004@umn.edu); 612-625-8759 or Lissa Pawlisch @ [pawl0048@umn.edu](mailto:pawl0048@umn.edu); 612-624-2293)

## CENTRAL

\* Central CERT: June 14th, 5:30-7:30 PM at the Water Foundation's Living Art Center located a few miles outside

of Brainerd. [http://www.hopshop.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=section&id=7&Itemid=94](http://www.hopshop.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=7&Itemid=94) (once at this site, go to "Projects" on the lower left side and click on "campus tour" to see the clean energy technologies available at the site). David Winkelman will be our host, and will be able to show the Central CERT team wind, solar, geothermal, veggie oil and other clean energy technologies.

## NORTHEAST

\* Northeast CERT: June 29th, time and locations to be announced. CERT members and the public will tour Duluth-area homes that are equipped with state-of-the-art energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

## NORTHWEST

\* Northwest CERT: Next meeting TBD.

\* KidWind Courses June 19 & 20, 2007 (K-12 teacher course on wind energy), which will be held at the University of ND, Grand Forks. This teacher course on wind energy is being funded by LM Glasfiber, Grand Forks and sponsored by LM Glasfiber, DMI Industries, Dakota Resource Council, and the Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition. A tour of LM Glasfiber's wind turbine blade manufacturing plant in Grand Forks, ND is included in the course. Interested teachers can register for this teacher course online at the KidWind Project web site <http://www.kidwind.org/workshop/workshopindex.html>.

## SOUTHEAST

\* Southeast CERT: May 24th, 4:00-5:00 PM Heintz Center, Rochester. Visit <http://certs-se.org/> for more information.

\* South Central/ Region 9 CERT: May 23rd, 3:00pm, location TBD.

\* CERTs Spring Efficiency Workshop Wednesday, May 30th, Benco Electric Building  
2 miles South of Mankato off of Hwy 169 ph. 507-345-8280  
School and local government building operators are invited to learn energy-saving and moneysaving strategies. A complimentary lunch will follow each workshop, giving you the chance to meet and chat with utility representatives, building operators and other energy efficiency experts in your region. Call Lucy Rahn at 651-645-6159 ext 6 or visit <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/efficiencyworkshops.html>.

\* Wind Energy Seminars at Eagle Bluff. The Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN is hosting a series of meetings informing citizens about the potential for wind development in the area. Friday, May 11th from 1 to 4 pm Jeff Cook Coyle will lead a conversation about Fillmore County's wind resources, wind maps, and what 25% renewable energy would mean for the area. Saturday, July 7th at 5:30 pm Dinner On The Bluff will feature Farmer's Guide to Wind Energy by the Farmers' Legal Action Group (FLAG) and conservation tips from Tri County Electric & Dairyland Power. Friday, August 10th from 1 to 4 pm will feature information about how wind fits into our national energy needs & global climate changes and will address transmission systems and community & distributed wind concepts. Friday, September 14th from 1 to 4 pm will discussion incentives for

financing wind projects. For more information, visit <http://www.eagle-bluff.org/> or call 888-800-9558 or 507-467-2437.

## SOUTHWEST

\* May 22nd, 2401 Broadway Avenue, Slayton, 9:30 AM. Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting. For more information, e-mail Annette Bair at: [phydev@swrdc.org](mailto:phydev@swrdc.org), or visit [http://www.mncounties2.org/rmeh/about\\_rmeh.htm](http://www.mncounties2.org/rmeh/about_rmeh.htm).

## WEST CENTRAL

\* West Central CERT: Thursday, June 21st, Sunburg, 11:30-3:30 pm, Sunburg Community Center (Old Fire Hall), 211 Isola Street, "Status of Regional Clean Energy Projects & Important Incentives to Assist Projects."

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

\* 2007 Solar Boat Regatta, Saturday, May 27th, 2007 The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) invites student-teacher teams, families, and interested individuals to take part in the annual Solar Boat Regatta. To learn more, visit <http://www.mnrenewables.org/events/solarregatta/index.php> or contact Doug Shoemaker at 952-431-2653; [Dougs@Charter.net](mailto:Dougs@Charter.net)

\* EECO, June 19-20th, 2007. The premier biennial conference and exposition focused on environment and energy issues in the Great Lakes Region of Canada and the United States. More information on [www.eeco2005.com](http://www.eeco2005.com), <http://www.eeco2005.com>.

For More Info about CERTs, contact:

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