



WELCOME TO THE JUNE 2007 ISSUE OF OUR MONTHLY UPDATE!

Over the coming months you'll probably see a lot of information from us. We'll be recruiting new Steering Committee members in each region, we'll be busy working to finalize our next Request for Proposal that we'll issue this fall, and, of course, we'll be planning for late summer and fall CERT meetings! If there are updates you'd like to share about all the work you're doing this summer, please send them our way as we love to highlight the great work you're doing.

LISSA, NETTY & JOEL

Regional Highlights/Experiences

STATEWIDE

■ ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING: Join 430 governmental and institutional purchasers who subscribe to the new MPCA quarterly newsletter Buying Green - Minnesota's EPP Newsletter. This free quarterly e-mail publication is primarily for county and city purchasers, solid waste officers, county EPP specialists and school staff. Sign-up for future issues or read past issues online at the web page above. The 2-page June 2007 issue includes a case study of Dakota County's Environmental Management Department's green meeting protocols. Through the MPCA web site above a number of resources, in addition to the newsletter, are available, such as the Model EPP Programs, which is an annotated hot-linked list of 25 green procurement programs of the federal government and programs in Minnesota, in other states, and in other cities/counties/organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/epp>. or contact MPCA's EPP specialist, Angela Bourdaghs at angela.bourdaghs@state.mn.us or 651/215-0261.

■ 2007 COUNTY ENERGY STAR CHANGE A LIGHT CAMPAIGN: \$3.00 off Coupon from Office Depot offered! Office Depot and NACo are once again challenging counties to collect the most signed pledges from county employees and county residents who pledge to change the most frequently used light in their home to an energy efficient one! Register your county to participate today! www.naco.org/regCAL.

■ Also from ENERGY STAR: New Name for Bulk Purchasing Tool! If you are interested in purchasing large quantities of ENERGY STAR qualified products, check out www.QuantityQuotes.net. This tool allows visitors to the site to obtain a quote for bulk quantities from suppliers on ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, lighting fixtures, clothes washers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, and dehumidifiers.

CENTRAL REGION

■ On June 14th over 20 Central CERT members toured the Eco Domes Conservation Campus, which includes residential-scale wind turbines, a solar PV, geothermal, sustainable construction techniques, and composting toilets. To take a virtual tour, visit <http://www.bogfrog.com/ecotour.htm>. The Eco Domes Conservation Campus is located a few miles outside of Brainerd. Thanks to David Winkelman of Winkelman's Environmentally Responsible Construction for hosting this meeting.

■ The Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) is pleased to announce the award of a large scale research contract that will demonstrate the capacity of the solar air heating collectors being developed by RREAL. RREAL will be providing 67 solar air heating collectors to the Hunt Utilities Group (HUG) of Pine River, Minnesota, a research campus dedicated to fostering the development of sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies. HUG will be purchasing the solar air heating collec-

tors to provide a substantial portion of their winter heating for their newly constructed research building. At 2500 square feet, the finished solar array will be one of the largest solar air heating systems in the nation. Expected to provide 150-200 million Btus per winter heating season, the heat will be delivered to an underground storage system designed by HUG.

NORTHEAST REGION

■ On June 29th, over 20 CERT members toured Duluth and Two Harbors-area homes that are equipped with state-of-the-art energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies including wind, solar, geothermal. Included in the tour was the Duluth EcoHome; to learn more visit <http://www.womenworking.org/solarhouse/2007EcoHome.htm>. Our thanks to CERT members Dave Starks, Mike LeBeau, Jamie Juenemann and their families for opening their homes, as well as Chris Reed and Dean Talbott for driving the vans provided by Minnesota Power.

NORTHWEST REGION

■ KidWind Courses were held at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks June 19 & 20, 2007. This K-12 teacher course on wind energy was funded by LM Glasfiber, Grand Forks and sponsored by LM Glasfiber, DMI Industries, Dakota Resource Council, and the Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition. Participants took a tour of LM Glasfiber's wind turbine blade manufacturing plant in Grand Forks, ND as part of the course. Learn more about the KidWind Courses held around the country at <http://www.kidwind.org/workshop/workshopindex.html>.

■ U of M professor Paul Porter and local farmers hosted an on-farm biodiesel production demonstration, Wednesday, June 27th in Wannaska. The demonstration, partially funded by the Regional Sustainable Development partnerships <http://www.regionalpartnerships.umn.edu/>, attracted over 55 attendees. For more information, contact Paul Porter at 612-635-6719 or Kraig Lee in Wannaska at 218-425-7719.

■ U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson announced recently that the Giziibii Resource Conservation & Development Council in Bemidji has been awarded \$229,700 for a Demonstration & Evaluation of Burning Waste Streams Project from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 2007 Conservation Innovation Grants Awards. The project will evaluate biomass produced on two demonstration farms and burned in a low-water use gasification system for the production of syngas to generate electricity. This power will be used at the Northern Excellence seed processing facility in Williams, Minnesota.

■ The Fargo newspaper The Forum reported in their June 26th article "Participation in Wind Project Urged" that the West Fargo School Board was urged recently to sign on to a city of Fargo plan to build a wind turbine near Tower City, N.D. "Bruce Grubb, Fargo's enterprise director, said the 1.5-megawatt wind turbine would cost about \$2.4 million all of which would be financed with interest-free Clean Renewable Energy Bonds backed by the federal government. Grubb said the turbine, which has a life of about 25 years, would show a small profit in its 16th year of operation, with a profit of nearly \$2.8 million by the time its useful life was over...The board took no action on the request."

SOUTHEAST REGION

■ Houston Nature Center in Houston, Minnesota hosted a summer solstice celebration on June 23rd that included ways to live more earth-friendly ways. Tri-County Electric Cooperative was on hand to show people how to incorporate energy efficiency measures in their homes. The Experiment in Rural Cooperative was a sponsor of the celebration.

■ On June 27th Christian Milaster hosted a brown bag lunch in the Leighton Auditorium on the 2nd floor of the Siebens Building to hear about his house near Lanseboro that combines sustainable energy use with environmentally-friendly construction materials. Check out the website <http://www.lichtnstein.org> to learn more. Olmsted County CERT members who toured the house were very impressed!

■ June 25th Pioneer Press article "Xcel Presents Plan to Build Wind Farm" states that Xcel Energy plans to build a wind farm in Minnesota near Austin next year. "The proposed Grand Meadow Wind Farm would generate 100 megawatts of power and be located on 40 square miles of land south of Interstate 90 and the Mower County town of Dexter. Although Xcel is the nation's top provider of wind energy, according to the American Wind Energy Association, it needs to add 3,000 megawatts to 3,400 megawatts of wind-generated energy to its Minnesota system by 2020 to meet the renewable-energy standard signed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty earlier this year...The Grand Meadow Wind Farm would produce 100 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power 25,000 to 30,000 homes, using 67 turbines that each can pump out 1.5 megawatts of power when the wind is blowing. The utility has contracted with enXco Development Corp. to build the wind farm."

■ The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission recently voted to issue final site permit to Kenyon Wind LLC for a 18.9 MW wind farm in Goodhue County.

■ Sixty one turbines are set to be installed in east Mower County. The 100 MW project, known as the Prairie Star Wind Farm, will involve land in Bennington, Clayton, Grand Meadow and Marshall townships.

■ US BioEnergy is building a 100 million gallon ethanol plant, the largest in Minnesota, a half-mile east of Janesville on U.S. Highway 14.

SOUTHWEST REGION

■ Murray County Commissioners toured the Fenton wind project recently, according to an article in the June 20th Murray County News. The \$385 million wind farm project under construction in Murray and Nobles County consists of 137 wind turbines and will produce electrical energy estimated to be sufficient for more than 66,600 homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 550,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year, compared with equivalent fossil fuel generation. The project is being managed by EnXco, with electricity generated to be purchased by Xcel Energy. The 205.5 mega-watt farm began construction in September, 2006.

■ Congratulations to the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, based in Slayton, MN who recently celebrated the completion of the Viking Terrace Apartments in Worthington. The project has gained national attention because of the use of green technology. In remodeling a 60 unit apartment complex in SW Minnesota, they have incorporated a geothermal heating and cooling system and several

other energy efficient improvements for a more cost efficient housing for both the tenants and owner. <http://www.green-communitiesonline.org/Minnesota/default.asp?id=69>.

WEST CENTRAL REGION

■ Over 35 CERT members met Thursday, June 21st, in Sunburg to learn the topic "Incentives to Help Make Your Clean Energy Project Happen." Speakers included Lisa Noty from the USDA, Kellye Rose from Rose Consulting, Lowell Rasmussen from U of M Morris, Wind Developer Andrew Falk, Jerry Frieler from Christianson & Associates CPA Firm, and Dorothy Rosemeier from the U of M's West Central regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Presentations and the meeting summary will be posted on the website soon.

■ Small Wind Meeting: On Thursday, June 21st in Olivia, MN, community members gathered at Max's Grill to share and learn about opportunities for small wind development that pending federal legislation would deliver. The meeting was hosted by the Renville County Agriculture/Renewable Energy Committee, ProAg of Renville County, Renville County Farm Bureau, and Renville County Corn/Soybean Growers.

■ To read a good article on the wind-to-hydrogen-to-ammonia project at the West Central Research & Outreach Center see the University of Minnesota Solutions Spring/Summer 2007 http://www.cfans.umn.edu/solutions/Wind_Power.htm.

Action Alert: Submit a nomination for regional CERT steering committee!

As many of you already know, CERTs was allocated additional funding during the past legislative session that will greatly increase the amount of funding each region will receive for the Request for Proposal grant process. Specifically, the CERTs program has been awarded \$625,000 per year for the next two years to fund projects in CERT regions.

With more funding available, the role of the regional CERT steering committees will expand. In order to ensure accountability for additional funds we are creating steering committee bylaws to formalize committee roles. With the role of steering committee members changing we are asking for new nominations for committee members. Current steering committee members are welcome to apply and self-nominations are both welcome and encouraged.

Steering Committee duties include guiding and providing strategic direction to regional teams, assisting with planning of regional meetings, attending meetings, providing leadership within the region, determine how to focus the requests for proposal, review requests for proposal language, review all proposals, and recommend projects for funding to the larger CERT for team vote. CERTs staff are available to assist steering committee members throughout these steps.

An official call for nominations will be sent out to CERTs by July 10th and deadline for nominations will be July 20th. Contact Joel (612-625-8759; haska004@umn.edu) with questions. Email nominations to Holly Lahd, CERTs Research Assistant, at lahdx002@umn.edu or call 612-625-3759.

Links of the Month: Green Rooftops

Did you know that over 900 people from around the world attended the 5th annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities conference in Minneapolis through April 29th-May 1st? Did you know that the Minnesota Green Roofs Council has identified over 80 green roofs in Minnesota, totaling over a million square feet of green roofs in the state?

<http://www.mngreenroofs.org>

Minnesota Green Roof Council Website. It includes information about different types of green roofs as well as an interactive map with all the green roof locations in Minnesota.

<http://www.bluestem.ca/green-roofs.htm>

This Blue Stem Nursery website has a number of great links on green roofs and provides a source of where to find the prairie grasses for green roofs.

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; 612-625-8759 or

Lissa Pawlisch - paw10048@umn.edu; 612-624-2293

CENTRAL

■ **EcoSquared Fair:** July 19-July 21. There will be workshops offered covering a variety of topics related to sustainable living. If you are interested in participating in the fair this year, either as a presenter, demonstrator, or vendor, contact Barb at 218.587.2303, or barbhines@happydancingturtle.org.

Registration forms and more information are available on the Happy Dancing Turtle website www.happydancingturtle.org or the Eco Squared Fair website www.ecosquared.org. To be included in promotional materials, registrations need to be received no later than June 15.

■ **Biomass Field Day:** August 3, 2007 in Little Falls from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This biomass field day is designed for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in understanding the opportunities that exist in biomass harvesting and utilization. Natural resources professionals and loggers are also encouraged to attend.

Questions about the workshop contact: Diomy Zamora, University of Minnesota Extension at 888-241-0720.

NORTHEAST

■ **Biomass Field Day:** August 2, 2007 in Grand Rapids from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This biomass field day is designed for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in understanding the opportunities that exist in biomass harvesting and utilization. Natural resources professionals and

loggers are also encouraged to attend.

Questions about the workshop contact: Diomy Zamora, University of Minnesota Extension at 888-241-0720.

■ **Lake Superior Renewable Energy Fair:** Saturday, September 8th, 2007, in conjunction with Duluth's 14th annual Harvest Fest. The Lake Superior Energy Fair is the largest of its kind in Minnesota's northeast region, with over 8,000 spectators visiting the event last year. For more information see: <http://www.lakesuperiorenergy.org/events.html>.

NORTHWEST

■ **Northwest CERT:** Tuesday, July 31st, from 1:00pm to 3:30pm McIntosh Municipal Building. This meeting will evaluate projects and themes from the past year and decide on the direction for NW CERT during 2007-2008.

SOUTHEAST

■ **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. 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 discuss incentives for financing wind projects. For more information, visit www.eagle-bluff.org or call 888-800-9558 or 507-467-2437.

■ **Southeast CERT:** Tuesday, July 24th, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, Heinz Center, Rochester

SOUTHWEST

■ **Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting:** Monday July 23th, 2401 Broadway Avenue, Slayton, 9:30 AM. For more information, e-mail Annette Bair at: phydev@swrdc.org, or visit http://www.mncounties2.org/rmeb/about_rmeb.htm.

■ **Farmfest:** August 7-9, 2007 at Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County. Farmfest includes over 500 local and leading companies in the farming industry, educational forums highlighting topics relevant to the issues that today's farmer faces, live-stock and field demonstrations, and programs and entertainment for the entire family. For more information, please visit www.farmshows.com.

WEST CENTRAL

■ **WC CERT:** TBD

■ **U of M Morris Biomass Facility Public Groundbreaking:** July 27. The reactor will convert corn stalks and other residual materials into a syngas--similar to natural gas--that can be burned to produce clean energy for heating and eventually cooling the campus. The facility also will serve as a platform for UMM research partners to identify tradeoffs and opportunities surrounding gasifying other agricultural residues. 11 a.m., construction site next to the UMM heating plant. www.morris.umn.edu/ummnews/View.php?itemID=3493

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **Wildlife/Bioenergy Conference:** Thursday, July 19, 2007, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Lunch provided at noon. Location: Cargill/MPG Building, Room 105, St. \ Paul Campus. Bioenergy can be an important part of the solution to the expected climate problems of the future, but we need to know more about its effect on the world's wildlife. Everyone interested in wildlife and/or bioenergy is invited to attend and hear the discussions, develop ideas, offer suggestions, and generally contribute to this timely issue. To register: www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/bioenergy/wildlife2007.html

■ **RoofBloom:** (Green Roofs for your garage or house) Saturday, July 28th, 10:00am to 12:00pm East Lake Library 2727 East Lake Street Minneapolis, Minnesota Please contact cwagscheid@cermakrhoades.com [cwagscheid@cermakrhoades.com] or Corrie Zoll [corrie@mngreenroofs.org] 612-423-2048

■ **Solar Domestic Hot Water System classes:** August 11th, 12th, The Green Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota <http://www.mnrenewables.org/events/classes/index.php>

■ **Basic Solar Photovoltaics classes:** August 22, 23rd, The Green Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota <http://www.mnrenewables.org/events/classes/index.php>

■ **Minnesota State Fair and the ECOEXPERIENCE:** August 23 - September 3, 2007 - For more information, visit <http://www.mnstatefair.org/index.html>.

■ **Energy, Economic, and Environmental Conference:** (E3 2007). On November 27, 2007, IREE will host a conference focusing on the intersection between innovative technologies, visionary policies, environmental benefits, and emerging market opportunities as they relate to developments in the renewable energy sector. The event will consist of keynote addresses, breakout sessions, research posters, and industry booths. In addition to University faculty members, the E3 2007 conference will feature speakers from business and industry, government, and the non-profit sector. For more information on the planning of the event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sarah Schmitz.

TO VIEW MORE EVENTS, VISIT

<http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/calendar.cfm>.

NEWSFLASH

CERTs Coordinator Lissa Pawlisch is the proud mom of Graham Pawlisch Bailey, born Saturday, June 30th at 10:14 am! Graham enters the world at eight pounds and twenty one inches. Both mom and baby are doing well. Yeah!!! If you want to send Lissa your regards, you can mail them directly to the address below or e-mail them to Joel Haskard at haska004@umn.edu, and I'll print them out and hand-deliver them with a card.

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FOR MORE INFO ABOUT CERTS, CONTACT

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