



WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 2007 ISSUE OF OUR MONTHLY UPDATE!

In early September, nearly 450 people in the five greater Minnesota transmission districts got together to discuss the Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 and the Dispersed Generation Study, as well as what can be done to promote community-based energy development in Minnesota. Attendees included electric utility representatives, zoning and planning officials, city officials, county commissioners, economic development professionals, renewable energy developers, large end users of electricity, and other citizens interested in community based renewable energy. CERTs wants to thank all of the partnering organizations who worked long and hard together in the hopes of providing useful information for identifying and implementing community-scale clean energy projects. Visit the meeting follow up page on the CERTs website.

LISSA, NETTY & JOEL

Regional Highlights/Experiences

CENTRAL REGION

■ **Rural Renewable Energy Alliance Tour:** RREAL began manufacturing solar thermal panels in September! Central CERT will have a tour of the facility October 11th, which is the day that RREAL will be submitting their collectors to SRCC for certification. RREAL is currently partnering with Minnesota Power to provide three low-income homes in the Duluth area with their solar assistance program. www.rreal.org/solar_assist.htm.

NORTHEAST REGION

■ **Lake Superior Renewable Energy Fair** was held Saturday, September 8th, 2007, in conjunction with Duluth's 14th annual Harvest Fest. This was the third year for the Lake Superior Energy Fair, and it is now the largest of its kind in Minnesota's north-east region. For more information see: www.lakesuperiorenergy.org/events.html.

■ **Local Energy Initiative Meeting:** There were 81 registrants for the Thursday, September 13th meeting at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Host organizations included Silver Creek Institute, Northeast CERTs, and Northeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. To view presentations, handouts and maps, visit www.cleanenergyresource teams.org/localenergyinitiatives.html.

■ **Seizing Opportunity: Forestry and the Bio-Economy** was held September 20-21 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids. This conference sponsored by the Blandin Foundation and Iron Range Resources focused on aligning actors in the region to take best advantage of emerging technologies and markets for the region's communities and forest products industry. Among many highlights, the Governor hosted his weekly radio address from the conference, which you can listen to here. For more information on the conference, click here to visit the event Web site.

■ **THINK BIG: There's Profit in the Wind** meeting on Friday, September 21st at the Minnesota general office building drew 92 attendees who explored the potential of manufacturing turbine parts within the region. Co-sponsors Minnesota Power, the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX), Duluth Seaway Port Authority and Arrowhead Manufacturers and Fabricators Association (AMFA) were pleased by the turnout and level of discussion. "This event was geared toward regional wind energy suppliers and manufacturers," said MP Economic Development Analyst Senior Jennifer Hawkins. "It provided an educational and networking opportunity to build a consortium of suppliers interested in attracting a wind component manufac-

turer to our region." Other strategic partners in the initiative, she noted, include state agencies, utilities, trade associations, educational institutions, foundations and economic development agencies.

NORTHWEST REGION

■ **Local Energy Initiative Meeting:** There were 68 registrants for the Wednesday, September 19 meeting at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Host Organizations were Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and Northwest CERTs. To view presentations, handouts and maps, visit www.cleanenergyresource teams.org/localenergyinitiatives.html.

SOUTHEAST REGION

■ **Local Energy Initiative Meeting:** There were 112 registrants for the Tuesday, September 11th meeting at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna. The host organization was the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. To view presentations, handouts and maps, visit www.cleanenergyresource teams.org/localenergyinitiatives.html.

■ **The Southeast CERT Hazelnut farm/Passive Solar Green House Tour** in Lake City on September 13th had 30 attendees. Norm Erickson gave an excellent power point presentation and tour, and had another 30+ people visiting the next day for a similar all-day event. Norm says "We are enthusiastic about hazelnuts because of their versatility as a food product in the short term and as a biodiesel oil source in the long term. Crude oil production is poised to peak and begin to fall in a few years, if it has not already happened. Low input, high productivity (perennial) biofuel crops are going to help us through the adjustment period of very high conventional fuels prices and increasing shortages. Hazelnuts have the potential to become the preferred on-farm biodiesel energy crop. We will begin shipping hazelnuts from our greenhouse in 2009."

■ **Incentives for financing wind projects** were discussed by the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center on Friday, September 14th. For more information, visit www.eagle-bluff.org or call either 888-800-9558 or 507-467-2437.

■ **A \$34 million emission reduction project at the Silver Lake Plant** was announced by Rochester Public Utilities September 25th. The project will significantly reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, and particulate matter emissions at the plant.

SOUTHWEST REGION

■ **Local Energy Initiative Meeting:** There were 91 registrants for the Wednesday, September 5th meeting at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. The host organization was the Southwest Initiative Foundation. To view presentations, handouts and maps, visit www.cleanenergyresource teams.org/localenergyinitiatives.html.

■ **Madelia's Rural Development Model:** Research by the small south-central city of Madelia, Minnesota, found enough available agricultural land, community support and energy demand to develop a renewable energy project. The plan is to grow perennial crops on marginal land for use in a biomass energy generation plan. It appears that perennials would be just as profitable as growing corn and would work to improve local water quality. The Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), in partnership with Madelia community leaders - including, significantly, a city-owned electric utility - facilitated focus group sessions with area residents to identify community principles for the project to ensure the needs of residents are met. At present, the City of Madelia and the Chamber of Commerce are working toward adoption of the principles. IATP hopes that the Madelia Model for integrating sustainability and renewable energy into rural development will serve as an example for other small towns. To view the report and for more information click here to visit IATP's website.

WEST CENTRAL REGION

■ **Local Energy Initiative Meeting:** There were 93 registrants for Monday, September 10th at the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris. The host organization was the West Central Research and Outreach Center. To view presentations, handouts and maps, visit www.cleanenergyresource teams.org/localenergyinitiatives.html.

■ **Youth Energy Summit (YES!)** was held September 20-21, 2007. This two day Summit brought together 11 teams of students in 8th-12th grades to learn about issues and opportunities in renewable energy and energy efficiency. About 20 exhibitors of local businesses and environmental groups displayed information in a resource fair on the second day. The student teams from West Central and South West Minnesota were sent back home with a challenge to create an energy action project to implement in their communities. Midway to the final event in April, the teams will meet again in January for workshops, project evaluations, and to make connections with other teams and businesses. On Earth Day in April 2008, the teams will meet for a final presentation. Prizes will

be awarded for specific areas such as community engagement and carbon footprint reduction. For more information go to www.prairiewoodselc.org/YES.html.

METRO REGION

■ **The Solution-Driven Science Symposium, Biofuels: Breaking the Barriers for Biomass Conversion**, a one day conference held at the University Of Minnesota on the St. Paul Campus on September 19, 2007, drew about 200 professors, students, researchers, and others in the bio-engineering field. The day began with a poster session where about 40 posters of different research projects were on display, topics ranging from converting animal waste to energy to carbon sequestration. The first speaker, Charlie Wyman from UC-Riverside, discussed the benefits of cellulosic ethanol and concluded that it will soon be ready for commercial production. Simon Harvey from Chalmers University in Sweden lectured on thermochemical conversion of biomass, saying to mitigate climate change will require fast action. A roundtable discussion session with audience questions followed.

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

■ **MPCA Environmental Assistance Grants:** Request for Proposals were posted September 17, 2007. Individuals and public and private entities are eligible. At least \$350,000 available; \$40,000 and \$75,000 max. Four-page pre-proposals due October 29, 2007. These annual grants provide financial assistance for the development of environmentally sustain-

able products and practices in Minnesota through voluntary partnerships and goal-oriented, economically-driven approaches to pollution prevention and resource conservation. Proposals will be accepted within these categories: Preventing Waste and Pollution at the Source, Creating More Sustainable Communities, Developing and Expanding Markets for Underutilized Materials, & High Impact Integrated Environmental Improvements. For more info, [click here](#) to visit the MPCA website.

■ **Big Stone II News:** A recent article in the Star Tribune by Neil St. Anthony addressed the decision by Great River Energy and another small MN utility company to cancel their ¼ share of the proposed Big Stone II coal power plant. They believe it is better to wait to build a power plant because they predict regulatory caps on carbon dioxide emissions are coming into state law. They fear that a traditional coal plant built now would require expensive modifications for carbon sequestration in the future. [Click here](#) to read the article.

■ **Save Energy Now**, the US DOE's Industrial Technologies Program (ITP), helps industrial plants operate more efficiently and profitably by identifying ways to reduce energy use in key industrial process systems. Learn how Save Energy Now can help put you on a path to energy savings by participating in an energy assessment ([visit Web site](#)). Read about the assessment process ([read online](#)) for details, or [click here](#) to learn more general details.

Links of the Month: Windustry Community Wind Toolbox & Farmers' Guide To Wind Energy, and Wind Project Financing Report

1. Check out Windustry's spiffy new website and peruse a couple of really useful tools. **The Community Wind Toolbox** was a Clean Energy Resource Team project (with lots of partners!) funded through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. The Community Wind Handbook offers high-quality practical information for farmers and rural landowners looking to develop commercial-scale wind projects...www.windustry.org/communitywindtoolbox.

2. Scroll down to the **Farmer's Guide To Wind Industry**...www.windustry.org/farmers-guide-to-wind-energy. Please also view the Farmer's Legal Action Group (FLAG) handbook, "Legal Guide to Help Farmers Make the Most of their Windy Land." The guide contains important legal information for farmers interested in a range of wind energy developments, whether leasing land to a third-party developer, installing a small wind turbine for on-farm energy needs, or developing a large farmer-owned wind project for profit.

3. A new report, "**Wind Project Financing Structures: A Review & Comparative Analysis**," released by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab on September 26th, sheds light on the intricacies of the wind project finance structures that have been developed in recent years to help fund the rapid expansion of the wind power sector in the U.S. For more info contact Mark Bolinger (MABolinger@lbl.gov, 603-795-4937) or Matt Karcher (karcher@deaconharbor.com, 972-739-0242). Download the report...<http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/emp/reports?63434.pdf>.

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 - pawl0048@umn.edu; 612-624-2293

CENTRAL

■ **Central CERT Tour:** Thursday, October 11th at the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) office and production facility on the Hunt Utilities Group campus in Pine River. The Steering Committee will meet from 4:30-5:30pm and the tour/event will go from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. That is the day that RREAL will be submitting their collectors to SRCC for certification (they ship off five of them), so we will have a product roll-out/send-off party coupled with the CERTS meeting. It should be fun! The HUG Research Campus is located at 2502 24th St SW, Pine River, MN 56474. For further directions, call RREAL at 218-587-4753.

■ **Global Warming Solutions: A public forum with polar explorer Will Steger:** October 29, 2007 from 7–8:30pm at Church of the Sacred Heart, 2875 10th Ave NE, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379. Hear from Will Steger, Minnesota's own eyewitness to global warming, about his vivid, firsthand account of the effects of global warming on the polar regions. Speakers include Bishop John F. Kinney, Bishop John Anderson, J. Drake Hamilton, and Mark Peters. Fresh Energy's J. Drake Hamilton will describe effective global warming solutions for individuals, businesses, and governments. Before and after the main program, please join us for a resource fair featuring local organizations with information on global warming solutions. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Carin Skoog at Fresh Energy (skoog@fresh-energy.org or 651-726-7561). Find location details at www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org.

NORTHEAST

■ **NE CERT Tour:** Thursday, October 18th, noon-4pm at the Reed home, 2248 County Line Road, Nickerson, MN 55749. After lunch, announcements, and new business, the Reeds will take everyone on a tour of the renewable energy systems on their property, including a wind turbine, solar PV array, moveable greenhouse, and modified root cellar. For further directions, call Chris Reed at 218-496-5716.

■ **Global Warming Solutions: A public forum with polar explorer Will Steger:** October 28, 2007, 7–8:30pm at the Holiday Inn, Duluth (200 W First St, Duluth, MN 55802).

Hear from Will Steger, Minnesota's own eyewitness to global warming, about his vivid, firsthand account of the effects of global warming on the polar regions. Bishop Peter Strommen will offer a faith reflection on global warming. Fresh Energy's J. Drake Hamilton will describe effective global warming solutions for individuals, businesses, and governments. Dr. Lucinda Johnson will discuss impacts on aquatic resources. Before and after the main program, please join us for a resource fair featuring local organizations with information on global warming solutions. Music will be provided by the Duluth band Biochemical Characters. This event is free and open to the public. [Click here to download the event flyer.](#)

NORTHWEST

■ **Northwest CERTs Meeting:** We will tour the On-Farm Biodiesel Project at the U of M Crookston Campus sometime in mid November. More details coming soon.

■ **Global Warming Solutions: A public forum with polar explorer Will Steger:** November 5, 2007 from 8–9:30pm at Concordia College, Memorial Auditorium (901 8th St S, Moorhead, MN 56562). Hear from Will Steger, Minnesota's own eyewitness to global warming, about his vivid, firsthand account of the effects of global warming on the polar regions. Fresh Energy's J. Drake Hamilton will describe effective global warming solutions for individuals, businesses, and governments. For more information about the program, contact Concordia's office of Cultural Events at 218-299-4366 or Fresh Energy at 651-726-7561.

SOUTHEAST

■ **Nobel Conference 2007:** October 2-3 at Gustavus Adolphus College. The conference will consider the problems of global warming and declining oil reserves, drawing upon world-renowned energy and resource experts to put our current energy dilemma into perspective and examine new and advancing technologies. Speakers will include a variety of top professors and researchers from around the country. CERTs will have a table at this event. [Click here to register online](#) or [click here to print the registration form.](#)

■ **The next Southeast CERT meeting** will be held on October 31 at 4pm at Badgersett Research Farms (website south and east of Preston in Canton (18606 Deer Rd, Canon, MN 55922)). A tour of the farm will follow the meeting, where we will learn about production and processing of hazelnuts for oil...there may also be chestnut tasting involved.

■ **Global Warming Solutions: A public forum with polar explorer Will Steger:** November 4, 2007 from 1– 3pm at First Lutheran Church, 301 W Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007. Hear from Will Steger, Minnesota's own eyewitness to global warming, about his vivid, firsthand account of the effects of global warming on the polar regions. Fresh Energy's J. Drake Hamilton will describe effective global warming solutions for individuals, businesses, and governments. Bishop Harold Usgaard will also be speaking. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Carin Skoog at Fresh Energy, skoog@fresh-energy.org or at 651-726-7561. Find location details at www.flcal.org or call 507-373-6424.

SOUTHWEST

■ **Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting:** November 26th at 9:30 am. [Click here for more info.](#)

WEST CENTRAL

■ **Growing Green Enterprise Workshop:** Wednesday, October 3 in Willmar, MN. The Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore and EcoVentures International are offering a one-time series of regional workshops on green enterprise development. Immerse yourself in the environmental enterprise sector through practical examples, key local market information and opportunities, group discussion sessions and presentations – all with expert local and national practitioners in the field. Free to attend, but space is limited. Register at www.eco-ventures.org.

■ **WC CERT Tour:** Monday, October 29th. A meeting tour of Solar Skies solar thermal manufacturing tour in Starbuck & Alexandria, MN. More information to come soon on the CERTs events webpage ([click here](#)).

METRO & OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **CAPX2020 Transmission Meetings** will continue to have meetings throughout the fall. Visit www.capx2020.com/projects/index.html and select a project of interest.

■ **BioCycle's 7th Annual Conference:** October 1-3, 2007. Network with the best and the brightest of the growing renewable energy industry. Register now for BioCycle's 7th Annual Conference on Renewable Energy From Organics Recycling in Indianapolis, Indiana at Sheraton Hotel City Centre. This three-day event will bring together project managers, policy makers, investors, technology and system providers, utilities, consultants, farmers and researchers. Agenda topics focus on latest developments in advanced systems, operations at innovative projects, economic and energy generation performance, and public policies that are helping

to fund development of renewable energy. More information about the Conference is available at www.biocycle.net. Registration fee of \$395 includes attendance at all Conference sessions on October 1 and 2, and all day tours on October 3. To register, visit www.biocycle.net, or call 610.967.4135 x21.

■ **National Solar Tour:** Saturday, October 6, 2007.

Solar powered and energy efficient homes and buildings in the Twin Cities and other Minnesota cities will be shown on free, self-guided public tours. The tour offers local residents an opportunity to find out how their neighbors are trimming their energy bills, increasing their energy independence and taking steps to address global warming. Locally, over 30 solar buildings will be open for tours from 10am-5pm. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in Solar Energy to view Solar installations and talk with the building owners about their experiences. Full details can be found on www.mnrenewables.org/events/solartour/index.php.

■ **Global Warming Solutions: An Eyewitness Account:** October 9, 2007 from 10am–Noon at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave, Roseville, MN 55155. Come and hear Will Steger's account of the dramatic climatic changes he has observed at the earth's poles. J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy addresses solutions to global warming and what we can all do to help. Free and open to the public. For more info go to www.vital-aging-network.org or call 651-917-4652. This event will repeat October 14 from 7–8pm at All Saints Catholic Church, 19795 Holyoke Ave, Lakeville, MN 55044.

■ **The Long Emergency: The Coming Global Oil Crisis and Climate Change:** Wednesday, October 10, 7pm at Iowa State University's Memorial Union Sun Room. The Leopold Center and the Center for Energy and Environmental Education at the University of Northern Iowa are bringing best-selling author and social critic James Howard Kunstler to Iowa. Now training his eye on the oil crisis, his latest book, *The Long Emergency*, explores the sweeping economic, political, and social changes that will result from the end of access to cheap fossil fuels and the impact this will have on the way we live, work, farm and build. For more info [click here](#) to visit the Leopold Center events page.

■ **Midwest Cogeneration Association's Annual Energy Conference:** Wednesday, October 24, at McDonald's University in Oak Brook, Illinois. At the conference, *Clean, Green, & Efficient: the future of distributed energy*, join other energy professionals and energy users to learn about the most important developments and solutions to the hottest issues in this rapidly evolving field. Prominent leaders and

experts in the energy and environmental industry will provide information and insights on such current topics as: The Design of Future Electric Grids, Electric Interconnect Standards in the Midwest States, Calculating the Carbon Footprint of your Facility, CHP in Ethanol & Bio-diesel Plants, Industrial Heat Recovery, Bio-Waste to Energy, Natural Gas Prices, Cogeneration & Blended fuels.

Attendees of this conference will receive a PDH certificate for eight credit hours. Registration Fees are \$195 for non-MCA members and \$150 for MCA members.

■ **Community Assistantship Program Fall Grant Program:**

The grants will allow rural communities to hire a University of Minnesota student to work on a project defined by those communities. Proposals are due October 30th, approved projects will run from January 10th, 2008 to May 25th, 2008.

Winning communities will review job applications and select the student who best meets their needs. For details on how to apply see the attachment or apply on line (preferred) by clicking here. Eligible organizations include community groups, organizations, and local governments in Greater Minnesota (plus outer suburbs in the Twin Cities). Many different types of projects can be funded, but current priority is projects related to economic development.

■ **Environmental Contaminants: Assessing the Risk and Shaping Public Health Policy:** Thursday, November 1 from 8am–Noon at the Science Museum of Minnesota's Discovery Room, 120 West Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN. Join MEI and experts in the field for a timely discussion on environmental contaminants and public health policy. Last year Minnesota passed new legislation to address environmental contamination by arsenic, mercury, and perfluorochemicals. Join us as we gain a deeper understanding of Minnesota's new biomonitoring and tracking legislation and the risk assessment of environmental contaminants. The forum will explore options for shaping public health policy given the inherent challenges of assessing the risk of environmental contaminants. MEI Policy Forums are open to both members and non-members. Scholarships are available for this event. For more information, please contact Jack Hogin at jhogin@mn-ei.org or at 612.334.3388 ext. 105.

■ **WindEnergy Business 2007:** November 6th, 2007 in Des Moines, Iowa. German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACCoM) will be hosting a conference regarding US-German Opportunities for Cooperation in Windpower. The primary objective of the conference is to open a dialogue for partnership between companies from two of the world's leading countries in wind energy tech-

nologies. Topics will include wind power, process control technologies, regulation, certification, and other related areas. You can email meier@gaccom.org, or Director, Consulting Services, Mark Tomkins at tomkins@gaccom.org, and we will certainly keep you up-to-date on further information about the event and how to participate. For more info, click here.

■ **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.

■ **Neighborhood Sustainability Conference: *Connecting City & Citizen Efforts for Sustainable Communities, Preparing your Community for Climate and Energy Change.*** Saturday, March 8, 2008. 8:30 to 4:30 at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN. At the Conference volunteer teams from neighborhoods, congregations and schools will receive project tool kits to carry out a spring or summer project with step-by-step instructions, outreach tips, who to call for advice, and possible funding sources. Topic tracks will include Energy efficiency, green buildings, renewable energy, watershed education/restoration, gardening, urban forestry, transportation, local & sustainable food systems, developing a municipal sustainability plan, and workshops on Code Ready. We will also be offering a session for Local Government staff and elected officials on Friday, March 7 from 1pm to 4pm, location TBA. Please pre-register for this free conference at www.afors.org.

■ **21st North American Prairie Conference:** Winona State, August 2008. In our program we have concurrent sessions for sustainable agriculture and renewable energy (biomass for biofuels). Click here for further details.

■ [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE EVENTS](#)

■ [CLICK HERE TO VIEW OTHER EVENT CALENDARS](#)

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT CERTS, CONTACT

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