

**Central Region CERTs Summary**  
**Perham Resource Recovery Facility**  
**201 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Northeast, Perham, Minnesota**  
**Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006**  
**3:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Attendees:** Rin Porter, Dallas Flynn, Sarah Hayden, Joel Haskard, Bret Thomas, Dave Thomas, Jason Edens, Copper Harding, Sue Peterson, Shawn Anderson, Ryan Hunt, Dave Winkleman, Rodney Horner

**3:30 pm Met in the Perham Resource Recovery Facility lot.**

**3:45 pm Toured the Perham Resource Recovery Facility**

Facility manager Brian Schmidt gave us a tour of this waste-to-energy plant, one of only nine in the state. The facility, which employs 13 people, is owned by the City of Perham and burns garbage produced in Todd, Wadena, Otter Tail, and Stearns counties. The steam generated by this process is sold to two local companies. A 1.5 megawatt turbine is on-site, but is not being used because the available steam is already being used. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/chp/pdf/perham.pdf>.

**4:30-4:45 Team members drove to Dallas Flynn's place.**

**4:45-5:15 Toured Dallas' place.**

Dallas and his wife Mary showed us their high tunnel structure which he uses to extend the growing season for his fruits and vegetables. The team toured their green home under construction which will have a ground source heat pump and is being constructed with insulated concrete forms (ICF). We were then treated to home made wine, dinner and dessert. Thank Dallas and Mary!

**5:15-7:00 Dinner and vote on CERT proposals to be funded.**

The Central CERT reviewed all the proposals and voted on their favorites to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region. The Central Region submitted NINE proposals for CERTs funding, three times more than any other region, so it was a very difficult process in which the team performed admirably.

The projects were, in brief, as follows:

- Green Range Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL), requests funding to refurbish and install 17 solar trough collectors at the biodiesel "microbrewery" in Ironton, MN. Total labor costs: **\$3,300** (amount requested \$5,200)
- The Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) requests funding to conduct a cost/benefit analysis of using solar heating systems in low-income households. Total labor costs: **\$2,350** (Amount requested \$2,650)

- Park Rapids School District #309 seeks funding for research and technical assistance to assist the school district in choosing the appropriate site and equipment for a wind energy project. Total labor costs: **\$4,200** (amount requested \$4,200)
  - Azariah Acres Farm seeks funding to determine the feasibility of using geothermal systems to heat drinking water for livestock and to then, if feasible, install a system. Total labor costs: **\$1,740** (amount requested \$2,140)
  - Bret Thomas proposes to shorten and modify a VW rabbit frame to create a smaller commuter vehicle powered by biodiesel. Note: Bret graciously withdrew his proposal so that the others could receive larger grant dollars.
  - The Morrison County Agricultural Society proposes to light the "Welcome" sign at the Morrison County Fairgrounds using solar power. Total labor costs: **\$1,000** (amount requested \$2,250)
  - EcoDomes LLC seeks funding for used fryer oil (UFO) fuel research and infrastructure development. Total Labor Costs: **\$4,200** (amount requested \$4,200)
  - EcoDomes LLC seeks funding for rebuilding and installing used solar thermal hot water heating systems in partnership with RREAL. Total Labor Costs: **\$4,200** (amount requested \$4,200)
  - EcoDomes LLC seeks funding to install a new Jacobs 31-20 KW turbine on a 120' tower at the EcoDomes campus. Total Labor Costs: **\$4,200** (amount requested \$4,200)
- Total Labor Costs requested from all projects: **\$25,190.**

After listening to a five minute presentation from each of the proposals and asking pertinent questions, the team members voted on the projects they supported and then averaged out the results. And the winners are...

Park Rapids School District # 309	\$1,000 (renewable energy)
EcoDomes LLC used fried oil project	\$1,000 (renewable energy)
Green Range Renewable Energy	\$1,000 (renewable energy)
RREAL cost/benefit analysis	\$1,000 (renewable energy)
Morrison Co. solar sign	\$ 200 (renewable energy)
Azariah Acres Farm	\$ 500 (energy efficiency)
RREAL cost/benefit analysis	\$ 500 (energy efficiency)

Grantees will be contacted soon with the required paperwork. Congratulations!

### **7:00 pm Meeting adjourned**

Note: Our next meeting is scheduled in October to visit and tour the Central Lakes Ag Center in Staples to see their new corn burner. Time and date to be determined.