

Central Region CERTs Summary

Wadena, MN

Wednesday, September 10th, 2008

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

\$10 per person includes tour and full dinner at the Coffee House

Attendees: (please excuse all spelling errors or; names taken from the sign-in sheet)

Bill Boedy	Marcie Rapatz
Jeff- AGA	Greg Nolan
Alan Cobczar	Sonny Nolan Rapatz
Rin Porter	Melvin Miens
Les Schwartz	Cheryal Lee Hills
Francis De Cock	Linda Ulland
Joan DuMont	Sarah Hayden
Dallas Flynn	Tina Schilawsle
Ben Dukowitz	Robert Schafer
Dan Skogen	Del Moen
Pam Mahling	Tim Nieminen
James Darabi	Doil Williams
Tony Mayer	Gary Seymour
Laurie Smith	Joel Haskard
Kent Scheer	

We toured Kent Scheer's 80 acre farm to learn about the carbon sequestration work he has been doing. He is now selling carbon credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Below is the information he provided the group:

Selling Carbon Credits from Our Land

A. Roughly put, any Minnesota landowner can now sell carbon credits from the carbon sequestered on his managed lands, under these circumstances.....

- *If you have a tree plantation established after 1989*
- *If you are sustainable managing a natural woods, or an older plantation*
- *If you farm using conservation tillage practices*
- *If you pasture stock following conservation practices*
- *If you are a dairy or pork producer employing an anaerobic methane digester*
- *And I believe, if you have land in CRP*

B. How to find out what you need to know.....

- *Research and choose an "aggregator" (a middleman)*
- *Read their website's FAQs page, then if interested study all their introductory information*
- *Call them with your questions*

C. Some aggregators.....

AGRAGATE

www.agragate.com

ICCI
The NFU
FORECON

www.illinosclimate.org
www.nfu.org/issues/environmental/carbon-credits/
www.foreconemarketsolutionsllc.com

WHAT IS GREEN ISLAND

The ongoing conversion of an old, family, dairy farm to an alternative, low input, sustainable producer of.....

- *A diverse and rich wildlife habitat*
- *An emerging public space*
- *An individual retreat facility*
- *A whole food source, employing permaculture practices*
- *A center dedicated to ground water concerns; as well as to the issues of urban/ rural interface*

Links, partnerships, ideas, recommendations, and tips are all welcome.....

Kent Scheer at (218) 631-3084; rscgeer@charter.net

During question and answers Kent noted that in December 2007 he signed a contract (he works with Agragate listed above) to lock up carbon on 7.5 acres, and he hopes to have another 30 acres in the program eventually. He has about 80 tons of carbon captured in the trees he has planted on those 7.5 acres, and in July 2008 he received a \$35 check for their carbon capture. Currently in the US carbon credits sell for around \$3.50 a ton, whereas in the European Union they receive around \$30 a ton. Both presidential candidates have carbon cap and trade programs in their platforms, so many people expect the price of carbon to go higher in the coming years.

For more information please visit A Landowner's Guide to Carbon Sequestration Credits
http://www.cinram.umn.edu/publications/landowners_guide1.5-1.pdf.

After Kent's tour, folks drove 5 minutes to the Village Emporium in downtown Wadena.
<http://www.merchantcircle.com/business/The.Village.Emporium.218-632-8455>.

114 Jefferson Street South
Wadena, MN 56482
218-632-8455

6:00 Dinner served: The coffee house provided both coffee with snacks and dinner. Pasta, salad, garlic bread for dinner, coffee, lemonade or tea and fresh vegetable snacks for early appetizers. Attendees paid \$10.

Presentations:

Bob Schafer, Director of the Central Lakes Ag Center, presented on alternative biomass crops and how to convert them to energy.

Doil Williams presented on the cellulose method of generating biofuel (especially Butanol) and how that may work in the region.

Sarah Hayden with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) in Pine River talked about their work with solar thermal energy. For more information, please visit <http://www.rreal.org/>.

Bill Boedigheimer from New York Mills talked about his company Residential Wind Power Inc and presented about small wind development. Bill can be reached at 218-385-9463; rwp@lakesplus.com.

Chris & Jamie Houts (218-270-0651; cjhouts@charter.net) presented about the hydrogen fuel cell they are creating. Northern Eagle Organic is their young entrepreneurial company working on several levels: They use Cedar oil for pest control micro-organisms for odor, mold elimination, algae Etc.. They also produce bio diesel from vegetable oil and manufacture hydrogen fuel cells. From their handout:

“HHO (Hydrogen) fuel cells use vehicle electricity to convert water into hydrogen and oxygen and channel that into the air intake. This causes those gases to mix with regular fuel in the internal combustion chamber. The result is a dramatic increase in gas mileage.

In our first test we had no mileage improvement because the vehicle computer simply responded to the oxygen sensor’s recognition of increased oxygen and added more fuel to achieve its programmed balance.

In our second test, we installed an enhancer to by pass the oxygen sensor or fool it if you will. The result was a 33% increase in mileage.

This test was conducted on a 1998 Chevy Tahoe V-8 pulling 200 gallons of bio-diesel, (Est. 2000#.)

Now we are searching for an electronic monitor and adjusting module that can be plugged directly into the cars computer so it will constantly adjust the flow of fuel for optimum mileage and power for varying temperatures, speeds and load conditions. When that module is available we will be ready to do the final pre-market studies.

Ultimately we intend to sell via the internet:

- 1. A downloadable set of instructions and parts list so anyone can build their own.*
- 2. A parts kit with instructions*
- 3. A preassembled ready to install system.*

The initial target is owners of passenger cars and pickups so our neighbors can reduce their cost of living.

Next we will test this system on school busses and city vehicles. Finally we will move on to developing a system for big trucks and farm machine, railroad engines Etc.

When we began this process three months ago, engineers and scientists said this could not work. Their reason was a law of physics that suggests it takes more energy to break down the water into hho that the energy it could generate in the engine. It is known that gasoline engines operate at only 20% to 30% efficiency. Adding the hydrogen which burns much hotter increases this efficiency to more fully combust fuel so you not only get more and better mileage you produce much less air pollution and clean carbon deposits out of your engine.”

Del Moen and Dave Evert spoke about their organization. Wadena Agricultural Alternatives.

7:30 Meeting Adjourned

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) Project, started in 2003, is made up of community members across Minnesota who share a bold vision for Minnesota's energy future: to foster strong communities, to create local jobs, and to develop clean and reliable energy from wind, biomass, and solar power, among others. CERTs works to connect people with the technical resources needed to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and clean energy projects, thus helping Minnesotan's vision become a reality, one project at a time. You can help build Minnesota's clean energy future!