

Northwest CERT Meeting Summary | February 5th, 2008 Geothermal and Waste to Energy Tours, Fosston, Minnesota

Twenty seven people attended the joint Northwest Regional Economic Development and Northwest CERT meeting, not including two newspaper journalists and a television reporter. Attendees included Anne DeMers, Shirley Borud, Pam May, Colleen Oestreich, Ruth Trask, Jim Stordahl, Loren Lusignan, Randy Hilliard, Darryl Tveitbakk, Dalene Monsebrotten, Joel Haskard, Carmen Holmes, Chad Torstveit, Damon Sonnek, Bruce Paulson, Shawnn Balstad, Derek Crompton, Linda Kingery, and Cam Fanfulik (Our apologies for any misspelled names).

In the morning session at Bethel Assembly Church in Fosston, Cecil Massie presented the following five topics:

1. Why renewable energy is here to stay
2. The Minnesota initiative for 25% renewables by 2025 (25 x 25)
3. What 25 x 25 will require in terms of capital and labor
4. The economic benefits to the state of 25 x 25
5. How to translate this broad opportunity into specific projects with benefits to the local community.

Mr. Massie is currently Executive Vice President and co-founder of 6Solutions, LLC. 6Solutions was founded to develop renewable energy projects as a means to rural economic development and to seek solutions to air and water pollution while preserving the ecosystem of the Midwest. His power point will soon be available on the CERT website in the "presentations" section <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/presentations.html>.

After lunch at the Stadium Café, folks reconvened at the Bethel Assemble Church. The church is located at 34647 410th St. (East Columbia Road) on the east end of Fosston. The church is located about two blocks east of the clinic and hospital.

Joel Haskard gave a brief overview about CERTs and handed out information about recently funded mini-grants http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/2008_RFP_release.pdf. He reminded the audience that there will be another round of request for proposals coming out at the end of the month with a due date in late April/early May. Joel also thanked CERT members Jim Steenerson and Randy Hilliard for helping put the days events together.

Don Dyr Dahl, who owns the Earthloops Geothermal business, gave a tour of the Church's geothermal system. Don presented two hand outs that explained how geothermal systems work, the difference between hydronic heat pumps and forced air heat pumps, how to size a system correctly, plus pictures of the system being installed at Bethel Assembly Church. Don can be reached at 218-435-6379; www.earthloopoffosston.com

After the presentation and tour, the group went to the Polk County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant. Bill Wilson, the plant manager, conducted a tour of the facility and explained the operation of the new co-generation installation. The facility produces steam generated by the waste accumulated from the surrounding five counties, which is then sold to three businesses adjacent to the facility; now with the turbine generator it can produce electricity when there is access steam. The system will also act as a backup in case there is a total loss of incoming power or if one of the current customers decides to reduce or eliminate their dependence on steam as their energy source. Bill also showed the group the AiPollution Control Project (APC) which allows the facility to attain compliance with EPA emission rules, and the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) which has generated an average revenue of \$350,000 per year from the recyclables that are pulled out.

The Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant is located at the Fosston Industrial Park, 708 8th St. NW; 218-435-6619.

<http://www.minnkota.com/Documents/messenger/2007%20JulyAug%20%20Messenger.pdf> (view pages 4 and 5 to read an article about the steam powered turbine generator)