



CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

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SUSTAINABILITY - Topic for Next CRES Meeting

Despite Strong Opposition

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Thanks to a monumental effort on the part of "Coloradans for Clean Energy" (of which CRES is a principal partner) the citizens of Colorado voted on November 2 to approve "Amendment 37". The passage of this amendment is truly historic. It is the first time that an RPS standard has ever been imposed by direct vote of the people in the United States. While 16 other states now have RPS laws, all were enacted by vote of their state legislatures rather than by vote of the people. In fact, similar legislation was considered by the Colorado legislature on four different occasions but each time it was defeated. In frustration, concerned renewable energy supporters decided to take matters into their own hands. Subsequently they proceeded to go out and obtain sufficient signatures on a petition to get the amendment on the ballot. The rest is history.

This amendment requires the seven largest Colorado electric utilities to acquire 10% of its electric generation capacity from renewable sources by 2015. Within the requirement, 4% of the total renewable energy generated must come from solar, with at least half of that customer-sited. It also requires that utilities establish a minimum \$2/watt rebate program and proper net metering for customer sited resources. Further, it sets criteria for long-term contracts and requires the PUC to establish a credit trading program.

This achievement is not to be minimized. The coal industry, and almost all Colorado utilities, including Xcel, strongly opposed the amendment. Xcel included envelope stuffers attacking the amendment with their customer's bills. Numerous opposing ads were broadcast on local TV and radio stations, and large numbers of negative ads were printed in the local newspapers. And the ads almost all included derogatory projections of costs that were untrue or highly exaggerated.

Due to many generous contributions from our supporters we were able to purchase some radio and TV spots to refute false claims and extoll the benefits of renewable energy, but we estimate that our opponents outspent us 10 to 1. It is therefore no small feat that we were able to defeat our opponents and get the amendment into law. Thanks and congratulations to all who helped!

The next meeting of the Colorado Renewable energy Society will take place at **5:30pm** on Wednesday **November 17**. It will be held at the **NREL Visitor Center** located a couple of blocks past the Marriott hotel in the Denver West office complex. (Take exit 263 from I-70, or turn north at the Marriott sign on Colfax between Simms and Indiana).

The topic of our featured presentation will be **Challenges in Working Toward Sustainability: a Faith-Based Perspective**. The address will be delivered by Rev. Peter Sawtell, the Executive Director of Eco-Justice Ministries, a Denver-based agency that works with churches locally, and across the US, to help them develop programs that are faithful, relevant and effective in working toward social justice and environmental sustainability.

This will not be a religious discussion by any means but it will show how sustainability is completely compatible with religious beliefs. Rev. Sawtell will help us explore some of the social, psychological and emotional factors that can help or hinder the adoption of sustainable technologies in our lives and in our communities.

Rev. Sawtell has stated, "the scientific work that is being done to develop renewable sources of energy is wonderful, but there are more than technical hurdles on the path to sustainability." He will address some of the roadblocks that need to be overcome.

Rev. Sawtell has spent many years working with religious communities on environmental matters. He is a natural leader in developing new communication strategies for presenting sustainability to "mainstream" church audiences.

Colorado Snap Shots

This column will feature meeting announcements, short news items, personality profiles, and other matters of interest to Coloradans.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 11 - November 19... Solar Home Design Workshop (Online Course). Presented by Solar Energy International. For details call 970-963-8855 or visit www.solarenergy.org.

November 1 - December 10... PV Design Workshop (Online Course). Presented by Solar Energy International. For details call 970-963-8855 or visit www.solarenergy.org.

November 30... Business Environmental Program Series: Lighting Retrofits. Presented by Fort Collins Utilities. Learn how lighting retrofits can save energy and money while improving the visual quality of the indoor environment. *Time:* 9:00am - 12:00pm. *Venue:* Community Room, 215 N. Mason St., Fort Collins, CO. For more information call 970-221-6700 or visit www.fcgov.com/utilities/business-eps.php.

December 2... Built Green Colorado Monthly Meeting. *Time:* 9:00am - 10:15am. *Venue:* HBA Denver Office, 1400 S. Emerson St., Denver, CO. For more information visit www.builtgreen.org.

December 8... Green Business Roundtable: Lighting Efficiency Opportunities for Businesses. *Time:* 12noon - 1:00pm. *Venue:* Strater Hotel's Diamond Circle Theatre, Durango, CO. For further information or to make a reservation e-mail GRB@sanjuancitizens.org.

December 12... General Meeting of the Colorado Renewable Energy Forum (CREF). *Time:* 9:00am - 11:00am. *Venue:* Colorado Farm Bureau Headquarters, 9177 E. Mineral Circle, Centennial, CO.

POSITION OPENING

The city of Fort Collins Colorado is seeking an **Environmental Planner** to work on its Air Quality program staff. This is a regular 40 hr/week position that will pay an annual salary of \$43,000 - \$58,000 depending upon experience and qualifications. Knowledge and experience in energy conservation and engineering, pollution prevention and community sustainability, ecology, and/or chemistry desirable. Immediate response required as closing is mid November. For further details contact Jeannie Bowser at 505-796-9100. or pca2002@comcast.net.

A DEPARTING MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2004 PRESIDENT

CRES and our outstanding partners in the Coloradans for Clean Energy coalition are very pleased that our hard work on Amendment 37 has paid off with a win at the polls. Despite a misleading and well-funded advertising campaign by opponents, our state's voters saw through their false and unsupported claims, endorsing clean energy by a margin of 53-47%. Our success is noteworthy because while the other measures were decided by lopsided votes, we won a close contest. It is a credit to the common sense of Coloradans that they recognized the long-term benefits of meaningful public policy measures such as ours.

My sincere thanks to all who contributed to this effort with your volunteer time, fundraising skills, and genuine grassroots commitment. Statewide, our members offered significant help in gathering petition signatures, raising over \$12,000 through numerous fundraising parties, and supporting an effective canvass and education campaign to inform Coloradans of RE's many benefits.

More work is needed to make A-37 an effective reality, and our coalition will continue to pursue its implementation at the legislature and PUC. Thanks to a surprising change at the statehouse, the groups who opposed a renewable energy standard four times have lost some of their influence, and we now have the opportunity to move forward with more progressive policies that include demand side management (DSM), energy efficiency measures like a statewide building code, and our critical efforts to oppose Xcel's unnecessary coal plant in Pueblo. The approval of A-37 has boosted our influence and enhanced our can-do spirit to undertake these challenges that lie ahead.

As an observer of sustainability issues for many years, I am greatly concerned that our country now faces potentially serious economic, social, and environmental consequences as a result of our energy policies. While we applaud the passage of A-37, our victory is tempered by the national election results. Our urgent messages of pollution control, protection of public health, conservation of resources, and sustainability seem to have been drowned out by a cacophany of other issues this campaign season.

This election day, millions of Americans endorsed a President, Congress, and agenda that seems indifferent to many of these topics we know are of great consequence. Over the past 4 years our leaders have ignored energy conservation and vehicle fuel economy measures that could have easily reduced our heavy dependence on unstable foreign oil supplies. Instead of promoting reduced consumption, they have pushed for more drilling, more production of oil and gas, more damage to environmentally sensitive areas. We have cost effective solutions to many of these problems - energy efficiency, solar homes, increased mass transit, a smaller environmental footprint for us all. I heard little discussion of these during the campaign.

The prospect of four more years of the status-quo calls for renewed action. Advocates like us must consistently urge the people who control the political and economic levers of this nation to look at the harsh and uncompromising realities of a growing population, higher per-capita energy use, stiffer international competition for increasingly scarce and costly fossil fuel resources, and the profound implications of global warming.

Report after report, book after book details this alarming reality. It's up to us in America to re-assert the mantle of genuine leadership our nation once had - and take immediate steps to limit the damage that has already occurred. I believe our only option is to follow the clear and morally correct paths of environmental protection, economic justice, and global sustainability. Let's strengthen our ties and resolve to make this happen!

I've genuinely enjoyed my participation in CRES over the past five years, and thanks for the opportunity to be of service as your President in 2004.

Dave Bowden

CRES CORNER

It is that time again for the CRES membership to elect new members to the CRES Board of Directors for coming year. The CRES Board of Directors has approved a slate of six candidates for consideration by the membership to fill four vacancies on the Board effective January 1, 2005. The nominees are as listed in alphabetical order following. Please select **four**, enter your choices on the ballot on page 4, and post it before midnight **December 15, 2004**.

WERNER DUECKER

I am a Colorado architect and I've always believed that what is now considered "sustainable" design is just good design. I have been a member of CRES for a number of years and last year joined the Conference Committee and chaired the Building Awards subcommittee. I'm continuing to help with next year's conference in Fort Collins. I am also a member of the Colorado Chapter of the US Green Building Council where I serve on the Collaboration Committee. Combining the efforts of sustainable design and renewable energy groups, we can accomplish much more than we could individually.

ROBIN HUBBARD

Robin Hubbard is the Field Director for Environment Colorado, where she has coordinated media and community outreach for the Renewable Energy Standard campaign for the last three years. This Fall she was chosen to be co-Director of the Amendment #37 Renewable Energy Initiative. Robin has extensive contacts in the advocacy and funding communities. She has run successful campaigns to increase funding for mass transit, protect 4 million acres of roadless areas in our national forests, and preserve Colorado's ballot initiative process. Previously, Robin helped launch the Center for Campus Free Speech in Washington, DC.

JEFF SCOTT

Jeff Scott's continued involvement with the Colorado Energy Science Center and the Center for ReSource Conservation supports his increasing effort to educate Coloradans about efficient design and renewable energy. Mr. Scott has supported CRES through sponsorship, membership and support during the last three conferences. His extensive background in energy efficient, high performance building product sales combines well with his vision of bringing renewable energy to the mainstream. Mr. Scott's net-zero electric home has been on the national solar home tour and over four of his PV installations were on the tour this past October.

DOUG SEITER (current board member)

Doug Seiter has been in the business of resource conservation for more than twenty-seven years. His accomplishments include developing and managing the first Green Builder Program in the country. He was the Program Committee Chair for the 2001 CRES annual conference and Conference Chair for CREC 2002. His priorities focus on continuing CRES's leadership in promoting a renewable energy future through public awareness and strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations.

CHARLIE STEVENS

Charlie Stevens works as an E-Star certified residential energy rater for BuiltWright Inc. He served as the workshop chair for CREC 2004 and is currently the CREC 2005 co-chair scheduled for Ft. Collins. He has also volunteered with the Solar Home Tour and is a member of the Sierra Club Energy Committee where he helped create the Energy Hog Girl Scout patch with the Denver Area Girl Scout Council. Mr. Stevens worked for the USEPA in Atlanta Georgia as an emergency responder for oil and hazardous material spills and served in the Peace Corps in Kenya.

MOREY WOLFSON (previous board member)

I enjoyed my term on the CRES Board in 2001-2002, when I helped lead early legislative efforts to pass a Renewable Portfolio Standard. I also helped organize the CRES Annual Party. If elected, I can be more effective in representing CRES interest at the Colorado General Assembly and the PUC. I organized Denver's Earth Day in 1970, was Executive Assistant to the Commissioners at the PUC, a member of the Federal Energy Management Team at NREL, and at present, a self-employed energy consultant serving clients advocating for a balanced energy plan in Colorado and western states.

CRES NEWS

CRES NEWS, the official publication of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society, is published monthly except once each in the summer and winter.

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CRES MEETINGS

Unless otherwise specified, CRES meetings will be held at 5:30pm in the NREL Visitor Center.

November 17... General Meeting. Featured speaker: Rev. Peter Sawtell. Topic: *Challenges in Working Toward Sustainability: a Faith-Based Perspective.* See Page 1 for details.

December General Meeting... As is customary, there will be NO CRES meeting in December. Also, **there will NOT be a December issue of CRES NEWS.**

CRES "HOTLINE"

303-806-5317

CRES INTERNET NOS.

e-mail: info@cres-energy.org
Web Pg: <http://cres-energy.org>

VOTE TODAY

Vote for up to **four** Board members from the nominees listed on page 3. Check your choices on the ballot below and send it in an envelope (*with your name clearly shown on the outside*) to: CRES Secretary, Kimberly Peterson, c/o CRES, P.O. Box 933, Golden, CO 80402. All ballots must be postmarked no later than **December 15, 2004**. Please do not write your name on the ballot.

2004 CRES BOARD ELECTION BALLOT

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Werner Duecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Hubbard | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Scott |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Seiter | <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Stevens | <input type="checkbox"/> Morey Wolfson |

Departing Board Members

The following Board members will be leaving office effective December 31, 2004 and have declined or are ineligible to run for another term: **Craig Cox, Thom Johnson, and Frank Stewart**. The fourth departing member, **Doug Seiter**, has completed his second term and is running once again for a second two-year term. Each has served CRES unselfishly for two or more years and have contributed substantially in the guidance and leadership of the organization. For this we owe them our deepest gratitude.

Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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