



CRES NEWS

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RE Ballot Initiative Tutorials Featured at Upcoming CRES Meetings

RE Initiative on Ballot Now the Real Work Begins!

Round one is over and we won! This November the Colorado Renewable Energy Initiative will be on the ballot. But the big battle is ahead of us. We must convince the voters to come out and vote YES on Amendment 37. And this won't be easy. Our opponents are gearing up to launch a major campaign against us. Xcel has already released its first barrage of misinformation. They have stated publicly that the high cost of adding wind and solar energy to the Colorado electricity generation mix will cause a major increase in consumer's electric bills.

To confront these allegations CRES is putting on a series of tutorials to furnish our members and the general public needed ammunition to dispute these claims. The tutorials will be presented by top experts who have the credentials and knowledge necessary to assess the costs involved and their impact on utility rates. Specifically, these experts are:

Ron Binz - Independent utility industry analyst who is currently preparing a study on the impact of the ballot measure on retail electric rates in Colorado.

Rick Gilliam - An executive with the Western Resource Advocates who coauthored the renewable energy ballot initiative as it now stands.

John Thornton - Head of the Domestic PV Applications Team at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Brian Parsons - Project Manager for Wind Applications at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Blair Swezey - Principal Policy Advisor for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

If you are going to successfully campaign to get voters to vote for Amendment 37, you must be prepared to answer the tough questions. Therefore it behooves you to learn all you can in advance so that you have the right answers to the many questions to which you will probably be confronted. For this reason you are urged to attend one or more of the tutorials listed in the adjacent column. Be prepared! Learn all you can about the impact and benefits of the initiative and then go out and sell it.

A Plea for Funds!

Opponents of the Colorado RE Initiative have "deep pockets" and are likely to spend many dollars to defeat Amendment 37 this fall. If we are to stand a chance of winning this election, we must fight back with every means possible, and this means advertising and other costly promotion programs. **Consequently we must raise money and lots of it.** For this reason we have launched a major fund raising campaign ... and you can be a help. While we certainly will be grateful for any personal donation that you can make to our campaign, we hope that you will be able to help us in other ways as well. Call our office at **303-573-5121** and volunteer to join our fund-raising team. We need to raise 3.7 million to effectively get our message out to targeted voters. We will not be able to do that without your help.

In September and October of this year, there will be a series of three CRES meetings at which background information on the upcoming **Colorado RE Ballot Initiative No. 37** will be presented and explained in detail. The so called "tutorials" are intended to provide CRES members, and others interested in supporting the initiative, with real facts and figures that they can use to promote the measure and refute false claims by opponents.

All three events will take place at the NREL Visitors Center which is located 2 blocks past the Marriott hotel in the Denver West Office complex (exit 263 from I-70, just north of Colfax between Simms and Indiana). The tutorials will begin at 5:30pm and close about 7:00pm. All are free and open to the public. The dates are as follows:

September 9 - *this special meeting will deal exclusively with the Ballot Initiative. See adjacent article for particulars.*

September 22 - *the Ballot Initiative tutorial will be integrated into the regular September CRES meeting. See details below.*

October 13 - *this special meeting will deal exclusively with the ballot initiative. See adjacent article for details.*

In addition to the tutorial, the September 22 meeting will feature Mark Fitzgerald who will make a 15 to 20 minute presentation about his solar and energy efficient home which won the *CRES 2004 Renewable Energy in Buildings* award in the residential category. Also at the meeting CRES members and our guests from the general public will be given a preview of the upcoming *Colorado Tour of Solar and Green Built Homes*. All members are urged to attend and bring along as many friends and associates as possible.

Colorado Snap Shots

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 9... *Cost of Wind and Solar Energy Tutorial No. 1.* See article on page 1 for details

September 18-19... *5th Annual Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair.* Presented by the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association. A two-day festival which aims to educate people about renewable energy, natural building construction, sustainable agriculture, land-use planning, and healthy living practices. *Venue Location:* Fort Collins Colorado. For further details visit www.sustainableresources.org or call 303-998-1323.

September 22... *Cost of Wind and Solar Energy Tutorial No. 2.* See article on page 1 for details.

September 28 and September 30... *Boulder Solar Home Design Workshops* (admission free to participants in the Boulder Solar Home Tour). *Time:* 6:00 - 7:30pm. Will describe fundamentals of practical solar home design. Presented by Steve Andrews of Solar Spectra and sponsored by the Center for ReSource Conservation and the Colorado Energy Science Center. For further details visit www.energy-science.org or call 303-216-2036.

October 2 (Saturday)... *Boulder Tour of Solar and Green Built Homes.* See adjacent article for details.

October 3 (Sunday)... *Denver Tour of Solar and Green Built Homes.* See adjacent article for details.

October 5... *Solar Home Design Workshop* (admission free to participants in the Denver Solar Home Tour). Sponsored by CRES and the Colorado Energy Science Center. *Venue:* NREL Visitor's Center. *Time:* 6:00 - 7:30pm. For further details visit www.energy-science.org or call 303-216-2036.

October 6-8... *Aspen Green Building Conference.* Aimed to inspire action for greener building and communities. *Venue Location:* Snowmass, Colorado. For further information visit www.aspengreenbuilding.com or call 970-328-6449.

October 13... *Cost of Wind and Solar Energy Tutorial No. 3* See article on page 1 for details.

SOLAR/GREEN BUILT HOME TOURS - 2004

This year CRES will once again be hosting a series of tours of homes throughout Colorado that have adopted solar and energy efficiency technologies into their design and construction. The tours are aimed at educating the general public on the benefits of these technologies and the many ways that they can be inexpensively incorporated into any new or existing structure.

All tours will be self-guided except for a special bus tour that is also being offered in Denver. A tour book will be issued at the Tour Center for each carload of visitors and the group will then proceed to visit each home as shown on the map. The home owner, or volunteer guide stationed at the home, will take the visitors through the home and answer any questions.

For a slightly higher fee, Denver tour participants can take a bus tour of the homes. Steve Andrews will explain the solar features of each home visited and answer any questions during the bus tour. **Due to space limitations, you must RSVP for the bus tour (303-806-5317) before October 1.**

Boulder Area Tour - Saturday, October 2

Presented by the Center for ReSource Conservation

Tour Centers -	CRC Headquarters 1702 Walnut Street, Boulder, CO or Nederland Community Center Highway 72
Fees -	\$10 per bicyclists \$20 per carload (for Boulder only) \$30 per carload (for Boulder and Denver)
Time -	10am - 3pm
No. of Homes -	16
Workshops -	Special pre-tour lectures on solar and energy efficiency (see adjacent Calendar of Events).
Web Site -	www.conservationcenter.org

Denver Area Tour - Sunday, October 3

Tour Center -	NREL Visitors Center 15013 Denver West Pkwy, Golden, CO
Fees -	\$20 per carload (for Denver only) \$30 per carload (for Denver and Boulder) \$35 per person for guided bus tour (lunch included)
Time -	9am - 2pm (homes open at 10am)
No. of Homes -	14
Exhibit -	Solar/Built Green Home Exhibit (open to all tour guests from 9am to 4pm).
Workshops -	Special pre-tour and post-tour lectures on solar and energy efficiency (see adjacent Calendar of Events)
Web Site -	www.cres-energy.org

Other Tours in Colorado (as of September 1, 2004)

Canyon City, Pueblo, Rye

Contact: Judy Fosdick, 800-373-9930
Web Site: www.tierraconcretehomes.com

Carbondale

Contact: Rachael Ware, 970-963-8855
Web Site: www.solarenergy.org

Durango, Bayfield Area

Contact: Pat Senecal, 970-247-3119
Web Site: www.cres-energy.org

Ft. Collins

Contact: Alison Mason, 970-493-1295
Web Site: www.ncres.org

Manitou Springs, Colorado Springs

Contact: Tom Cannarella, 800-642-2567
E-mail: tcannarella@sprintmail.com

Rico

Contact: Donovan Spitzman
970-967-2967

Roaring Fork, Aspen, Glenwood Springs

Contact: Val Douglas, 970-544-9808
Web Site: www.altenergy.org/core

Silverthorne

Contact: Don/Betsy Sather, 970-513-1525
Web Site: www.bighornace.com

CRES CORNER

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT - Dave Bowden

Its been a busy summer! In early July, CRES and Colorado was well represented at the ASES conference in Portland, Oregon, with perhaps the largest contingent of any state. Our "Colorado Renewable Energy Initiative 37" got a ringing endorsement from Denis Hayes who appealed for support at the closing dinner of the conference. And Ron Larson and I had a chance to meet with our counterparts from across the country at two "Chapter Leader" sessions.

On a similar note, on August 6th, during a personal trip to Santa Fe, NM, I happened upon a peace rally on the Plaza, where the New Mexico Solar Energy Association (NMSEA) had a demonstration booth set up. Ben Luce, my counterpart there, and another NMSEA member, Joe Griffin, were busy answering questions about RE, and I spent a half-hour helping to staff their booth. We had a nice time exchanging stories about our respective groups and issues. Later in September, the NMSEA will hold their Solar Fiesta in Albuquerque, offering CRES members a wonderful time to visit our neighbors in the south.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the members of our newest regional group, SWCRES, based in Durango. Your CRES board formally approved their inclusion at our last meeting, and SWCRES held it's own first meeting as a new entity on August 11th. Our organization, now with 3 regional groups, is strengthened considerably by our RG's local lobbying strength and attention to RE and EE issues in almost every corner of the Centennial State. I encourage our members to meet other chapter members in your travels - good things can come from those connections.

As you likely know, our coalition was successful in gathering enough signatures (over 115,000) to get the Colorado Renewable Energy Initiative on the statewide ballot in November. Congratulations to Heidi VanGendren for gathering the most signatures and winning the CRES contest, and our special thanks to Sue Reilly for donating the prize.

Now comes the most challenging part, raising \$3.7 million to counter our opponents deep pockets in the forthcoming debate on the airwaves. Many sources of money are being tapped across the state and nationwide. Apart from direct contributions from CRES members, I encourage all of you to hold local fund-raising parties. This is an effective way to help your friends, neighbors, and colleagues learn more about the initiative and clean energy. Each party has a multiplier effect of raising more dollars - and encouraging increasing numbers of our fellow citizens to vote YES on Amendment 37.

CRES RECEIVES SECOND MILLION SOLAR ROOFS GRANT

We are pleased to announce that CRES is the recipient of our second Million Solar Roofs/DOE grant, this one totalling \$45,000. Our primary contractor is the Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC). CRES/CESC, along with many other partners, including CoSEIA, will administer the State of Colorado MSR Partnership. It's mission: to catalyze and support consumer demand for solar and zero energy homes, strengthen the supply of solar and ZEH products and services, resolve net metering and interconnection issues, and monitor and report on solar installations. The goal is to complete 5000 solar installations by 2010 through an education, training and publicity campaign that substantially raises Coloradan's awareness of solar energy.

CESC Executive Director, Pat Keegan, along with Sue Reilly and Ron Larson, deserve a big thanks for crafting this year's successful application, a very detailed proposal which took an enormous amount of work and discipline to complete. CRES members interested in learning more about MSR should contact our Executive Director, Sheila Townsend or Pat Keegan at CSEC.

CRES NEWS

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CRES MEETINGS

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

September 9... Special Meeting. *Cost of Wind and Solar Energy Tutorial . See page 1.*

September 22... General Meeting. Mark Fitzgerald will describe his solar home that recently won a CRES 2004 Building Award. The meeting will also feature a *Cost of Wind and Solar Energy Tutorial.*

October 13... Special Meeting. *Cost of Wind and Solar Energy Tutorial. See page 1*

October 27... General Meeting. There will be a guest speaker to be announced later.

CRES "HOTLINE"

303-806-5317

CRES INTERNET NOS.

e-mail: info@cres-energy.org

Web Pg: <http://cres-energy.org>

Call for Volunteers

Tour of Solar Homes... Volunteers are needed to assist as guides and other helpers in the Solar Tour of Homes in Boulder on Saturday, October 3 and in Denver on Sunday, October 2. Please contact Pat Grossman at 303-278-2893 or patgrossman@msn.com

CREC 2005... We need volunteers now to aid in speaker solicitation, organizing the venue, designing marketing materials and more in preparation for the next CREC meeting which will be held next summer in Fort Collins. If interested, please contact Charlie Stevens at 720-333-0134 or Doug Moench at 970-221-9455. All skill- and availability levels can be accommodated.

Xcel Announces Wind-Power Plans

In a surprise announcement, Xcel Energy revealed its intention to triple its wind-power capacity in Colorado by 2007. They disclosed that the Colorado PUC had given them approval to go ahead with its plan to acquire up to 500 megawatts of additional renewable energy resources over the next three years. Xcel officials said that wind-power would undoubtedly make up most of this capacity.

Xcel spokesman, Mark Stutz, said that the wind power addition is contingent on Congress renewing a tax credit for wind energy. The PUC decision allows Xcel to proceed with its plan while it awaits a favorable action by Congress, which is considered very likely.

NREL to Add New Research Facility

Construction of a new Science and Technology Facility (S&TF) is expected to begin in the fall and be completed in approximately two years. "This new facility will support research on thin-film photovoltaics and nanostructures in an environment designed to be a laboratory research facility, first and foremost," said Pete Sheldon, Measurements and Characterization Division manager at NREL.

The S&TF will provide significant advantages for state-of-the-art energy research. NREL is striving to achieve a "Gold" rating for the facility by LEED (Leadership in Energy Design), the country's pre-eminent building energy assessment group.

Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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