



# CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

VOL. 10 • NO. 1

A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

JANUARY 2005

## January Meeting Topic - **The Amendment 37 Election Victory and What Comes Next?**

### CRES 8th ANNUAL MEETING, AWARDS CEREMONY & PARTY

Once again this year CRES members will be getting together for an evening of fun, entertainment and enlightenment, with some business thrown in for good measure. Some of the highlights will be:

❶ **Cocktail social hour and delicious food:** Enjoy wine and beer (cash bar) with your colleagues and sit down later to a catered dinner.

❷ **Cool networking opportunities:** Get together in an informal setting to connect up with fellow renewable energy advocates.

❸ **Dave Corbus Jazz Quintet:** Enjoy an evening filled with scintillating jazz emanating from a quintet featuring one of the top guitarists in Denver. Dave Corbus has a driving, remarkable, and inventive style - and he is currently performing "at the top of his game."

❹ **Silent Auction:** Bid on a variety of donated items and services See page 5 for details.

**Friday, February 11, 2005**

at the office of

**Moye/Giles LLP Attorneys at Law  
16 Market Square, 6th Floor, Denver**

5:30pm - 7:00pm	Happy Hour and Silent Auction
7:00pm - 7:45pm	CRES Annual Meeting & Awards
7:45pm - 9:00pm	Catered Dinner with background jazz
9:00pm - -----	Party Time with more live jazz

**Price: \$35/person (\$50/couple)**  
(includes tickets for two free drinks)

**RSVP by no later than February 4**

Call 303-806-5317 or

E-mail to [sheilatownsend@earthlink.com](mailto:sheilatownsend@earthlink.com)

Send check to: CRES, P.O Box 933, Golden, CO 80402  
(or pay at door if it is too late to send by mail)

The next meeting of the Colorado Renewable energy Society will take place at **5:30pm** on Wednesday **January 26**. 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.)

Our guest speakers will be **Morey Wolfson** of MW Energy Solutions, LLC and **Justin Dawe** from Environment Colorado. Their topic will be the "The Amendment 37 Election Victory and What's Next." As you should be well aware by now, on November 2 of this year the environmental and renewable energy communities were successful in getting the first renewable energy standard passed into law by any state in the nation. This is a monumental achievement. Morey and Justin will tell us just how this was accomplished.

They will describe how the group of partners called the "Coloradans for Clean Energy" was formed and organized. They will also tell how the group combined sophisticated research and polling techniques to set the course for the campaign, carried out a very successful fundraising program, designed and launched a most effective advertising campaign, and recruited hundred of volunteers to circulate petitions and promote the Amendment to the citizens of Colorado.

Following this debriefing, you will hear what follow-up action is required to ensure that the Amendment is fully implemented and what is being done in this regard. You will also learn what's new on the horizon regarding legislative rule-making and policy directions.



## Colorado Snap Shots

This column will feature meeting dates, short news items, personality profiles and other energy matters relevant to Coloradans.

### CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

**January 28... Conservation Starts Here - Awards Dinner and Silent Auction.** Benefit for Center for ReSource Conservation. *Featuring:* Hunter Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute. *Time:* 5:30pm. *Venue:* Spice of Life Event Center, Boulder, CO. For further information contact Jenny Hampton at 303-441-3278, x12 or [jhampton@conservationcenter.org](mailto:jhampton@conservationcenter.org).

**January 29... New Ecological Home Workshop.** Presented by the Colorado Energy Science Center. *See ad on opposite page.*

**February 5... Solar Energy Basics - Ft. Collins.** General overview of solar energy and how to become involved. Sponsored by the Windhaven Foundation for Sustainable Living. *Time:* 1 - 3 pm. *Venue:* Wild Oats Cafe, 200 W. Foothills Pkwy, Ft. Collins, CO. For further details contact Robert Morgan at [windhaven@yahoo.com](mailto:windhaven@yahoo.com).

**February 9... City of Durango Environmental Initiatives.** Sponsored by the Green Business Roundtable. *Featuring:* Linda Lewis, Durango City Manager's Office. *Time:* 12noon - 1:00pm. *Fee:* \$11. *Venue:* Pullman Room, Strater Hotel, 699 Main Ave., Durango, CO. For further details call 303-375-5489 or visit [www.sanjuancitizens.org/GRB.shtml](http://www.sanjuancitizens.org/GRB.shtml).

**February 12... Solar Energy Basics - Denver.** *Venue:* Wild Oats Cafe, 1111 S. Washington, St., Denver, CO. *See February 5 entry for details.*

**February 26... Zero Energy Homes.** Presented by the Colorado Energy Science Center. *See ad on opposite page.*

**February 28... End of Cheap Oil: Neighborhood-Sized Solutions to a Global Problem.** Presented by the Sustainable Futures Society. *Featuring:* Dan Chiras and Dave Wann, producers of the film, "The End of Suburbia Oil." *Fee:* \$10 (\$5 students.) *Time:* 1 - 4 pm. *Venue:* Colorado History Museum, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO. For further details call Amara at 303-638-6829.

## XCEL Agrees to Settlement

In early December, a number of environmental and advocacy groups signed a settlement agreement with Xcel to not oppose their proposed Pueblo "Comanche 3" coal burning plant in hearings before the PUC. In exchange, Xcel agreed to take several major actions in accord with our clean energy objectives. After much debate and discussion, the CRES Board of Directors voted to support the plan and become a signatory to the agreement. Other organizations that signed with us were Environment Colorado, the Sierra Club, Western Resource Advocates, Environmental Defense, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Better Pueblo, the Archdiocese of Pueblo, and Pueblo Smart Growth Advocates,

Specifically, Xcel agreed that the Comanche 3 plant would be state-of-the-art and would incorporate the latest in clean emissions technology. They also agreed to clean up and bring into compliance the existing Comanche 1 and 2 plants. All three plants would boast very low mercury emissions. In addition, Xcel has agreed to provide for 320MW of demand side management (DSM) programs over 8 years. As part of this effort, they will perform a DSM study following which they will file a DSM application with the PUC under which they will advocate for a more cost-effective means of evaluating DSM. Further, they will sponsor and fund educational and pollution mitigation programs in Pueblo; include a \$9 per ton carbon evaluator for future electric resource planning evaluation; and bring wind power penetration up to 15% of total generation - 5% more than is required by Amendment 37.

The agreement was submitted to the PUC on December 3 and a ruling is expected shortly. Considering that the PUC would most likely approve the Comanche plant regardless of opposition (the need for added system capacity is pretty much a fact), we feel that the concessions made by Xcel as part of the agreement represent a decided victory for renewable clean energy and energy efficiency in the state of Colorado.

## New National Advocacy Group Formed

Twelve prominent energy experts, many of whom have played active roles in the American Solar Energy Society and other pro-environment organizations, have joined together to establish a formal, virtual group to address key national and global issues on energy and the environment. The experts are: Don Aitken, former ASES chair; Denis Hayes, founder of Earth Day and President of the Bullitt Foundation; Ken Bossong, Coordinator of the Sustainable Energy Coalition; Steven Strong, founder of Solar Design Associates; Scott Sklar, former Executive Director of the Solar Energy Industries Association; Carol Werner, Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute; William Holmberg, Director of the Biomass Coordinating Council; Joel Gordes, Executive Vice President of the NY Solar Industries Association; Jack Werner of the Climate Institute in Washington D.C.; Todd Sneller, Administrator of the Nebraska Ethanol Board; Deborah Bleviss, Partner in the BBG Group which addresses urban transportation issues; and Scott Bernstein, President of the Center of Neighborhood Technology.

These "energy opinion leaders" plan to openly lobby for clean energy legislation and issue periodic press releases and mini-reports on policy issues facing our country and the globe.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**Help build a Solar Program in Colorado!** Amendment 37 will spur installation of thousands of solar electric systems in Colorado over the next ten years - if implementation is successful. There is a lot of work to do to ensure that the solar program in Colorado is successfully launched and we need volunteers to help. To volunteer, send an e-mail to Pat Keegan of the Colorado Energy Science Center ([pkeegan@energyscience.org](mailto:pkeegan@energyscience.org)) who is managing the *Million Solar Roofs* project for CRES ... or attend the first volunteer meeting following the CRES monthly meeting on January 26 (see page 1)

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# NATIONAL RE NEWS BRIEFS

**New Secretary of Energy Named...** On December 14, 2004, President Bush surprised most insiders by nominating a virtually unknown Treasury Department official, **Sam Bodman**, to serve as Secretary of Energy. Over his many years in the private and public sectors, Bodman has been a former chemical-engineering professor at MIT, head of an investment firm, chair of a chemical company, a Commerce Department Deputy

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who oversaw the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and a Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. If approved by the Senate he will replace outgoing Spencer Abraham at the start of the next Presidential term. If he follows the Administration's current course, Bodman is likely to advocate for the GOP-backed energy bill, fight to win approval for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, pave the way for building the first nuclear reactor in the U.S. since 1973, and press ahead with a plan to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. His personal views on renewable energy and energy efficiency are virtually unknown but ASES, and other groups such as the new advocacy group described on page 2, are planning to seek an audience with him soon to educate him as much as possible on the status and benefits of clean and efficient energy technologies.

**Clinton Speaks Out on Energy Issues...** On December 9, 2004 at a New York University symposium, former President Bill Clinton said that energy issues, with their links to national security and environmental decline, "may have a bigger impact on America and the world than virtually all the things that were debated" in the run-up to the recent election. Clinton chided supporters of renewable energy for "bellyaching and whining" about political barriers, arguing that "it's time to stop worrying about whether the current administration will change its mind" on renewable energy and get to work building a movement that does not rely solely on support from President Bush and his administration.

He acknowledged that the "new energy economy is diffuse, entrepreneurial, and by and large woefully unconnected politically." But he cited signs of hope that renewable energy is gathering bipartisan support, a sentiment echoed by Senator Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) who expressed optimism about the chances of his Climate Stewardship Act which is cosponsored by Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.). It is bipartisanship such as this that gives renewable energy its best chance of making inroads into national energy strategy planning during this administration.

**Commission Recommends National Energy Strategy...** On December 9, 2004 the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP) released its first consensus energy recommendations in a report entitled, "**Ending the Energy Stalemate: A Bipartisan Strategy to Meet America's Energy Challenges.**" The NCEP was formed in 2002 by a group of highly respected U.S. Foundations who recognized the need for a politically unaffiliated organization to study and assess the energy needs of this country for the next several decades. The commission is totally nonpartisan and highly respected by members of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

After interviewing hundreds of people in industry and government and reading over 30 original research studies on energy issues, members of the commission are in total agreement on the recommendations outlined in the report. They have stated that "they are now ready to take their ideas to Congress, the Administration, the States, and industry to advocate for their adoption as a means to end the energy stalemate. The report contains detailed policy recommendations for addressing oil security, climate change, natural gas supply, the future of nuclear energy, and other long-term challenges such as how best to employ renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures to help relieve energy problems.

"The near-term key to reducing oil price shocks is curbing U.S. demand and increasing world supply," said Commission Co-Chairman William K. Reilly, who is the former EPA administrator. "We have to do both. We also have to make big investments in alternatives like bio-fuels made from domestic crops and agricultural waste. We are proposing programs that can work in the real world." It is noteworthy that the report offers suggestions to promote renewable energy technologies by focusing on research and development in the areas of solar power, geothermal power, and new hydropower generation.

**Interest in Renewable Energy Growing...** There is no longer a question but that the world, and the United States in particular, is beginning to look at renewable energy as a practical solution to soaring energy prices. With oil prices hovering around \$50 per barrel and natural gas, clean coal and nuclear power costs rising more and more, renewable energy is finally becoming more than just a novelty. Large-scale wind farms, PV, and solar thermal power systems are springing up in many states. Home Depot has announced that it will shortly begin to sell solar panels. Gas marketers in Seattle and elsewhere are blending ethanol with their gasoline to actually save money. And FedEx is rolling out a fleet of hybrid trucks.

Although most analysts agree that the current energy price spikes are temporary, the long-term is clear. And finally industry and the public are taking notice.

## CRES CORNER

### Greetings and Happy New Year!

I look forward to working for all of you as president of CRES this year. And I'd like to thank Dave Bowden for his excellent role as President in 2004, with the most significant accomplishment in renewable energy in Colorado, the passage of Amendment 37, which will require that 10% of electricity in Colorado be generated from renewable energy (4% of which must be from solar sources) by 2015.

CRES is growing around the state with Southwest CRES electing its first board of directors in December. There is a group of about 30 persons based in Summit County organized by Don Sather of the Big Horn Building Center that is considering becoming a regional group of CRES. If you know of other groups that have a similar interest, please let me know so we can send a CRES representative to visit with them. I'd like to have all of the regional groups defined by the end of this year.

The CRES Board of Directors made an important decision in November to not object to the building of Xcel's addition to the Comanche coal-fired power plant, along with many other Colorado environmental organizations, in exchange for stringent emissions requirements, major commitments to demand side management, and the imposition of a carbon adder when Xcel conducts future electric resource plans (see page 2). Further details behind this decision will be provided at our January monthly CRES meeting. With our win on A37, work is underway on the solar component of the measure. On December 10, Morey Wolfson organized a solar set aside meeting attracting 50 advocates with WRA's Rick Gilliam and a smaller sub-group to take the draft rules to the next step.

I'd like to congratulate our four new board members, **Morey Wolfson**, **Doug Seiter**, (both former board members), and our new members, **Robin Hubbard** and **Charlie Stevens**. We are very fortunate to have such people with both commitment and capability. We also thank the others who ran and hope they consider running again.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting and Party on Friday, February 11th (see page 1). Lynn Greene, a renewable energy attorney with Moye/Giles has graciously offered the new offices of their firm in Lower Downtown Denver to hold the meeting and party. We are soliciting donations for our silent auction, and will enjoy musical entertainment from a jazz quartet featuring noted jazz guitarist Dave Corbus.

I look forward to an exciting year in 2005! In January, the CRES board will meet to set goals. I expect the discussion to include defending Amendment 37 in the legislature and at the PUC; preparing grant proposals for CRES activities; defining subchapters; and having a successful solar home tour and conference. Your input is welcome: please email me with your ideas to razerbegi@hotmail.com by January 20th.

Cheers,

*Renée Azerbegi*

CRES President

### CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

To raise funds for CRES activities, there will be a silent auction at the Annual Meeting to be held on February 11 (see page 1). Members are requested to donate usable items or services for auction. Some suggestions are: framed artwork or prints, vacation packages, coupons to restaurants or theaters, tickets to sporting events or concerts, professional services or anything of value. If you have something to donate, please contact **Kimberly Peterson** at 303-27-0898 or [kimberly\\_peterson@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberly_peterson@yahoo.com). All commitments must be received no later than **February 4**. We welcome all donations and thank all contributors.

### CRES NEWS

*CRES NEWS is the official publication of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES).*

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### CRES MEETINGS

*Unless otherwise specified, CRES meetings will begin at 5:30pm and be held at the NREL Visitor Center located off the Denver West exit of I-70, just past the Mariott hotel.*

**January 26 - General Meeting.**

Our feature speakers will be Morey Wolfson and Justin Dawes. They will be discussing Amendment 37 and its follow-up. See page 1 for details.

**February 11 - Annual Meeting, and Party.** See page 1 for details.

**March 30 - General Meeting.**

Dave Rene of NREL will speak on "Renewable Energy Resource Assessments."

**CRES "HOTLINE"**

**303-806-5317**

**CRES INTERNET NOS.**

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## **ASES Offers New Membership Category for Chapters**

To better appeal to Chapter members who may not have interest in all activities of the American Solar Energy Society but who relish some benefits (such as receiving the *SOLAR TODAY* magazine), ASES is now offering a lower level of membership at a lesser fee. The new member grade is titled "BASIC" as opposed to "PROFESSIONAL" which still carries the full benefits of the previous regular member grade.

The ASES Board of Directors have instituted this new membership plan in effort to expand the ASES membership base substantially. In order to command greater influence in government energy matters and to attract more advertisers and sponsors for ASES activities, the Board has recognized that the Society needs a much broader membership base. It therefore has decided to offer a new membership category that is more attractive to advocates of renewable energy who are not necessarily professionally involved. Many chapter members today fit this description. We strongly encourage those chapter members to consider joining ASES as a BASIC member. On the other hand, some chapter members may prefer to join as PROFESSIONAL members. We ask that both grades be considered when renewing a chapter membership. Details and benefits are:

### **BASIC MEMBERSHIP**

ASES Basic membership is intended for, but not limited to, non-professional individuals who have an interest in using renewable technologies in their homes or businesses, or advocates who wish to support the change-over from a fossil fuel economy to one based on the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Annual Dues:** \$39.00 (**\$34.00 if Chapter Member**)

**Benefits:**

- o *SOLAR TODAY* magazine
- o *SUNBEAM* e-newsletter
- o *Solar Action Network (SAN)* alerts
- o Listing in ASES online Membership Directory
- o Access to the BASIC MEMBER section of the ASES web site (in development)
- o Discounts on Publications
- o Voting rights and eligibility to serve on ASES Board and committees

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

ASES Professional membership is an upgraded version of ASES' previous regular member grade. This membership offers benefits more appropriate to individuals who work directly in fields related renewable energy but is not limited to only those who consider themselves as "professionals."

**Annual Dues:** \$89.00 (**\$79.00 if Chapter Member**)

**Benefits:**

- o All benefits listed under BASIC membership
- o Access to the PROFESSIONAL MEMBER section of the ASES web site (in development)
- o Discount on annual National Conference fee
- o Membership in ASES topical Divisions
- o Listing in ASES online "Yellow Pages"
- o Listing in ASES Renewable Resources Directory
- o Access to online "Advances in Solar Energy"
- o Access to online National Conference proceedings

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## **ASES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please enroll me as a \_\_\_ BASIC member or \_\_\_ PROFESSIONAL member of ASES when my CRES membership next comes up for renewal, and bill me accordingly.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to: CRES, P.O. Box 933, Golden, CO 80401**