



CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

JULY 2005

Designing a Renewable Community Today - July Meeting Topic

ATTENTION

PUC HEARINGS ON AMENDMENT 37 NOW SCHEDULED Implementation Rules to be Developed

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has scheduled hearings July 11-14, 2005 to receive advice and comment with respect to the establishment of administrative rules for the implementation of Amendment 37. These rules will be critical to the success or failure of the Amendment in fulfilling the promise for which it was intended. Recommendations for implementation rules have been submitted to the commission by Xcel Energy and CORE-37 (a coalition of renewable energy groups including CRES, Western Resource Advocates and others). CRES, and the other organizations in the coalition, strongly oppose several of the Xcel rule recommendations. For this reason, **we urge CRES members to attend the hearings** to show strong support for the CORE-37 recommendations and opposition to the Xcel proposals.

At press time for this issue of CRES NEWS, the PUC has yet to issue the formal procedural order and press release that will clarify the specifics on how they intend to approach the July 11-14 hearings on the Amendment 37 rulemaking. However, we have been given information on an informal basis that we are able to pass along.

On Monday, July 11, the "key parties" to the rulemaking will address the Commissioners commencing at 9:00am. Members of the general public - **including CRES representatives** - are welcome to attend that portion of the proceedings but will have to wait to address the Commissioners until 2:00pm. This open period is expected to last until 6:30pm.

The proceedings of July 12, 13, and 14 are reserved for the "key parties" to continue addressing the rulemaking issues. However, if a member of the public is in the PUC hearing audience, he or she can inform the Commissioners of his/her interest in addressing them. If time permits during the course of the hearing, the Commissioners will try to accommodate members of the public. *Note: Because hearing schedules change, check again at www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/amendment37.htm before attending...*

It goes without saying that members of the Amendment 37 coalition are concerned that the implementation rules not circumvent the intent of the Amendment. Some of the rules suggested by Xcel do just that. Several CRES members and others did voice their objections by mail and e-mail to the Commissioners prior to the two deadlines for written submissions of May 17 and June 15, 2005. Doug Dean, Director of the PUC, took heed and responded with the words "Thank you for contacting the Public Utilities Commission. Your comments are appreciated and will be considered." This implies that public views are being recognized.

It is worthy to note that the most objectionable rules proposed by Xcel deal with watering down the PV provisions in the Amendment. The Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (CoSeia) is so distressed by this that they have engaged legal counsel to advise them how best to confront the PUC on this issue if it is necessary. To become better acquainted with the details of CRES' objections to the Xcel recommendations visit the "Take Action" section of the CRES website at www.cres-energy.org/newhtm/action_div1.html.

The next meeting of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society will take place at **5:30pm** on Wednesday, **July 27**. 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 located midway between Simms and Indiana.)

Our guest speaker will be Terry Penny, Technology Manager of the FreedomCAR project at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). At the meeting, he will present his vision for integrating the best of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies into a community to best meet the challenges for future planned development of that community toward a sustainable future.

Terry titles his talk, "How Would Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and Leonardo DaVinci Design a Renewable Community Today?" He will discuss different pathways to a sustainable future for local communities and how we can control our own destiny in Colorado.

Terry has been employed in various research and managerial capacities at NREL for the past 26 years. He has conducted and managed research in ocean energy, thermal and fluid dynamics, and building design. For the past 12 years he has been working on advanced transportation technologies. Recently, he played a key role in launching the new Hybrid Vehicle Program for DOE. Currently he is exploring ways in which advanced technologies in transportation can be used by builders and utilities to form a renewable community of the future.

Colorado Snap Shots

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

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

July 21... *Can Sustainability Improve Your Bottom Line and Change the World?* Features an exclusive report on the way in which sustainable business practices are changing patterns of consumption, construction, investment, procurement, and community development. *Host:* Pikes Peak Sustainable Business Network. *Venue:* Warehouse Restaurant, 25 W. Cimarron Street, Colorado Springs. For further information contact Ken McIntyre at 719-471-0910, X105 or www.catamountinstitute.org/ppsb.

July 23 - 24... *Successful Solar Businesses.* Workshop on how to operate a successful solar business. *Host:* Solar Energy International (SEI). *Venue:* SEI Headquarters, Carbondale, Colorado. *Fee:* \$200. For further information call 970-963-8855 or visit www.solarenergy.org/workshops.

July 25 - 29... *Advanced Photovoltaics.* This workshop provides an advanced level of design information, criteria, maintenance issues, and troubleshooting for PV systems. *Host:* Solar Energy International (SEI). *Venue:* SEI Headquarters, Carbondale, Colorado. *Fee:* \$600. For further information call 970-963-8855 or visit www.solarenergy.org/workshops.

July 26 and August 2... *Fuel Cell Open House.* Features a fuel cell demonstration and discussion of fuel cell technology, distributed power generation, net metering and hydrogen power. *Host:* Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation. For further information call Megan Castle at 303-894-2383 or visit www.state.co.us/oemc/comm/press/pr030611.htm.

August 24... *6th Wind Energy and Power Markets Conference.* The Conference will address the development of wind energy markets and how wind energy can deliver real value to utilities and end users. *Host:* Northern Colorado Renewable Energy Society (NCRES). For Conference location and further details Contact Doug Moench at effrider@frii.com.

CREC 2005 REPORT

This year's CREC Conference attracted some 230 attendees to the technical sessions and other CRES member festivities. In addition, another 125 interested citizens from the Fort Collins area attended *Consumer Day* on Saturday. Some 50 companies and other organizations signed on as sponsors and about 25 of those exhibited. On Thursday night, conferees were treated to a party at the New Belgium Brewery where they were entertained with bluegrass music by the *Whitewater Ramble*. A reception, hosted by the Wild Oats Market, was held on Friday evening at the Exhibit hall.

Steve Andrews of Solar Spectra and Richard Eidlin of the Apollo Alliance addressed the audience at the Friday plenary and spoke on "The Oil Twilight and Renewables Dawn." At the Friday luncheon, mayors from four Colorado cities spoke on the "Power for Sustainable Cities." Represented were Fort Collins mayor, Doug Hutchinson; Lakewood mayor, Steve Burkholder; Boulder mayor, Mark Ruzzin; and Carbondale mayor pro tem, Scott Chaplin.

The *CRES Building Award* winners were announced and feted on Friday afternoon (see page 3). The first ever *Larson-Notari Award* was given to two outstanding contributors to renewable energy over the last several years. **Mark Fitzgerald** was bestowed his award for his many outstanding contributions to the cause. **Rick Gilliam** of Western Resource Advocates was given his award for his untiring work on the Amendment 37 campaign. Overall, CREC 2005 was a major success.

In Memoriam

Mark Fitzgerald 1956 - 2005

It is with great sadness that we report that longtime ASES/CRES member, Mark Fitzgerald, passed away on the morning of June 16. After many years of battling cancer, he finally succumbed to this devastating disease. Mark had been active in many ASES and CRES activities for over twenty years. He was a pioneer PV journalist, writing and publishing a newsletter on the subject in the early years of the technology. At that time he also founded a PV professional society that later merged with ASES. He was employed for several years at NREL as an information specialist before he left to start his own PV consulting firm. On June 10, he was honored as one of the two first recipients of the Larson-Notari Award for his outstanding service in advancing renewable energy. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

John (Jack) Duffe 1925 - 2005

On April 23, another stalwart ASES/ISES member passed away. Jack will long be remembered by his many ASES friends and associates as true solar pioneer. He joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin in 1954 and founded the Solar Energy Laboratory in the College of Engineering. He authored many books and journal articles on solar technologies and is world renowned for his work in the field. He was past president of ISES and editor of the society's prestigious journal for eight years. All who knew him are truly saddened by his death and will miss him dearly.

CRES CORNER

Greetings from Your President,

Thanks to those who attended last month's CREC in Fort Collins. It was a huge success! See the CREC 2005 report on the preceding page for highlights.

Since mid June, the CRES website has had a new, modern look. (Note: the same URL, cres-energy.org, still gets you there). The new site has almost twice as many pages as the old one including more news and events, sections for the chapters, and lists of CRES and chapter members. It has the newly published CRES *Five Year Strategic Plan* and other CRES documents. For more about the new CRES web site see page 4. Our thanks to the committee of volunteers chaired by Jimmy Jones for making the redesign possible. Other committee members are Dave Bowden, Rick Coen, Chris Ellis, Morey Woldfson, Phil vonHake and myself. Staff members Sheila Townsend, Pat Grossman and Robbin Hubbard also played a large part in the effort.

New RE developments are happening in Colorado. Soon we will see wind turbines as we fly back to DIA. The Adams County Commission gave unanimous approval to FPL Energy Colorado Wind, LLC to build a wind power plant on private land about 35 miles east of the airport. FLP Energy says the plant will operate 47 wind turbines with a combined rating of 70 megawatts. In addition, Colorado Aquila has begun a demonstration project to cofire biomass in its coal-fired power station in Cannon City. The project involves mixing small amounts of wood culled from fire-prone forests on Colorado's front range with much larger percentages of coal. It is supported with funding from U.S. DOE and the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation. Through this project Aquila will be the first company in the country to sell renewable energy certificates (RECs) based on biomass.

The good news is that our Governor supports biomass (see Aquila story above). The bad news is that there are four environmental bills passed by the House and Senate still laying on the Governor's desk. They are:

HB1133 - passing the cost of energy efficiency programs to ratepayers.

HB 1162 - setting appliance efficiency standards

HB1070 - prohibiting covenants to require thirsty Kentucky bluegrass

SB 174 - levying more taxes to protect open space

This just points out that we've got work to do! "We need to figure out ways to ameliorate the Governor's concerns and/or find alternative methods such as executive orders or administrative processes to get things approved." Fortunately many of our city mayors are on our side as we learned at the CREC Mayor's Forum. Colorado mayor signatories to the *U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement* collectively represent 31 million Coloradans. Some things are going our way!

Cheers, *Renee Azerbegi*

Colorado Renewable Energy in Buildings Award 2005 Winners

Recognizing excellence in design, construction, and use of renewable energy in buildings

Residential/ - Graybeal Architects LLC for the *Missouri Heights
New Residence*

**Residential/
Remodel** - Bryan Bowen Architects for the *Passive Solar
Pop-Top*

Commercial - Cottle Carr Yaw Architects, Ltd for the *Snowmass
Golf Course Clubhouse*

Institutional - RB+B Architects for the *Fossil Ridge High
School, Fort Collins*

CRES NEWS

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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 Marriott hotel.

July 27 - General Meeting. The guest speaker will be Terry Penny of NREL. See page 1 for details.

August - No Meeting Scheduled

Sept 28 - General Meeting. The guest speaker will be Jay Burch of NREL. More details to follow.

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The New CRES Webpage is Here! **cres-energy.org**

At long last the new CRES webpage is up and running. And its keen! Go to **cres-energy.org** and see for yourself. It is brand new, it is different, and it offers many novel features that will benefit each of us. Some of the new features that are open to all viewers are:

- ♦ a new system for members and prospective members to renew their membership and pay their dues online.
- ♦ a "Take Action" section for consumers to obtain information about their energy purchases and for advocates to affect public policy.
- ♦ a "CRES Logo Shop" where consumers may see and purchase a wide variety of items inscribed with the CRES logo, including T-shirts, jackets, plaques, stickers, buttons, mugs and many other items.

Then there is the MEMBERS ONLY section. You must be a member to get in and you must enter the User Name, **MEMBER**, and the Password, **CRES2005**, plus your name to enter. This section will feature special news about CRES, presentations that were given at meetings and conferences, a directory of members, and hopefully, in the near future, chat rooms for members to communicate with one another.

ASES/ISES Solar World Congress to Feature Renowned World Figures

Some of the most famous international energy and environmental experts in the world will be addressing the ASES/ISES Solar World Congress which will be held in Orlando, Florida, August 6-12.

Rajendra Pachuri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This is the group most often cited for its studies and conclusions about "global warming." Dr. Pachuri is also head of the Tata Energy Research Institute in India.

Klaus Toepfer, United Nations Under-Secretary General and next in line to become the next Secretary General. Dr. Toepfer was the architect of Germany's environmental policy and is known worldwide as a champion of sustainable development.

Herman Scheer is the member of the German Bundestag who wrote and fostered the German Renewable Energy Act that had led to a 200-300% growth in wind energy use and the installation of over 100,000 solar roofs in Germany.

Isao Yukawa, Managing Executive Officer of the Kyocera Corporation and President of the Kyocera Solar Group - the largest producer and supplier of solar energy technology in the world.

Mark Your Calendar - Register Now
ASES/ISES Solar World Congress
August 6-12, 2005 Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando Florida

For the first time since 1991, the American Solar Energy Society (CRES' parent) will host the International Solar Energy Society's annual conference. It will be a mammoth event with some 640 technical sessions, 10 plenary sessions, 28 forums, and over 100 exhibitors. Renowned professionals from all over the world will take part in the plenary sessions and forums. For full details and registration information visit **www.swc2005.org**.