



CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

VOL. 9 • NO. 9

A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

OCTOBER 2004

Final RE Ballot Initiative Tutorial at Upcoming CRES Meeting

We Are Not Alone! Other States are Doing as Much and More!

If you think that our Amendment 37 is too far reaching, compare it with what two other states are actually doing.

New York... On September 26, 2004 the New York Public Service Commission voted to adopt a policy designed to increase the portion of renewable energy generated electricity sold to consumers in New York state to at least 25% by 2013. The program will raise the level of renewable energy in the system mix from the current 19% to 25%, an increase of 3,700MW of new capacity. Starting in January 2006, the so called "Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)" would ratchet up year-on-year, reaching the 25% goal by the year of 2013.

Arizona... Two Arizona utilities are offering new or expanded incentives for their customers to install solar power system. Following recent approval by the Arizona Corporation Commissioners in early August, Tuscon Electric Power has expanded its solar power incentives to provide a subsidy of up to \$3,000 per kilowatt of rated direct-current capacity for a limited number of solar power systems and \$2,000 per kilowatt of rated alternating current capacity. In a separate action, UniSource Energy Services is offering the same incentives in other parts of the state.

Overall, some 16 states have now enacted legislation requiring that their electric utilities utilize a minimum percentage of renewable energy in their electric generation mix by a given year...and most require a substantially higher percentage than that required under Amendment 37.

Colorado Amendment 37 is a modest requirement by any standard. The proposed initiative requires the seven largest Colorado utilities to acquire 10% of electricity generation capacity from renewable sources by 2015. Within the requirement, 0.4% of the total 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. In addition, it sets criteria for long-term contracts and requires the PUC to establish a credit-trading program. With these modest requirements there is every reason for Colorado voters to embrace this Amendment.

We Still Need Contributions!

We once again remind you that the opponents of the Colorado RE Initiative have "deep pockets" and are likely to spend many dollars to defeat Amendment 37. 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**, and to do this we need your 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 **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.

The final *RE Ballot Initiative Tutorial* will take place on **October 13 at 5:30pm**. Take note that it will be held at the **Denver Marriott Hotel** - NOT at the NREL Visitor's Center as originally announced. The hotel is approximately two blocks east of the NREL site, at the intersection Denver West Parkway and Denver West Boulevard (just 1 block north of the I-70 exit). The tutorial, which will take the place of our regular monthly meeting, will go on until about 7:00pm and will be followed by a social hour in the hotel lobby.

The tutorial will provide in-depth information about the upcoming **Colorado RE Ballot Initiative Amendment No. 37**. It is 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.

Two senior researchers from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) - **John Thornton** and **Brian Parsons** - will provide attendees with hard facts on the real cost of electricity from wind and solar energy. **Rick Gilliam**, who is one of the authors of the *Yes on 37* campaign, will discuss how the amendment will save Colorado consumers money.

This is a very important meeting for all CRES members, especially those who have been unable to attend either of the two previous tutorials. The meeting is being widely promoted to the public and all CRES members who attend are urged to introduce themselves to those around them and explain to them the importance of supporting the Amendment and the benefits of renewable energy.

NOTICE

*The regular CRES meeting scheduled for **October 27**, is cancelled in lieu of the earlier special meeting.*

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 15 - 19... Simulcast of California Bioneers Conference Plenary Sessions.

Typical topics and speakers: *Winning the Oil Endgame* by Amory Lovins; *The Color of Sustainability* by Ladonna Redmond; *The Emerging Environmental Health Movement* by Michael Lerner. *Location:* Humanities Building of the University of Colorado, Boulder. For further details contact Marianne Moulton at 303-492-8307 or marianne.moulton@colorado.edu.

October 28 - 31... People Changing Their World 2004: Leadership for Sustainability.

Themes: How to develop leadership qualities? ... How do we develop organizations that are accountable to all stakeholders? *Location:* Strater Hotel, Durango, Colorado. For further information call 866-456-5676 or 970-247-1180 or visit www.peakinsight.com/events/conference.html.

November 1 ... PV Design Workshop

(Online Course). Presented by Solar Energy International. For details call 970-963-8855 or visit www.solarenergy.org.

November 19 ... Solar Home Design Workshop

(Online Course). Presented by Solar Energy International. For details call 970-963-8855 or visit www.solarenergy.org.

NEWS ITEM

CRES Member Named as Director of Research.

Solargenix Energy, LLC, the leading solar thermal energy company in the U.S. has announced the promotion of Randy Gee to the position of Director of Research, Development and Deployment. Mr. Gee will be responsible for RD &D activities leading to the commercialization of new and improved Solargenix products and systems.

POSITION OPENING

The Center for Resource Conservation (CRC) in Boulder, Colorado is seeking a qualified individual to serve as its "Energy Program Manager." This person will lead the CRC as it grows its energy efficiency, renewable energy and pollution prevention programs. Individuals applying should have a successful track record in program development and management, as well as some expertise in renewable energy and utility issues. For complete details contact Seth Portner at sportner@conservationcenter.org

WIND ENERGY TAX CREDITS PASSED

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) has reported that the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) were reinstated by the House and Senate on September 26, 2004. The credits, as included in the tax package bill (H.R. 1308), will be extended through 2005. President Bush is expected to sign the bill shortly. The PTC provides a 1.5 cent-per-kilowatt-hour tax credit (adjusted annually for inflation) for electricity generated by wind turbines.

The PTC, which had expired December 31, 2003, will be extended retroactively from that date to December 31, 2005. There is another bill (H.R. 4520) - the "Jumpstart Our Business Strengths" or JOBS bill - that might extend the credits even further (to December 31, 2006). This bill is still pending before Congress but is given a good chance of passage. This bill, in addition to the 1.5 cents-per-kilowatt-hour tax credit, provides an additional new credit to encourage the use of small wind systems for homes, farms, and small businesses.

California to Allow Hybrid Vehicles to Use HOV Lanes

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a landmark bill (AB 2628) which allows hybrid electric cars and recent-model low-emission vehicles to use the HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lanes on all major expressways in the state. The bill opens those lanes to low-emission vehicles produced during the 2004 model year or earlier, as well as new low-emission hybrid-electric vehicles that achieve at least 45 miles per gallon.

While devised as an incentive for people to buy more energy efficient vehicles, the bill has its limitations. It limits the total number of HOV stickers for these vehicles to 75,000 and sets restrictions to avoid causing the HOV lanes to become congested. The governor signed the bill on September 23, but it is uncertain that it can go into effect without approval of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

TOUR OF SOLAR HOMES VOLUNTEERS

CRES thanks the following parties for their assistance in making the 2004 Tour of Solar Homes a success.

2004 Tour of Solar Homes Committee

Chair: Pat Grossman *Members:* Susan Bilo, Gary Benedict, Walt Kessler, Pat Keegan, Pat Martinek, Bill Owens, Sheila Townsend, Rindert Wessling.

Volunteer Hosts and Registration Aids

Chair: Susan Bilo *Members:* Sharon Alberson, Sam Anderson, Melissa Baker, Nate Baker, Gary Benedict, Pete Beverly, Nate Blair, Sierra Dall, Eric Douglas, Peggy Durham, Jessica Ediger, Marilyn Hardy, Jo-Ann Herrick, Ron Larson, Joel Leventhal, Bill Owens, Lauren Poole, Heather Rae, Lee Rumbles, Bill Sanders, Carol Tombari, Rindert Wessling.

ISES/ASES 2005 CONFERENCE Call for Proposals and Abstracts

The deadline for submitting proposals and abstracts for the 2005 World Congress in Orlando, Florida is fast approaching. We welcome submissions of technical paper abstracts, forum or workshop proposals, or suggestions for speakers before OCTOBER 15, 2004. For further instructions, examples, templates, and submittal forms, please visit www.ases.org.

CRES CORNER

The following editorial by CRES President Dave Bowden was recently published in the Denver Post. It is an excellent overview of renewable energy matters of concern to all of us and bears repeating for those who may not have seen it.

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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.

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

October 27... General Meeting.
Meeting cancelled in lieu of earlier special meeting.

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

CRES "HOTLINE"

303-806-5317

CRES INTERNET NOS.

e-mail: info@cres-energy.org

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

TOUR OF SOLAR HOMES SPONSORS

CRES is grateful to the following organizations for their generous support of the 2004 Tour of Solar Homes

Advanced Sun Technology	Hand in Hand Financial Services
Aspen Solar	Industrial Solar
Blue Sky Energy	Lightly Treading Energy and Design
CESC (Colorado Energy Science Center)	Mountain Muse Communications
CORE (Community Office for Resource Energy)	NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)
Eco Build/Altair Energy	OEMC (Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation)
Enermodal	P3 Colorado
E-Star Colorado	RMS Electric
Forest City/Stapleton	Solar Solutions
Fuel Cell Store	Western Resource Advocates

NOTICE - CRES BYLAW UPDATE

All CRES members should have received a ballot in the mail calling for approval of a bylaw change initiated and approved by the CRES Board of Directors. If you have not received a ballot, you are urged to call **303-806-5317** and request a copy. Your response is due by October 15, 2004. In addition, included in the bylaws mailing was a request for a contribution for the *Yes on Colorado* campaign. We would most appreciate any donation that you can make to this important cause.

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