



CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

VOL. 10 • NO. 7

A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

OCT. 2005

Renewable Energy in the Public Eye

Topic of Next CRES Meeting

SOLAR AIDING HURRICANE VICTIMS

Golden based National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), working in partnership with the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), has provided solar electric charging stations to assist residents of Kiln, Mississippi in their recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Three PV systems are providing much needed power to this storm ravaged town of 2000 people located on the Gulf of Mexico. Two of the systems provide 2 kilowatts of electricity which is being used to charge base station radios and power refrigerators for Kiln residents and rescuers. In addition a smaller 600-watt mobile unit is being used to charge mobile phones, laptop computers and hand-held radios.

The solar panels and batteries for the 2kw systems are mounted on trailers which can be towed to the locations where they are most needed. The smaller system is a self-contained mobile unit that can be easily transported to locations where it can best be deployed. Both NREL and FSEC provided the hardware. The Midwest Research Institute, which manages NREL for DOE, is paying for all transportation costs. FSEC is providing experienced personnel "on the ground" to operate and train others to operate the systems.

DOE TO REVAMP ITS MSR PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that it is upgrading its *Million Solar Roofs* (MSR) program to encourage greater solar deployment. Along with an expanding scope, the name of the program is being changed to *Solar Powers America* (SPA). Recognizing that many MSR initiatives are being undertaken by state and local governments, DOE is redirecting its efforts towards creating new incentives for broader adoption of solar technologies.

Future focus will be on issuing grants to industry and private enterprises proposing unique proof-of-concept and innovative ideas that address the country's most urgent energy needs. Grants of \$100K and even larger will be considered in the transition year. Projects of two-year duration will be the norm, but longer term projects will also be considered. Selection criteria will favor approaches that integrate solar technologies into community planning, lend themselves to widespread replication, and demonstrate lasting impact beyond federal funding.

Typical projects that are particularly suited to SPA goals are: solar systems for schools; solar systems for other public service facilities such as firehouses, police stations, communication systems, sewage treatment plants, and water purification facilities; and home development programs that integrate solar technologies directly into building design, infrastructures and community/subdivision assets.

CRES has had several MSR grants over the years to stimulate greater awareness of solar energy in Colorado. We are pleased to announce that just last week we signed a \$45,000 contract under the new SPA program for website development and to conduct solar education workshops.

The next meeting of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society will take place at **5:30pm** on Wednesday, **October 19**. 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 Dave Bowden, 2004 CRES President, and a local TV Producer/Director. A 25-year veteran of local and national TV journalism, Dave has titled his talk, *Renewable Energy in the Public Eye* and will show several of the recent broadcasts and videos that he has produced over the past few years.

Specifically, these documentaries and short educational pieces will be:

- ♦ HDnet's *The Power of Tomorrow* featuring local energy advocates
- ♦ *How to Build a Better House* about Canada's MSR program
- ♦ *This Renewable House* hosted by dynamic Don Aitken
- ♦ Two works written by local sustainability author, David Wahn, including *The Night Clyde Keester Woke Up*.

Following the viewings, there will be a review and discussion of the pieces as well as a call for comment and suggestions from the audience. Copies of the tapes will be available after the meeting at a moderate price for attendees wishing to spread our message at other events.

SNAP ° RAPS ° SHOTS

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

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

October 19... Meeting Expectations? An Overview of Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Programs Implementation Experiences. This program will explore what is happening with RPS initiatives throughout the country and look at some of the key issues, such as renewable energy credits, that have yet to be resolved. *Host:* Colorado Alliance of Sustainable Business Associations. *Info Source and Registration:* www.store.mountainmedia.com/ceepinc/calendar.cfm?do=detail&d=3191&c=4943&p=31066.

October 19... Open Forum - New Energy Technologies for Coloradans. Two panels: (1) Ethanol and Biodiesel; (2) Hydrogen and Fuel Cells. *Host:* Governor's OEMC. *Time:* 12noon - 3:30pm. *Location:* Room 220, North 2nd Floor, Colorado State Capitol. For details call 303-866-2401 or visit www.colorado.gov/oemc.

November 3... Fueling a World of Change: A Biodiesel Conference. Discussing the latest developments of fuel quality, local production, and regional distribution. *Host:* Blue Sun Biodiesel. *Time:* 8:00am - 5:00pm. *Location:* St. Julien Hotel, Boulder, CO. *Fee:* Before 10/7, \$75; after, \$85. Public forum and reception to follow (5:30-8:00pm - \$35). For details visit www.gobluesun.com.

November 6... BioEnergy: The Future of Rural America. An overview of bioenergy and its economic and environmental benefits. *Host:* Delta-Montrose Electric Association. *Time:* 8:00am-4:00pm. *Location:* 1100 W. 116th Ave., Westminster, CO. *Fee:* \$49. For details phone 970-240-1201.

November 10-11...Beyond Oil: Intelligent Response to Peak Oil Impacts. Experts predict that oil production will peak in 5-15 years. This meeting, featuring former Senator Tim Wirth, will discuss the impact on Denver and Colorado. *Hosts:* City of Denver and CU School of Public Affairs. *Location:* Warwick Hotel, 1776 Grant St., Denver. *Fee:* \$250. For details visit www.aspo-usa.com or phone 303-352-3764.

SOLAR TOUR A BLAST!

Sorry—no electronic photo available.

Shown above is the biodiesel field bus and its occupants who opted to take the guided bus tour for this year's Metro Denver Tour of Solar Homes

This year a record number of visitors attended the 2005 CRES Metro Denver Tour of Solar Homes - we conservatively counted over 500 visitors. Similar large numbers were recorded for tours in other regions of Colorado as well; i.e., Boulder, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, and Durango. Boulder estimates 800 signed up for their tour. Perhaps the scare of skyrocketing fuel costs spurred most people to attend, but regardless of their reasons the people who took the tour showed sincere interest and many voiced their intention to follow up with action. The goal of the Tour of Solar Homes is to encourage citizens and/or builders to adopt solar designs and energy efficiency techniques in the construction of new homes or in the remodeling of old homes.

In Denver, visitors toured 11 homes and the Industrial Solar Technology facility. Some highlights included the Zero Energy Habitat for Humanity Home in Wheat Ridge, Renee Azerbegi's home in Golden and Ron Larson's home on Lookout Mountain (formerly the 2003 Solar Decathlon winner). Featured as part of the Denver tour was a biodiesel bus that took 49 passengers on a guided tour of the homes. CRES board member Jeff Scott, served as the tour guide. The NREL Visitor Center had a special exhibition of solar products and the Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) held a series of mini solar sessions that hosted hundreds of Solar Tour visitors throughout the day. Pat Keegan, Executive Director of CESC, gave a short prelude to the hundreds of Tour visitors who attended the sessions.

The Colorado Solar Tours were part of a nationwide series of Solar Tours sponsored by the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). Like Colorado, record attendance was reported throughout the country.

2006 CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE

In 2006 the Colorado Renewable Energy Society will co-host *Denver Solar 2006* with the American Solar Energy Society. The meeting will take place July 8 - 13, 2006 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Denver. CRES is seeking papers for technical sessions and suggestions for special invited sessions and forums. We are also looking for new ideas, hosts and sponsors for workshops. To offer your assistance, to submit a workshop or session proposal, or to request a copy of the *Call for Papers and Participation* please go to our conference website, www.solar2006.org

CRES CORNER

Greetings from Your President,

Congratulations and thanks to all who volunteered and who personally went on this year's Annual Tour of Solar Homes. We had about four times more people on the tour than last year! Which shows us what happens when there is a combination of high electricity and natural gas prices, as well as tax incentives starting next year. We also received a great deal of press coverage thanks to Susan Westfall, our consultant publicity manager. Thanks to Pat Grossman, Sheila Townsend and the entire Solar Tour Committee, the whole day went very well despite the large crowds having to wait a good while to register at the NREL Visitor Center and some parking inconvenience. We can only expect that next year's tour will be equally, or more, successful as people become more interested in solar and start lining up to purchase solar panels for their new solar homes.

Overall, it was an exhausting day, especially for the volunteers in Golden. To give you an idea how popular the tour actually was, we had between 220 and 250 people walk through our own passive and active solar house in 6 hours. It was fun but an exhausting day. I hope that some of you came out and learned something new that you might consider for your next building project.

It's October—time to gear up! The last few things that remain to be done by the Board and/or its committees for this year include: planning ASES tours, workshops and local events, which we are diligently working on; formalizing all of CRES's committees to organize specific agendas; working with the PUC to make sure the rules of A37 get expedited quickly and to our satisfaction; putting together a financial policy for CRES's events so we can be sure to make some income to help pay for our dedicated, hardworking staff. If you have any ideas on any of these items, or would like to help, please let us know.

Lastly, as the year is soon coming to a close, we are starting to look for new CRES Board members. You don't have to have a solar panel on your house to be a member, but some knowledge and interest in renewable energy would be appreciated. If you are interested, please send a bio to me by the end of the month at renee@ambient-e.com. As always, I look forward to meeting you at future CRES events.

Sincerely,

Renee Azerbegi

SWCRES Leader Elected to LPEA Board

Renewable power and energy efficiency prospects improved in Southwest Colorado on September 10. With a record vote, Jeff Berman was elected as a new Director of the local rural electric cooperative, the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA). Jeff is a founder and current board member of the Southwest Colorado regional subchapter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (SWCRES).

Jeff was prompted to run for the spot on the LPEA Board after the Board voted 10 - 2 to spend utility funds to fight Amendment 37, despite obvious approval by the majority of voters. Although the Amendment passed with almost 60% of LPEA customers voting in favor of the initiative, Jeff felt that the Board needed a staunch proponent of renewable energy in its ranks to prevent similar anti-renewable energy attacks in the future. Nice going Jeff. The CRES Board and all CRES members applaud you.

CRES NEWS

CRES NEWS is the official publication of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES). The CRES address is:

P.O. Box 933

Golden, CO 80402

The address of the editorial office is:

7877 E. Mississippi Ave. #1504

Denver, CO 80247

Phone or Fax: 303-377-0711

e-m: paulnotari@cs.com

Editor: Paul Notari

Officer/Directors :

President: Renee Azerbegi

Vice President: Tim Olsen

Secretary: Jeff Scott

Treasurer: Larry Sherwood

2004 President: Dave Bowden

Directors at Large:

Susan Bilo, Pamm McFadden,

Wendy Parker, Doug Seiter,

Charlie Stevens, Phil von Hake,

Morey Wolfson

Regional Group Directors:

Rick Coen (N-CRES),

Michelle Reott (SW-CRES), Tim

Oliver (SE-CRES)

Honorary Director:

Harold (Hub) Hubbard

Staff:

Exec. Director: Sheila Townsend

Member Records: Pat Grossman

Accountant: Terry Brennan, CPA

Director of Dev't: Robbin Hubbard

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.

Oct 19 - General Meeting. See Page 1 for details

Nov 16 - General Meeting. The guest speaker will be Mark Mehos, Prog. Mgr., Concentrating Solar Power, NREL. Further details to follow in Nov. CRES NEWS.

CRES "HOTLINE"

303-806-5317

CRES INTERNET NOS.

e-mail: info@cres-energy.org

Website: <http://cres-energy.org>

CRES MERCHANDISE SHOP

www.cafepress.com/CRES

Colorado Renewable Energy Society

P.O. Box 933
Golden, CO 80402

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, Colorado
Permit No. 4856

RENEWABLE ENERGY BRIEFS

New Lamar Colorado Wind Power Plant Contract Cancelled for Now... Xcel Energy in Denver has cancelled its contract with developers of a proposed wind power plant near Lamar according to a September 19 report by the Associated Press. Prairie Wind Energy Corp. had contracted with Xcel earlier this year to build a 69MW plant but had to back out because it was unable to purchase turbines cheaply enough this year to meet the terms of the Xcel contract. Unfortunately, the huge worldwide demand for wind turbines has driven their price up dramatically. Prairie Wind says they will try to find wind turbines for sale at more reasonable prices and renegotiate a future power purchase price with Xcel.

Denver Begins Biodiesel Pilot Program... Denver Mayor, John Hickenlooper announced late last month that the City has launched a pilot program to test *Biodiesel B20* through December. B20 is a mixture of 80% conventional diesel and 20 biodiesel that runs in standard diesel engines. Expectations are that the tests will be successful and that the city will ultimately use Biodiesel B20 in all of its diesel powered vehicles. This is good news for the local Blue Sun Biodiesel Corporation which is in process of building the state's first biodiesel plant in Alamosa.

NREL Takes Two R & D 100 Awards... Two technological innovations developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are among this year's most significant innovations as judged by *Research and Development (R&D) Magazine*. One was for a silicon testing system that helps manufacturers determine the quality of silicon material in the early stage of solar cell production. The second was for energy modeling software that determines energy consumption and cost effective energy efficiency for buildings. This year's honors brings to 39 the number of R&D 100 awards earned by NREL in the few short years of its existence.

New Video Assessing Energy Alternatives by World Renowned Energy Expert... Nobel prize winner, Richard Smalley of Rice University, recently delivered an outstanding "big energy picture" lecture to the Columbia University Energy Forum that is now available on video. Smalley assesses the pros and cons of all energy forms. He gives particular attention to breakthroughs needed in photovoltaics, photocatalytics, splitting water directly from solar energy to make hydrogen, fuel cells, superconductivity, nanowires, and other areas. To view or download the video, visit www.smalley.rice.edu

ASES LAUNCHES PREMIUM SOLAR SERVICE

The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has announced that its new solar service website is "**open for business.**" This new website is designed to be the pre-eminent online resource linking consumers to solar professionals. Nearly 400 solar energy system installers and other solar pros from around the country are currently listed and hundreds more are expected to be added in the coming months (solar professionals not yet listed are encouraged to sign up on the website).

In addition, the new website provides users with an easy-to-use system to calculate the net cost of solar innovations for their buildings in any area of the country. The data base includes the rates for over 3,100 utilities, county-level radiation data, and any available local, state and federal tax incentives. The new site is indeed a wonder and a major service to all consumers. The public is invited to visit the site at any time at no charge at:

FindSolar.com