



# CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

JAN./FEB. 2009

Topic for January Meeting - **Green Collar Jobs in Colorado's Economy**

Topic for February Meeting - **The Obama Energy Plan**

## Obama Names Energy and Environment Team



Carol M. Browner

Steven Chu

Lisa P. Jackson

President-elect Barack Obama has selected his top energy and environmental advisors. Nobel-prize winner physicist Steven Chu will head the Department of Energy as Energy Secretary, and Lisa Jackson, the former head of New Jersey's environmental department, will become the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Carol Browner, a confidante of former Vice President Al Gore, will lead a White House council on energy and climate. Nancy Sutley, a deputy Los Angeles mayor, will chair the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Collectively, they will have the task of carrying out President-elect Obama's stated intention to curb global warming emissions while fashioning a more efficient national energy system. The team is expected to work with strong allies in Congress who are interested in developing climate-change legislation, despite fierce economic headwinds that will amplify objections from manufacturers and traditional energy suppliers,

Chu is the director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and is a leading advocate of reducing greenhouse gases by developing new energy sources. "His appointment should send a signal to all that my administration will value science," said Obama.

Browner's role has been described as "energy czar" and it is expected that she will have considerable say in crafting energy and environmental legislation.

### **CRES NEWS SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Effective with this issue, CRES NEWS will be published bimonthly instead of monthly as has been the previous practice. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Both the January and February meetings of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society will take place at the **Jefferson Unitarian Church** at 14350 W. 32nd Ave. in Golden. (On 32nd Ave. about 1 mile west of the I-70 interchange). **Please note that the meeting time has now been changed to 7:00pm.**

### **JANUARY MEETING - Thursday, January 22, 7:00pm ...**

The guest speaker will be Brad Collins, ASES Executive Director. The full title of his presentation will be *Green Collar Jobs Helping to Power Colorado's Economy*. He will highlight the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency industries in generating jobs in Colorado. He will describe how by the end of 2007, these industries have directly and indirectly generated over 88,000 jobs throughout Colorado. Brad holds an MA in Sociology from CU and an MBA from Regis University.

### **FEBRUARY MEETING - Thursday, February 26, 7:00pm ...**

The topic of the meeting will be *The Obama Energy Plan*. As of press time a speaker had not yet been confirmed. His/her name and details about his/her address will be posted on our website as soon as available.

### **CRES Monthly Meeting Now Accessible via WEBCAST**

To attend a meeting via webcast go to [www.instantlyglobal.com/cresmeeting1](http://www.instantlyglobal.com/cresmeeting1). Please log on in this order prior to start of the meeting:

1. CRES Chapters - 1 hr
2. 3+ CRES Membs - 50 min or later
3. All others - 40 min or later (until all connections are exhausted-15 max)

## Colorado Calendar

This column features dates for meetings and other events relevant to Coloradans interested in renewable energy.

**January 23... Green Energy ONLINE Expo & Summit.** Explore the latest in wind, solar, new tech, building and finance for cities, business and education. This event is hosted by the Green Energy Economy Center from Challenge International. *Time:* 10:00am. *Fee:* \$39 per connection. For details and to register go to [www.GreenEnergyEconomyCtr.com](http://www.GreenEnergyEconomyCtr.com).

**January 24-25... Grand Unveiling of Harvard Communities Near-Zero Energy Home.** This Near-Zero Energy Home is part of the DOE's "Building America" program. Includes educational sessions. *Time:* 11:00am-3:00pm each day. *Location:* 9126 E. 35th Ave. in the Stapleton Community, Denver. *Fee:* Free. For details visit [www.harvardcommunities.com](http://www.harvardcommunities.com).

**January 28... Renewable Energy Forum Contractor's Expo.** Sharing sustainable initiatives that are moving Western Colorado communities into an efficient, new energy economy. *Time:* 9:00am-5:00pm. *Location:* Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main St., Grand Junction. For details contact Kevin Wodlinger at [kevinwodlinger@cumulus.com](mailto:kevinwodlinger@cumulus.com).

**February 6-7... CoSEIA Annual Meeting and Colorado Solar Summit 2009.** Presented by CoSEIA. Includes a vendor Expo, an exploration of the role of solar in the New Energy Economy and workshops. *Location:* Sheraton Denver Downtown hotel. For details visit [www.coseia.org/newsite/index.php?id=1](http://www.coseia.org/newsite/index.php?id=1).

**February 18-19... Concentrated Solar Power and Thermal Storage Conference.** Presented by EUCI from the utility perspective with case studies from APS and NV Energy. *Location:* Westin Westminster Hotel, 10600 Westminster Blvd. *Registration Fee:* \$1195. For details visit [www.euci.com/conference/0209-concentrated-solar/](http://www.euci.com/conference/0209-concentrated-solar/).

## NREL to Build "Campus of the Future"

The new managers of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, are currently in negotiation with officials of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to secure funding for a major expansion of the laboratory in the not too distant future. The new managers, who took over on October 1, belong to a consortium that includes MIT, Stanford University, Colorado School of Mines, University of Colorado, Battelle Corporation and Midwest Research Institute.

The intent is to build a "Campus of the Future" that would employ some 2500 scientists and professionals (more than double the current staff) and contain more than 12 new research buildings. NREL Director Dan Arivizu said, "The concept of the Campus of the Future is beyond bricks and mortar. It's a place where the lab can partner with universities, utilities, and the state of Colorado to champion renewable energy technologies and promote economic development." The goal of the expansion is to construct a series of net-zero buildings fully energized by renewable resources on the campus. More importantly, the intent is to build an institution that will attract the brightest minds in renewable energy research.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### A Sensible Solution to the Big 3 Bailout Controversy

On December 22, 2008, the President approved a bailout package for U.S. automakers, principally GM and Chrysler. The funding is to come from the TARP funds appropriated earlier. In prior discussions the Congressional Democrats appeared to be most concerned with saving millions of blue-collar jobs while the Republicans seemed willing to let some or all go into bankruptcy. Both parties insisted, and the President has since concurred by including a provision in his bailout package, that the government must have a say in how the companies are managed in the future.

This is a beginning, but not the total solution. Further actions are necessary; actions that are quite doable and which already have a precedent for their success. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the onset of WWII, the Government persuaded (or forced) the auto companies to convert to production of military equipment tanks, jeeps, planes, trucks, whatever was needed to win the war. They were able to make this total conversion in about 6 months.

In the 21st century our country does not need massive numbers of tanks and planes, but we do need electricity driven automobiles and a revitalized electric-powered national passenger rail system. The existing American car factories could be converted to produce hybrid-electric autos, plug-in hybrids and electric cars, as well as electric locomotives, rails, rail cars, and other necessary components, for rail transportation systems. An electric-based system is desirable and even necessary (rather than, for instance, diesel) because it can be powered by electricity from clean renewable sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, whereas diesel, as all fossil fuels, will eventually be depleted.

While few politicians will admit it, or even realize it, the age of the gasoline-fueled automobile will soon be over due to the eventual and inevitable depletion of the remaining petroleum in the earth's crust. We had a good passenger rail system prior to WWII, but it fell into disuse after the war with the advent of abundant cheap oil, the explosion of suburbia, the interstate highway system, and the conversion of military plants back into making millions of private cars.

Instead of gas-guzzling cars and trucks, which have already proven to be a financial disaster for Detroit when the gasoline price rose to \$4 a gallon (as it doubtless will again due to Peak Oil), we the people should insist that the incoming Obama Administration and the Congress nudge, or even push, the Big Three in the direction of producing what the country will need in the near future. Ultimately that will prove to be electrically driven autos and electrically-powered mass transit. The time to start is now, rather than waiting until we reach a genuine crisis.

*Steve Sargent*, President

### CRES NEWS Ad Rates

Effective January 1, 2009 the rates for CRES NEWS ads are as follows:

Full Page (7" x 10")	\$400.00
Half Page (4-1/2" x 6-1/2")	\$250.00
1/4 Page (3-1/4" x 4-3/4")	\$150.00
1/8 Page (3-1/4" x 2")	\$100.00

Discounts granted for multiple issue insertions. Ads will be printed in black and white. Camera-ready copy and artwork required (PDF inputs acceptable). Current circulation + distribution is approximately 1,100.

To place an order or for more information call 303-377-0711.

## CRES NEWS

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## NOTICES

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### CRES NEWS on Website

The latest edition of *CRES NEWS* is available on the CRES website. You may access it by going to [www.cres-energy.org](http://www.cres-energy.org) and clicking the *CRES News* notation at the lower right corner of the page.

### CRES "HOTLINE"

303-806-5317

**CRES INTERNET NOS.**

e-mail: [info@cres-energy.org](mailto:info@cres-energy.org)

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## **RENEWABLE ENERGY BRIEFS**

**Solar Growth Projected Despite Slumping Economy...** Aron Hall, CEO of Borrego Solar Systems, asserts that tax credits, new trends and independent companies are spurring a solar surge despite the financial crisis. "With the government passing the extension of solar investment tax credits, we anticipate that 2009 will be another phenomenal year for Borrego and the entire solar industry." According to the Navigant Consulting report, *Economic Impacts of Extending Federal Solar Tax Credits*, the industry expects to add 19GW of solar energy from 2009-2016, equivalent to a \$232 billion investment. Most striking, the report forecasts the addition of 440,000 jobs at a time when employment is shrinking in many sectors.

**DOE Awards \$80 Billion In Energy and Water Conservation Projects for Federal Facilities....** The Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that it has issued contracts totaling \$80 billion for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation projects at federally-owned buildings and facilities.

**PV Costs to Plummet in '09...** According to a report published in the London, UK *New Energy Finance* magazine, "the cost of photovoltaic electricity is due to plummet in 2009." The magazine's quarterly *Silicon and Wafer Price Index* shows average silicon contract prices falling by over 30% in 2009 compared with 2008. With thin-film PV module manufacturing costs approaching the US \$1/Watt mark, crystalline silicon-based PV will come under severe competition for larger projects, resulting in margins shrinking throughout the silicon value chain. The report concludes that the ultimate winners will be consumers, who will finally see solar power prices that are competitive, plus those few companies with good cost positions.

**ASES Given Environmental Recognition...** On November 20, 2008, the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) was officially inducted into the *Environmental Hall of Fame*. In a special ceremony held in Chicago, ASES was recognized for "its more than 50 years of leadership and dedication to creating a sustainable energy economy." ASES members were applauded as key players in the Society's many accomplishments leading to the award.

### **ROSTER OF CRES BUSINESS MEMBERS**

**We thank the following organizations for their continuing support**

Adobe Solar	Ecostream USA.	REC Solar
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CO Homefinder.com	Low Energy Systems	Starfire Energy, LLC
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Community Office for Resource Efficiency	Mi Cocina Mexican Restaurant	The Neenan Company
Conundrum Energy	Mountain Muse Communications	Western Cultural Resource Mgmt.
Cool Energy, Inc.	Namaste Solar	Western Resource Advocates
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