



# CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

JULY/AUGUST 2010

## July Topic - *Climate Change: A Challenge for our Times* August Topic - *The Dollars and Sense of Wind Energy*

### White House Supports Spending of \$6 Billion To Accelerate Sales of Electric Cars



On June 29 the Obama administration backed a proposal to spend up to \$6 billion more on subsidies for electric vehicles amid renewed interest on Capitol Hill in measures to cut petroleum consumption in response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The proposal includes more spending for research and development of car-battery technology, aid to utilities and homeowners to build recharging outlets, and consumer tax credits to offset the higher costs of battery-electric vehicles.

A bill drafted by Sens. Byron Dorgan (D., N.D.), Lamar Alexander (R. Tenn.), and Jeff Alan Merkley (D., Ore.) calls for the additional spending, and includes a provision that would establish up to fifteen *Development Communities* to receive funds for infrastructure and other programs for plug-ins.

Democrats may seek to attach the legislation to an energy bill that could be taken up later this year, Senator Dorgan said in a recent interview. It should be noted that the federal government has already spent billions of dollars to spur the development of plug-in cars, including funds from a \$25 billion program to help auto makers retool plants, \$2.4 billion in stimulus money for battery development and other projects, plus a \$7,500 consumer tax credit for electric-car purchases.

The auto industry has lobbied for more programs out of concern that consumers will balk at the high prices of plug-ins and the lack of charging stations. Some big corporations, including delivery giant FedEx Corp., back spending on electric vehicles to help them save money on fuel costs. FedEx chief, Fred Smith, said, "the government should help auto makers sell enough electric vehicles to bring down their price." Further he said, "the environmental catastrophe unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico is making clear once again yet another aspect of the danger posed by our dependence on oil."

The July and August 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). **The meetings will begin at 7:00pm** and there will be a reception to follow.

The **July** meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22, 2010. The speaker will be **Dr. Susan Solomon**, a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Boulder. Her topic will be *Climate Change: A Challenge for our Times*. Currently she is co-chair of the Science Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. She has received many national and international awards, including the National Medal of Science, the Montreal Protocol 10th Anniversary Award, and the prestigious Blue Planet Prize in 2004.

The **August** meeting will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2010. The speaker will be **Larry Flowers**, Project Leader, National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). His topic will be *The Dollars and Sense of Wind Energy*. Larry has been with NREL since 1980 holding team and project manager positions in several technologies. He is currently the National Technical Director of Wind Powering America (WPA), a U.S. DOE program aimed at increasing wind energy in the U.S.

### CRES Monthly Meeting Accessible via WEBCAST

To access the CRES webcast go to [www.cres-energy.org](http://www.cres-energy.org), click on *Events* and *CRES Meetings*, then follow the "webcast instructions" posted there.

## Colorado Calendar

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

### July 28... *The Americas Roundtable on Energy and Climate Change...Co-Hosted by CRES.*

Presented by the Alliance of Sustainable Colorado and Biennial of the Americas. A roundtable discussion of issues of energy and climate change followed by a VIP reception. *Time:* Roundtable 1:30pm-4pm; Reception 4pm-6pm. *Fee:* \$28 reserved seating and reception. *Location:* Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th Street and Curtis, Denver. For details call 303-572-1536 or visit [www.blacktie-colorado.com](http://www.blacktie-colorado.com).

### August 7... *RMSLA Workshop: Intro to Small Wind Energy.*

Four hour workshop covering the basics of wind energy for homeowners who are considering installing a residential or business scale wind turbine. *Fee:* \$40. *Location:* Ft. Logan (specific location to be named later). For details visit [www.sustainablelivingassociation.org](http://www.sustainablelivingassociation.org).

### August 28... *Pikes Peak Eco Festival.*

A family-oriented festival inspiring citizens to live more sustainable. *Times:* 10am-3pm. *Location:* Rock Ledge Historic Site in Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs. For details visit [www.pikespeakecofestival.com](http://www.pikespeakecofestival.com).

### September 10... *Community Giving Day.*

The Denver West Whole Foods Market will donate 5% of the net sales for the day to CRES. Members are urged to shop there on September 10. *Location:* 14357 W. Colfax Ave., Golden. For details visit [www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com).

#### **Solar Mixer**

Join CRES and other leaders of Colorado's New Energy Economy for a social gathering at the green-built home of Pat & Bob Grossman.

**September 15 - \$25 per person**

For details and to register go to [www.cres-energy.org](http://www.cres-energy.org).

## New CRES Speakers Bureau to be Launched this Fall

Are you looking for a speaker to present on an area of renewable energy technology and policy? Starting this fall we will begin announcing a set of core topics and speakers for a wide range of venues including high school classrooms or your neighborhood association. Drawn from our business members (see page 4) and general membership, we are organizing a group of professionals and experts to help you explore energy improvements in your home or better understand the future of energy development. Look for more information soon about speakers covering the following topics:

Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Energy Efficiency, Smart Grid Technologies, Biomass, Biofuels, and Geothermal.

*If you or your organization is interested in being part of the CRES Speakers Bureau please contact Tony Frank at [t.frank@cres-energy.org](mailto:t.frank@cres-energy.org) or call 303-806-5317.*

## State RPS Policies Will Result in a 250% Increase in Renewable Energy Generation by 2025

State renewable portfolio standards (RPS) will be the most critical driver determining the pace of U.S. renewables growth going forward, according to a new IHS Emerging Energy Research market study. IHS estimates that cumulative renewables demand across all states with binding RPS policies will grow from an expected 137 TWh (terawatt-hours) in 2010 to 479 TWh by 2025--an increase of approximately 250 percent.

As of June 2010, mandatory RPS policies, requiring states to procure a percentage of generation from renewable energy, have been passed in 31 states and the District of Columbia, with six additional states approving conditional or non-mandatory renewables goals. While utilities in a few states, led by Washington, Maine, Colorado and New Hampshire, are already well on their way toward meeting their 2015 RPS targets, the majority of states will require rapid renewables growth if they are to meet near-term objectives.

The U.S. renewables market has experienced explosive growth since 2005, expanding from a total installed base of 30 GW to over 60 GW at the end of 2009. "With increasing challenges including low power pricing and uncertain federal policies, escalating RPS demand will define the timing and location of renewables growth across the U.S. over the next few years," says IHS Renewable Power Research Director Alex Klein.

RPS policies are estimated to require more than 1,000 investor-owned utilities, load-serving entities and competitive retail suppliers to procure renewable power over the next decade, according to the study. Beginning in 2010, significantly escalating RPS demand will create gradually intensifying compliance pressure across the U.S.

"The next five years will be especially critical as the industry faces its first real test of a significant ramp-up in RPS demand. Before the industry can attempt to reach already lofty longer-term renewable energy goals, utilities and regulators must prove in the next few years that they can reach initial compliance with the RPS targets coming due in many US states," added Klein.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### CRES Members,

**Welcome to summer, all.** We are halfway through 2010 and CRES has helped make some major changes in Colorado legislation! The Policy Committee and several volunteers helped with some good suggestions at the Capitol that supported getting a broad slate of legislation including:

HB 10-1001: Increases the Renewable Portfolio Standard by 30% by 2020.

HB 10-1098: Provides for more transparency in rural electric cooperative association governance.

HB 10-1267: Allows 3rd party independently owned residential solar facilities to be exempt from property tax.

HB 10-1328 New Energy Jobs Creation Act: Creates a statewide New Energy Improvement District to promote and finance Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.

HB 10-1342 Solar Gardens: Allows renters and homeowners and businesses without solar access to own a portion of an off-site solar farm.

HB 10-1418: Enables a double renewable energy credit for projects that interconnect with a rural electric association (Co-op) or a municipal utility

SB 10-019: Promotes biomass generation of electricity.

SB 10-207 Finance State Energy Projects: Allows for lease-purchase financing of projects by state agencies.

...among many other efforts to promote the *New Energy Economy* and sustainability in our state. In addition, the public meeting in May at which former House Majority Leader Alice Madden gave us a legislative update, was very timely and informative as well.

CREC 2010 in Montrose provided an excellent series of engaging, informative, and entertaining speakers: Don Marostica, Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Mayor Hickenlooper, Bonnie Peterson for Scott Mcinnis, Admiral Truly, former CIA Director, James Woolsey, Amory Lovins and Steve Andrews. The consistent message was simply that for a sustainable future we have to break our reliance on foreign oil and fossil fuels - for national security, financial security, and for environmental security. Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are the weapons of choice in this battle for our very existence.

The support of Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) was exceptional and greatly appreciated as was the support of the San Miguel Electric Association. These primary sponsors were invaluable in the creation of another noteworthy CRES event.

CRES continues to grow and improve with your support and participation. Please contact Board Members or Staff with any suggestions or questions as we all work towards a better future.

*Thom Johnson, President*

### CRES OFFICE

CRES now has an office where Executive Director, Tony Frank, will be located. The office accommodates business meetings, member gatherings and stores all CRES records.. The address is:

**3245 Eliot St., Denver, CO 80211**

### CRES NEWS

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

**P.O. Box 933  
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### CRES "HOTLINE"

303-806-5317

#### CRES INTERNET NOS.

e-mail: [info@cres-energy.org](mailto:info@cres-energy.org)  
Web: <http://cres-energy.org>

### Student/Teacher Corner

Has your school considered a renewable energy project to provide clean energy and reduce energy costs? An important first step in project development is conducting a resource assessment and feasibility study. What do those terms mean? If your school installed a 10kW solar PV array or small wind turbine how many kWhs do you expect it will produce in an average day, month and year? Get involved with CRES. Send us your answers and school name to [schools@cres-energy.org](mailto:schools@cres-energy.org). THANKS!

**Colorado Renewable Energy Society**

P.O. Box 933  
Golden, CO 80402

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**Coming Soon**  
**Tours of Solar Homes and Solar Seminars**

**Denver Area Solar & Green Homes Tour**

*Hosted by CRES*

**Saturday, September 25, 2010**

\$5 per person

**CRES Solar Seminars:**

\$5 per person per seminar

**Tuesday, September 21 at NREL**

**Tuesday, September 28 at  
CRES new office - 3245 Eliot St., Denver**

**Boulder County Solar & Green Homes Tour**

*Hosted by the Center for ReSource Conservation*

**Sunday, September 26, 2010**

\$5 per person

**CRC Solar Seminars: Sept. 22 and 27**

**Other Solar Home Tour Locations:**

Colorado Springs   Glenwood Springs   Durango  
Fort Collins      Carbondale      Longmont  
Alamosa      Grand Junction      Walden  
Delta/Hotchkiss   Estes Park      Westcliffe

Visit [www.cres-energy.org](http://www.cres-energy.org) for full details

**ROSTER OF CRES BUSINESS MEMBERS**

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

- |                                      |                                 |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 82 Real Estate                       | Double D Diversified, Inc.      | Red Rocks Community College            |
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