



# CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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A Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society

SEPT./OCT. 2009

## September Meeting - Topic: *Designing/Living in Solar Homes* October Meeting - Topic: *Research on Biofuels*



### Denver Tour of Solar Homes *Real Places for Real People* Saturday, October 3, 2009

- ◆ Features homes and buildings using the latest in renewable energy, energy-efficiency and green-building technologies.
- ◆ A *Green Jobs Fair*, open to all Tour visitors and the general public, will be held at the First Universalist Church of Denver Check-In Center.
- ◆ The regular (unguided) tour fee is \$20.00 per carload. A guided tour is also available at \$45.00 per carload but a reservation **MUST** be made before 5pm on October 2 (303-806-5317 or [info@cres-energy.org](mailto:info@cres-energy.org)).

#### Denver Metro Check-in Centers (9am-3pm)

NREL Visitor's Center  
15013 Denver West Parkway  
Golden

First Universalist Church of Denver  
4101 E. Hampden Ave.  
Denver

#### Other Colorado Tour Cities

Boulder (Sept 26)

Colorado Springs (Oct 3)

Durango (Oct 3)

Estes Park (Oct 3)

Fort Collins (Oct 3)

Glenwood/Carbondale (Oct 3)

Grand Junction (Oct 3)

Grand Valley (Oct 3)

Full details on the above tours and an up-to-date list, including any additional Colorado tours, is available at [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org).

The September and October 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 September meeting will take place on **September 24, 2009**. Speaker **John Avenson** has been living in a solar home for 27+ years. His near zero energy home in Westminister has been included on the Denver Tour of Solar Homes several times. Speaker **Ren Anderson** is a senior project leader at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). His focus has been on developing least cost approaches for the design of Zero Energy Homes. Working with industry partners, he has helped to plan and carry out the research activities of DOE's Building America Program.

The October meeting will take place on **October 22, 2009**. The focus of the meeting will be on the status of biofuels today. The speaker will be **Mark Nimlos**, Principal Scientist at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. In this capacity he has led and partaken in research efforts in various areas including biofuels and bioenergy technologies.

#### CRES Monthly Meeting 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 - **30 minutes**

2. 3+ CRES Membs - **20 min** or later

3. All others - **10 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.

### September 21-25...ESource Forum: Advancing Energy Efficiency & Utility Customer Relationships.

Offering insight on advancing the use and adoption of energy-efficiency programs and providing practical information aimed at helping utilities improve and enhance customer relationships.. *Location:* Westin Tabor Center, 1672 Lawrence St., Denver. For further details visit [www.esource.com](http://www.esource.com).

### September 28-30...Excellence in Building Conference.

Presented by the Energy & Environmental Building Alliance (EEBA). Aimed at builders, remodelers, developers, architects, and manufacturers. Explains the science behind green and sustainable building practices, new regulations and legislative measures, and ways to capitalize on increasing opportunities. *Location:* Marriott Denver Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse St., Denver. For further details visit [www.eeba.org/conference](http://www.eeba.org/conference).

### October 10-13... ASPO 2009 International Peak Oil Conference.

Reflecting on the tumultuous year of major swings in the price of oil and the world economy, the ASPO Peak Oil Conference zeros in on the vital links between oil, money, and the worldwide economy. *Location:* Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, 1550 Court Place, Denver. For further details visit [www.aspo-usa.com](http://www.aspo-usa.com).

### October 20...Colorado's New Energy Economy Conference: Powering the Future.

A one-day conference presented by the Governor's Energy Office, the Colorado Public Utility Commission, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and Energy Outreach Colorado. *Location:* Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, 1550 Court Place, Denver. For further details visit [www.energyoutreach.org/conf/index2009.htm](http://www.energyoutreach.org/conf/index2009.htm).

## CRES Announces Winners of 2009 "Renewable Energy in Buildings" Awards

CRES is proud to announce the winners of its "Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design in Buildings" Awards for 2009.

### Institutional Building Category:

#### *The new Science and Engineering Building, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs*

The Science & Engineering building, the second LEED building on CU Colorado Springs campus, was awarded a LEED Gold certification. Sustainable design features include a 13.6 kW thin-film photovoltaic system; 31% more energy efficient than ASHRAE 90.1 compliant base building; low-Emissive glass, solar shading, and fritted glass to use to reduce solar heat gain; low-VOC paints, carpet, sealants, wood and agrifiber used to improve indoor air quality; water conserving low-flow plumbing fixtures; 34% of material by weight from recycled content; 20% of material from within 500 miles; and 95% construction waste from this project was recycled. Team members responsible for the project are:

Linda Kogan – Director Office of Sustainability  
Gary Reynolds – UCCS Executive Director Facilities Services  
Gary Desmond – AR7 Architects  
David Metcalf – Jacobs Engineering  
Darrell Lackey – ME Engineering  
Alicia Seivers – Architectural Energy Corporation  
Kate Bechtholdt – Douglass Colony Group

### Residential Building Category:

#### *Aspen Homes' "Juniper Showhome"*

The Juniper Showhome was designed and built with all solar concepts in mind in an effort to achieve the concept of a Net-Zero home that produces as much energy as it consumes in one full year. In an attempt to bring net-zero living to the general public, Aspen Homes has strived to make this type of home affordable. Aspen believes that if we can make the concept of a zero energy home economical, we will be able to change the market towards new energy efficient construction. Sustainable Design Features include a 4-kW grid-tied photovoltaic system; passive solar with overhangs designed to provide summer shading; solar thermal hot water system for domestic hot water; high-efficiency air source heat pump (nearly as efficient as ground-source, but with much lower first cost); R-10 exterior foundation insulation; R-28 exterior walls; R-50 cellulose attic insulation; heat recovery ventilator; and compact fluorescent lighting. Responsible team members are:

Rob and Jammie Sabin, Aspen Homes

These award winners were honored at the 2009 Colorado Renewable Energy Conference (CREC), August 28-30.

### Renewable Energy—An Important Component of Health Care Reform

It never ceases to amaze me how serious debate and discussion about essential national issues can so easily be sidetracked onto ridiculous and irrelevant distractions. The current “debate” (I use the term advisedly) over health care reform is a perfect example. Instead of talking about the substantive contents of the proposed changes to our health care system (admittedly a difficult task since there are five separate bills floating around Congress, each of them many hundreds of pages long), some people at public meetings have taken to shouting down calmer voices with bogus arguments about “death panels” and “socialized medicine”. Some people have even shown up at rallies with posters of President Obama with painted-on mustaches, to try to make him look like Hitler.

One health issue about which I have not heard much discussion (although it may be buried in one or more of the Congressional bills) is preventive care—that is, keeping people in good health so that they don't GET sick, rather than treating them once they do. We are all aware that an essential element for keeping a population healthy is a clean environment, of course along with periodic physical exams, good diet, exercise, and all those other sensible (but sometimes boring) things that the Department of HHS, and your mother, is always telling you to do.

Clean air is essential to maintaining a healthy populace. There have been appalling pictures on TV of people in China who live in areas where the air is so polluted with coal dust and stack emissions from factories and electric generating plants that they have to wear face masks to breathe, and many people have developed cancer just from breathing the local air. We don't have many areas in this country that are that bad, but several of our cities have ambient air quality that is below EPA standards for good health.

Renewable energy, and energy efficiency, can play a significant part in helping to clean up our air. Large-scale solar generating plants can partially replace electricity generated by coal-burning plants, as can distributed photovoltaic systems on rooftops, thereby reducing emissions of harmful pollutants such as sulfur oxides, nitrous oxides, ozone, and mercury. This would also reduce CO2 emissions, which are not a short-term health hazard but may well prove to be a serious long-term health problem. Studies show that global warming has allowed the northward migration of disease-bearing insects, such as malaria-carrying mosquitoes, so that diseases formerly confined to the tropics are becoming more common in temperate zones.

Auto exhausts are another air pollution source, which can be reduced through energy efficiency (e.g., hybrid cars), and renewably-generated electricity can power plug-in hybrids, further reducing harmful tailpipe emissions.

There are many arguments in favor of increased use of renewable energy. It is to be hoped that whatever health care reform law is eventually passed will provide for renewable energy incentives as an integral part of maintaining a healthy population.

Steve Sargent, President

### CRES NEWS

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## NOTICES

### 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 on the lower right side of the page.

### Paperless CRES NEWS Option

If you prefer to receive your *CRES NEWS* electronically please send your request to [info@cres-energy.org](mailto:info@cres-energy.org).

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303-806-5317

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## CRES Names 2009 Annual Award Recipients

**Larson-Notari Award...** CRES has awarded **Carol Tombari** the 2009 Larson-Notari Award which is given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of renewable energy, efficiency, and/or sustainable building. Carol has specialized in energy and environmental policy and programs for more than 25 years. She currently manages stakeholder relations at NREL.

**CRES Volunteer of the Year Award...** This award for 2009 was given to **Jerry Stevenson**. Jerry was the Co-Committee Chair for the 2008 CRES Conference (CREC) in Pueblo. His energy and dedication to the event and its effect on locals as well as its timing for the country was exceptional. Due to the location of the conference and the scarcity of volunteers, Jerry took on more than his share of responsibilities.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY BRIEFS

**ASES *Solar Today* Magazine Wins National Awards...** ASES' *Solar Today* magazine was honored with an **Apex Grand Award** as a "One-of-a-Kind" publication in its Nonprofit Publications category for the *Solar Today* bonus issue, *Get Started 2009!*. The special issue was published in September 2008 and was distributed to 125,000 people, many of whom attended the ASES 13th Annual National Solar Tour. In addition, *Solar Today* magazine won a **Gold Excel Award** for an editorial by CRES Life Member Chuck Kutscher that appeared in the January/February 2009 issue.

### **RE Testing Center Launched in Aurora, Colorado...**

The first phase of construction on a renewable-energy testing center is scheduled for completion by the end of summer in Aurora. It will be located at 28th Avenue and Hudson Road. The *Aurora Campus for Renewable Energy* will cover 1,762 acres owned by the city of Aurora. It is part of a master plan for Aurora that will target research and development of alternative energy to generate power without producing greenhouse gasses. The Solar Technology Acceleration Center (Solar TAC) is the campus' first tenant. Solar TAC includes six public- and private-sector entities working on solar-energy commercialization.

### ROSTER OF CRES BUSINESS MEMBERS

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

Adobe Solar	Enermodal Engineering	Rocky Mountain GeoExploration
Arapahoe Community College	Energy Environmental Corp.	SELA - Smart Energy Living Alliance
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Balanced Construction	Golden Solar	Simply Efficient
Black Hills Energy	Gray Construction	Silvertip Int. Eng. Consultants
Blakely & Co.	Hydro Electric, LLC	SolSource, LLC.
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Burdick Technologies Unlimited, LLC	Innovative Energy	Solar Green Technologies
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