



# CRES NEWS

Newsletter of the *Colorado Renewable Energy Society*

VOL. 8, NO. 2

A Chapter of the *American Solar Energy Society*

FEBRUARY 2003

## CRES 6th ANNUAL MEETING & Party

Once again this year CRES members will be getting together for an evening of socializing and entertainment, with some business thrown in for good measure. The meeting will feature:

- ❶ **Food and Drink:** Enjoy a great variety of deserts, coffee, tea, wine and beer. (three drinks included with admission fee)
- ❷ **Music and Dancing:** Featuring a live "smooth jazz" band for your dancing and entertainment pleasure.
- ❸ **Silent Auction:** A wide assortment of unusual items will be awarded to the highest bidders.
- ❹ **Networking Opportunities:** Get together in an informal setting to connect up with fellow renewable energy advocates.
- ❺ **Award Presentation:** The *CRES Outstanding Service Award for 2002* will be bestowed upon last year's winner.
- ❻ **Our Regular Annual Meeting:** Brief reports by the Outgoing President, Treasurer, and Incoming President followed by questions and comments from the floor.



**Saturday, February 22, 2003**  
**Lakewood Heritage Center's *Country School***  
**797 S. Wadsworth Ave.**  
 (Entrance on Ohio - see map, page 2)

7:00pm - 8:00pm  
 8:00pm - 9:00pm  
 9:00pm - 9:30pm  
 9:30pm -----

Fellowship Hour  
 CRES Annual Meeting & Awards  
 Silent Auction  
 Jazz and Socializing

**Price: \$25.00 per person**

**Be sure to bring your spouse and friends**

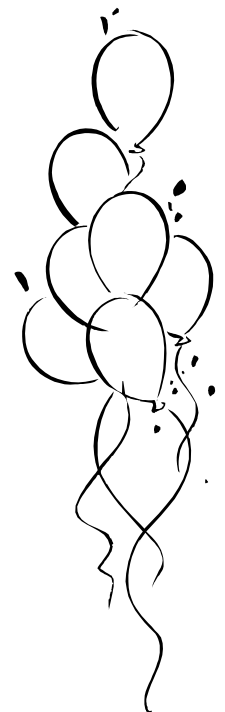
***RSVP by no later than Feb 20***

**Call 303-279-1446 or**

**E-mail to [sheilatownsend@earthlink.com](mailto:sheilatownsend@earthlink.com)**

Send check to: CRES, P.O. Box 933, Golden, CO 80402

(or pay at door if it is too late to send by mail)



## Colorado Snap Shots

This column will feature short news items, meeting announcements, personality profiles and other energy matters of interest related to Colorado.

### CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

**Feb. 28 - Mar. 1... Photovoltaic Workshop.** Presented by CoSEIA. Work sessions on Friday and Saturday morning; PV Certification test on Saturday afternoon. For further details visit [www.coseia.org](http://www.coseia.org).

**Mar. 10 - 15... Home Energy Rating System Training.** Presented by E-Star Colorado. Training program has been accredited by the national E-Star organization. Deadline for applications is **February 24**. For further details visit [www.e-star.com](http://www.e-star.com) or call Megan Edmunds at 303-297-7380.

### NEWS ITEM

**CoPIRG Reports on Economic Benefits of Wind Power...** The Colorado Public Interest Group (CoPIRG), a nonprofit advocacy group, has released a report entitled *Wind Energy: Powering Economic Development for Colorado*, that gives the results of a recent study that shows how wind power can generate huge economic benefits for rural Colorado. The full report is on the CoPIRG website at [www.copirg.org](http://www.copirg.org). Also, for further information call Stephanie Bonin at 303-573-7474, x308.

### 6th Annual Colorado Renewable Energy Conference



**June 27-29, 2003**  
Montrose Pavillon  
Montrose, Colorado

[www.cres-energy.org](http://www.cres-energy.org)

## It Ain't Over 'Till its Over!

### RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL TO BE REVIVED

As reported in the Denver Post on January 24, 2003, "renewable energy proponents will try again to pass a Colorado bill requiring wind and other renewable sources in electrical generation." This is similar to the bill that was introduced by Senator Terry Phillips during the last session of the Colorado legislature but which died when the session ended before legislators could reconcile the House and Senate versions. Despite its initial strong support in both houses, the bill was withdrawn at the last hour of the last day of the legislative session when several senators who originally supported the bill changed their vote at the last minute during the reconciliation proceedings and certain defeat was imminent. At the time, this was viewed as a major setback for renewable energy in Colorado and a severe blow to the bill's many backers, including CRES.

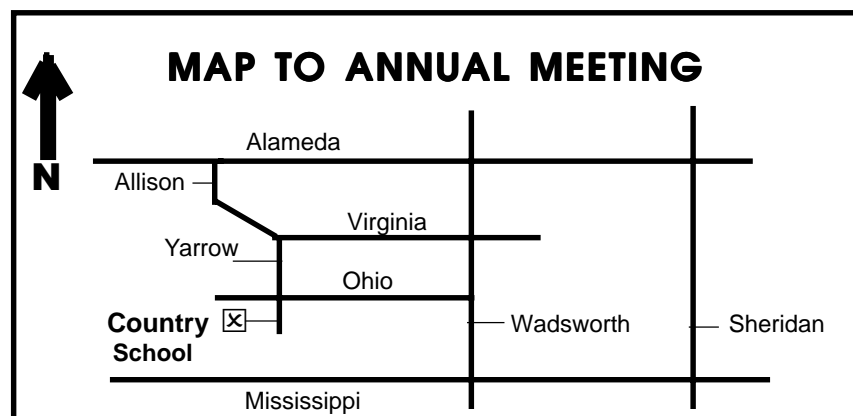
The bill now seems to have gained a new life. According to the Post report, "legislators, utilities and environmental groups were negotiating Thursday (January 23) on the bill's provisions. Backers said the legislation is likely to require Colorado's two investor-owned utilities - Xcel Energy and Aquilla, formerly known as West Plains Energy - to generate about 8 percent of their power from renewable energy." The Senate version of the original bill called for a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) of 10 percent by 2010 in Colorado.

Further strengthening the bill's chances for success is the fact that Representative Lola Spradley of Beulah County will be introducing a similar bill in the House. Representative Spradley is now the majority leader in the House and therefore wields even more influence this year than last when she successfully saw her own RPS bill through the House. Also, CRES NEWS has been told that Xcel Energy will be endorsing the bill this year and that there will be no formal opposition from organized labor, two important factors in the defeat of the bill last year.

The CRES Legislative Affairs Committee, along with the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, the Colorado Coalition for New Energy Technologies, the Sierra Club, and Colorado Public Interest research Group, strongly supported the original bill and are backing this new initiative to revive the legislation.

Arguing in support of the bill, Robin Hubbard, field director for CoPIRG, said, "This bill potentially means money for local communities, money in farmers' pockets and economic development in general." According to Hubbard, farmers and ranchers in windy locations can earn \$1,000 to \$2,500 in lease payments each year for each wind turbine placed on their property, and counties in rural areas will reap new revenues in property taxes from these developments. For example, the proposed 162-Megawatt wind farm near Lamar, a partnership of Xcel Energy and Gen-

*continued on page 3*



## CRES CORNER

*A Report by President, Thom Johnson*

### Annual Meeting & Party

Our next major event is the CRES Annual Meeting and Party that will take place on Saturday, February 22 (see page 1). Besides offering everyone a good time, the meeting gives each of you the opportunity to ask questions of your Board and to voice your opinion on any CRES matter that is on your mind. I urge you to attend and "speak your piece". We welcome and need your input.

Also, I would like to mention that we will be holding a unique special fund raiser this year for the first time. It is a Silent Auction. If you have any item of value or a service that you would be willing to volunteer for the auction, please contact Craig Cain at [multicaster@attbi.com](mailto:multicaster@attbi.com).

### CoSEIA Hires a New Administrator

Our sister organization, the Colorado Solar Industries Association (CoSEIA), has announced that it has hired Samantha McDonald to be their new Administrator. This is a most welcome move since the Association has been in dire need of someone to take over since the loss of the previous Administrator. As a consequence, the official address for CoSEIA is now:

CoSEIA  
P.O. Box 1977  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452-1977

### Certification Workshops and Training Sessions

Two Colorado solar and energy conservation organizations are offering special educational programs in the coming weeks. CoSEIA will be holding a two-day PV workshop that will culminate in a PV certification test. E-Star Colorado, which just received national accreditation for its Home Energy Rating System (HERS) training, will hold a five-day training program on its rating system. See *Colorado Snap Shots - Calendar of Events* on page 2 for further details.

### SW-CRES Subchapter Being Considered

A meeting was recently held in Ridgeway, Colorado to investigate ways to strengthen renewable energy alliances in the Southwest region of Colorado. CRES member, Steve Clark, called the meeting. Former CRES Administrator Meg Nagel, who moved to the region a couple of years ago, urged those at the meeting to consider formation of a Southwest subchapter of CRES similar to N-CRES. Ron Larson, who attended the meeting, detailed the benefits of such a move. Meg volunteered to be the central point for continuing discussion on the matter. The subchapter would likely cover all or parts of San Miguel, Montrose, Dolores, Mesa, San Juan, and Ouray Counties.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL - *continued*

eral Electric, is expected to increase the tax base of Powers County by 29 percent. As a consequence, Powers County and several other Colorado counties have passed resolutions in support of mandated renewable energy portfolio standards.

With this support, and continued effort by CRES and the other concerned citizen and environmental groups, the likelihood that a new bill will be introduced and passed by both state legislatures is high. CRES and our allies have pledged to keep fighting until the battle is won. As the great Yogi Berra once said, "*it ain't over 'till its over!*"

*Note: A progress report on passage of the bill will be presented and discussed at the March 19 regular CRES meeting (see meeting notice at right).*

## CRES NEWS

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The address of the editorial office is:

**1050 S. Monaco Pkwy. Ste 77  
Denver, CO 80224**

**Phone or Fax: 303-377-0711**

**e-m: [paulnotari@cs.com](mailto:paulnotari@cs.com)**

**Editor:** Paul Notari

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## 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.*

**February 22, 7:00pm - CRES Annual Meeting & Party - See Page 1**

**March 19 - General Meeting -**  
This meeting will feature a panel of experts who will inform the audience about the status of RE legislation winding through the Colorado legislature and advise them of actions they can take to assist. The panel will be moderated by CRES Board member, Carol Tombari.

## CRES "HOTLINE"

**303-806-5317**

## CRES INTERNET NOS.

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

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

# RENEWABLE ENERGY BRIEFS

**Senate Bill Introduced to Curb U.S. Greenhouse Gasses...** On January 8, Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) joined forces to challenge the Bush administration by introducing a bill to reduce the emissions of heat-trapping gases that contribute to global warming. "The U.S. is responsible for 25 percent of the worldwide greenhouse gas emissions," Senator McCain said as he opened the hearing. "It is time for the United States government to do its part to address this global problem and a discussion of mandatory reductions is the form of leadership that is required."

The assertion was a direct challenge to President Bush whose approach relies on voluntary reductions. Stiff opposition to the McCain-Lieberman bill is expected from the administration, particularly since Senator Lieberman has announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for president. Many at the hearing rejected the idea that the White House was doing something serious about global warming and criticized the administration for using the excuse that more research was needed before any federal action should be taken.

The bill, forged with advice from industry and environmental groups, would require that by 2010 industries cut emissions of carbon dioxide to 2000 levels and by 2016 to 1990 levels.

**Famed Actor Speaks Out in Support of San Francisco Renewable Energy Initiative...** Robert Redford, who began his involvement with solar power issues in the mid-1970s, is an active supporter of the San Francisco-based *Vote Solar* movement and its agenda. The San Francisco renewable energy program, which requires the city to provide 25% of its energy from renewable energy sources, has become a national model. Redford, in an article published recently in the Los Angeles Times, stated that "the highest patriotism lies in weaning the U.S. from fossil fuels." He lauded the San Francisco initiative as a major step in this direction.

**EPRI Releases Report on Hybrid Electric Vehicles...** The Electric Power Research Institute has published the results of its study of hybrid electric vehicles which confirms that HEVs significantly lower total fuel-cycle ("well to wheel") emissions and substantially reduce consumption of petroleum-based fuels when compared to equivalently sized conventional vehicles. Researchers compared vehicles for factors such as environmental impact, performance, fuel-savings, and customer preference. The study is the first research available to the public which compares the benefits and environmental impacts of HEVs with conventional vehicles.

The findings are available in two free reports entitled *Comparing the Benefits and Impacts of Hybrid Vehicle Options* (No. 1000349) and *Comparing the Benefits and Impacts of Hybrid Vehicle Options for Compact Sedan and Sport Utility Vehicles* (No. 1006892). To obtain copies call the EPRI Order Center at 1-800-313-3774 or e-mail your request to [orders@epri.com](mailto:orders@epri.com).

**Wind Industry Group Reports Drop in Wind Energy Installations in 2003...** The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) has released preliminary year-end figures for 2002 stating that the wind industry installed 410MW of capacity in the U.S. for the year. Although this was the fourth best year of all time, the total was down sharply from the 1,696MW installed during last year's record year.

"The lower total," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher, "underlines the vital importance of having a stable energy policy environment in which a new industry can grow in a healthy fashion." He emphasized the need for an extension of the federal wind energy production tax credit that is scheduled to expire December 31, 2003. He also warned that the wind power's outlook for 2003 is clouded by an overall buildup of debt in the electric utility industry that has created financial problems that could last well into 2004.

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## Colorado Renewable Energy Society

P.O. Box 933

Golden, CO 80402