

Extension Clean Energy Outreach

By Leigh Fortson, Extension Regional Communications Coordinator and REA (Renewable Energy Advocate)

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CSU Opens One of the Largest Solar Plants at a U.S. University

Colorado State University has finished a 5.3-megawatt solar plant that will provide one-third of electricity needs on the university's Foothills Campus, about three miles west of the main campus. This means CSU and its partner, Fotowatio Renewable Ventures, have completed one of the largest solar plants at a U.S. university.



Aerial view of new solar plant expansion, courtesy of Dan Bihn

The 5.3-megawatt solar plant began producing electricity in December. Fotowatio Renewable Ventures, or FRV, built the project in two phases on 30 acres with the second phase completed at the end of 2010. The plant will reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere by more than 6 million kilograms – the equivalent of

removing more than 520 cars off the road each year.

Colorado State is one of the foremost universities in incorporating sustainable living on campus. From building a biomass boiler and solar plant on the Foothills Campus to conserving water and energy in residence halls on the main campus, the university strives to lessen energy consumption and provide students with green living alternatives.

“Colorado State continues to be a pacesetter in employing green solutions,” said Colorado State President Tony Frank. “This is a practical example of our commitment to renewable energy and the public-private partnerships that are crucial to making these projects successful.”

CSU Professor Discovers Non-Toxic & Efficient Solar Cell Material

Amy Prieto, professor of chemistry and founder of Prieto Battery, discovered that dramatic reactions occur with copper selenide at the nanoscale, according to the cover story in the Feb. 9 issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society. Reactions with air allow Prieto and her students to manipulate or “tune” the properties of the device – such as a solar cell – containing the copper compound.

“Nanoparticles are so small, therefore most of the surface reactions that you would never notice in bulk materials are pretty dramatic in a nanoparticle,” Prieto said. “There is getting to be a lot of interest in making devices like solar cells from nanoparticles. There is still much to be understood about how the material we’re now using works – how it absorbs photons and converts them to current, that then has to traverse a tortuous path through the nanoparticle network” she said.

Prieto and her team tested the copper nanomaterial by attaching electrodes to thin films of copper selenide nanoparticles and watching how the thin films pass electric charges. They found that, with prolonged air exposure, the current changed dramatically.

Prieto’s research focuses on creating new inorganic materials – to replace silicon or cadmium telluride, for example – that could be incorporated into solar panels to produce electrical current. She joined Colorado State University in 2005 as an assistant professor. She is part of the university’s Clean Energy Supercluster commercialization arm, Cenergy. In 2009, Prieto co-founded Cenergy’s first startup company, Prieto Battery, a company expected to produce batteries theoretically up to 1,000 times more powerful and 10 times longer lasting and cheaper than traditional batteries. The development of this technology could revolutionize the military, automobile and healthcare industries.



The Politics of Going Green

There's a lot going on in Washington D.C. around energy and climate change issues. Here are a few of the bigger stories, for better or worse. Let's start with the better...

2012 Budget Provides \$8 Billion for Clean Energy

Source: Reuters, By Timothy Gardner

President Barack Obama proposed boosting funds for clean energy research and deployment in his 2012 budget by slashing subsidies for fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal. The budget provides the Department of Energy \$29.5 billion for fiscal year 2012, up 4.2 percent from the proposed 2011 budget, and up 12 percent from the enacted 2010 budget. Some \$8 billion would support research in clean energy like wind, solar and advanced batteries.

"Whomever leads in the global, clean energy economy will also take the lead in creating high-paying, highly skilled jobs for its people," the administration said in the budget.

The budget would also provide \$853 million to support new nuclear energy technologies, such as small modular reactors.

The White House asked for \$36 billion in federal loan guarantees to help finance the building of nuclear power plants, as it did last year. The loan program already has \$18 billion in authority. To help pay for the clean energy initiatives, the White House is asking Congress to repeal \$3.6 billion in oil, natural gas and coal subsidies, a move that would total \$46.2 billion over a decade. In addition, the budget cuts funding for oil and gas research and for hydrogen fuels programs.

But many Republicans oppose cutting subsidies for fossil fuels, saying it would hurt industries that provide jobs while the economy is still fragile.



"Given the broad difference in priorities between House Republicans and the White House on energy issues, we believe that few of the proposed cuts and expansions ... will become law," Whitney Stanco, an energy policy analyst at MF Global, said in a research note...

...The Obama budget cuts the 2012 EPA budget by about \$1.3 billion or about 13 percent with reductions in a clean diesel program and in Great Lakes restoration projects.

Stanco said the budget's funding for electric vehicles could be likeliest to make it into law as it could be paired with funding for natural gas vehicles. The budget proposes \$588 million for vehicle technologies, an increase of 88 percent from current levels.

The budget would double the number of energy innovation hubs to six to bring scientists to work on topics like rare earth elements, energy storage and batteries and development of smart grid technologies designed to make electricity transmission efficient.

House Blocks EPA from Regulating CO2

Source: HuffPost.com

The Republican-controlled House has voted to block the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases that scientists say cause global warming.

The 249-177 vote added the regulation ban to a sweeping spending bill that would fund the government through Sept. 30. The restriction is opposed by the Obama administration, which is using its regulatory powers to curb greenhouse gases after global warming legislation collapsed last year. The administration also says the ban would cost thousands of construction jobs.

EPA has already taken steps to regulate global warming pollution from vehicles and the largest factories and industrial plants. It is expected to soon roll out rules that target refineries and power plants. Texas Republican Ted Poe pressed the anti-EPA measure. His Texas district is home to many oil refineries.

House Passes Anti-Biofuels Amendment

Source: 25x'25

25x'25 expressed its strong objection to the House of Representative's misguided vote to block funding of EPA's implementation of the increase in ethanol blend in the nation's gasoline supply from 10 percent (E10) to 15 percent (E15). The anti-biofuels amendment was approved as part of a continuing resolution adopted by the House late last week to fund the government through the remainder of this fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

"In a rush to make budget cuts, the House adopted an amendment that effectively overturns EPA's previous decision to allow for increased use of renewable, homegrown biofuels – a policy decision that was based on sound science," said 25x'25 Alliance Co-Chair Read Smith.

"This is a wrong-headed vote because any concerns about any impact of higher ethanol blends have been answered," said Smith, who is also a former President of the National Association of Conservation Districts. "The vote also negatively impact's the nation's economy, our balance of payments and public health by further increasing our dependence on oil and exposure to toxic emissions associated with gasoline production and use."

Retired Vice Admiral Denny McGinn, another 25x'25 Steering Committee member and a former commander of the Navy's Third Fleet, said the House vote against the U.S. biofuels industry jeopardizes the nation's national security. "This move would greatly reduce the availability of a viable domestic supply of transportation fuels and continue to feed our national addiction to foreign oil. In a nation rightly concerned about the U.S. economy and jobs, we need to start reducing the outflow of more than \$1 billion petrodollars each day to nations and regimes overseas, many hostile to the United States," McGinn said.



"The cost of our dependence on oversea supplies of oil goes far beyond the pump price of a gallon of gas," McGinn said. "The military costs required to protect our oil transportation lanes places a heavy premium on the petroleum we use in this country. And ultimately, any policy that increases our dependence on foreign oil will cost us dearly and greatly risks more U.S. military casualties."

"Fortunately, the Senate will have the opportunity to address this irrational decision when they take up their version of a continuing resolution after the President's Day recess," said Smith. "Our strongest hope is that the recess will give stakeholders the chance to inform lawmakers of the need for an expanded biofuel supply in the interests of public health and national security, and that lawmakers on both sides of Capitol Hill will work in a bipartisan manner to reverse this disastrous course of increased oil dependence," he said.

For more information, contact Ernie Shea, 25x'25 Project Coordinator, at 410-952-0123, or e-mail at EShea@25x25.org.

Wells Fargo Funds \$8 Billion for Green Projects

Source: Business Wire

Wells Fargo & Company announced it has passed the \$8 billion mark in loans and investments to businesses and projects with a direct positive impact on the environment. In the company's 2010 Environmental Finance Report, Wells Fargo details its efforts to support a wide variety of projects and businesses, including over 250 renewable energy projects, more than \$3.7 billion in financing for green buildings, and loans to numerous clean technology manufacturers, green community projects, and other environmentally-focused customers. The \$8 billion figure represents total capital made available to environmental markets since 2005, including over \$1.3 billion committed in 2010.

"Exceeding \$8 billion in financing not only represents Wells Fargo's continued commitment to the environment, but also the tremendous growth of clean technology businesses," said Barry Neal, head of Wells Fargo's Environmental Finance group. "We look forward to helping the industry expand even further as we continue to invest in customers and projects that support a clean energy economy."

2010 highlights include:



- Approximately \$240 million invested in solar photovoltaic projects and wind projects across eight states
- Three new products and offers to help customers reduce costs and contribute to developing clean energy resources: construction financing, direct lease and loan financing, and home equity loans for solar systems
- More than \$300 million in loans committed to clean technology businesses
- Over \$750 million provided to finance LEED® certified commercial buildings and community development projects

Xcel Cuts Solar Incentive

Source: [Denverpost.com](#) By [Steve Raabe](#)

Xcel Energy is cutting the financial incentives it offers to customers for solar-energy installations. In addition, the utility is asking state regulators to approve further cutbacks in the subsidy program.

Xcel said the reductions are justified because the cost of solar panels has been declining and customers no longer need higher incentives to offset installation costs. But solar-industry officials said the cutbacks will have a severe effect on investments and jobs in the sector.

"This is absolutely devastating to the solar industry," said Neal Lurie, executive director of the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association. "No industry can survive this kind of shock."

Lurie said the subsidy cutback endangers the sector's growth, which has seen Colorado solar-energy jobs increase from 500 to 5,300 since the incentive program started in 2006.

State law provides for incentives and rebates on the installation of solar-energy equipment to meet renewable-energy mandates. The law allows Xcel to establish the level of incentives; the amount of rebates is set separately by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. The combined incentive and rebate drops from \$2.35 per watt to \$2.01, effective immediately, based on Xcel's change for residential-scale systems that range from 0.5 to 10 kilowatts. Larger systems will incur similar reductions.

Xcel also is asking the PUC to lower rebate amounts so that combined subsidies would drop further to \$1.25 per watt — a 47 percent reduction from previous levels. Solar-industry officials estimated that typical residential systems now costing \$5,000 to \$12,000 could rise to \$8,000 to \$16,000 after the reduced incentives and rebates.

Customers whose incentive applications already have been approved will still qualify for the higher subsidies. Xcel cited a Deutsche Bank study saying the cost of solar panels dropped 50 percent from 2008 to 2009.

"We look forward to the industry's continued progress so that it can ultimately become self-supporting," Xcel Colorado president David Eves said in a statement. "Just as wind energy is now more competitive, solar energy is moving in that direction too."

Read more: [Xcel cuts solar incentive - The Denver Post](#)
http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_17407964?source=email#ixzz1EcBXuNet

Xcel's Move Could Put 3,000 People Out of Work

Source: [Denverpost.com](http://denverpost.com) By Mark Jaffe

A push by Xcel Energy to slash incentives for residential solar arrays poses a risk to half of Colorado's 5,300 installation jobs, industry executives say. Xcel has suspended its Solar*Rewards program pending a decision by the state Public Utilities Commission on its request to cut subsidies by 47 percent.

Since 2006, the program has provided \$274 million in incentives for 9,346 installations on homes and small businesses. The program is financed by a renewable-energy charge equal to 2 percent of monthly electric bills.

The move to cut the subsidy is prompted by the rising cost of the program and a drop in the price of solar arrays, said Michelle Aguayo, an Xcel spokeswoman.

"This has just created tremendous uncertainty," said Blake Jones, chief executive of Boulder-based solar installer Namaste. "It is hard to run a business under these conditions." Namaste employs 80 people, and company executives met Wednesday to discuss layoffs and budget cuts, Jones said.

"We have a backlog, but we don't know how long this is going to go on," Jones said.



Solar City, a California solar leasing company operating in 10 states, opened a Colorado office a year ago, hiring 60 people, said Eric Wittenberg, the company's regional director. "I don't know if there will be layoffs, but I have put a hiring freeze on 10 positions," Wittenberg said.

There has been a steady ratcheting down of the incentives since 2009 from \$4.50 per watt to \$2.35 per watt this month, with a schedule to drop by another 30 cents as more arrays are installed.

"We expected customers to pay 50 percent and for credits and subsidies to cover 50 percent. We are paying about 75 percent," Aguayo said. Xcel wants to

cut the incentive to \$1.25 a watt. One reason it cites is the rapidly dropping cost of solar panels.

"We agree the incentives should come down," said Neal Lurie, executive director of the Colorado Solar Industries Association. The retail price for an installation in the past two years has dropped 50 percent, Lurie said.

"The issue here is how Xcel has gone about this," Lurie said. "Xcel blindsided everyone and has completely destabilized the market."

In the past five years, the solar industry in Colorado has grown from 40 companies to 400 with 5,300 jobs. Lurie said 2,000 to 3,000 jobs could be at risk.

In its filing to the PUC, Xcel said that with 2,200 systems and \$97 million approved for 2011, the industry should have ample work while the case is decided. The solar-industry executives, however, point to the experience in Pueblo, where Black Hills Energy announced in October it was suspending its solar rebate program.

"We had so many applications, we wanted to take a step back and see what we needed to do to sustain the program," said Tom Fitzpatrick, a Black Hills spokesman.

The unexpected announcement hit Yes Solar Solutions hard, said co-founder JD Johnson. "Ninety percent of our business disappeared," Johnson said. "We are just hanging on, but there is no light at the end of the tunnel."

Global Warming Could Dry Out Southwest

Source: <http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/>

It's not the heat that might get us with climate change—it's the humidity, so to speak. The risk of sea level rise due to melting land ice is one of the most recognized—if controversial and hard to predict—threats posed by global warming. Other potential impacts from global warming include increasingly powerful storms and floods of the sort that have ravaged Australia this past month and a half (while recognizing scientists can't yet fingerprint individual weather events as caused by warming).

But as climate change create havoc from too much water, parts of the world could end up suffering from too little water. That's the conclusion of a new study released today by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), an environmental research organization based, unsurprisingly, in Stockholm. The report found that the already dry states of the American Southwest—



Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah—will face a major water shortfall over the next century just based on population and income growth alone. (The region has long been one of the fastest-growing in the U.S., in part because of the hot and dry weather.) But climate change could make the situation much, much worse. According to the SEI study, global warming could increase the long-term water shortfall by a quarter, adding an additional 282 million to 439 million acre feet of water to the 1.815 billion acre feet shortfall already expected. Based on the price of adding reservoir capacity in California, meeting the baseline water shortage could cost \$2.3 *trillion*—yes, that's "trillion" with a "t"—plus \$353 billion to \$549 billion if climate change is factored in. Higher water prices would make adaptation even more expensive—assuming additional water could be found at all in a drier future. As Frank Ackerman, the director of the Climate Economics Group at SEI-U.S. and a co-author of the study, said in a statement:

Climate change is affecting Americans in many areas; the water crisis in the Southwest is one of the clearest examples. Climate policy choices we make today are not just about exotic environments and far-future generations – they will help determine how easy or hard it is to create a sustainable water system in the most arid region of the country.

Read more: <http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2011/02/10/climate-a-new-study-finds-that-global-warming-could-dry-out-the-southwest/#ixzz1E2s6eVqO>

Brazil Beats US in Climate Change Awareness

Source: environmental news network
<http://www.enn.com/lifestyle/article/42301>



Almost 80 per cent of Brazilians think global warming is caused by human activities, a survey has found, compared with less than half of Americans and around 70 per cent of Britons according to similar recent surveys.

Around 90 per cent of Brazilians believe that global warming is happening and think it is a serious issue, putting them on a par with Europeans and well ahead of Americans.

The results challenge the belief that in the developing world there is a lack of knowledge of the importance of climate change, said Yuri Castelfranchi, an expert on public perception of science based at the Federal University of Minas Gerais.

"The results show that climate change is on the agenda not only for the government but also for civil society," he told SciDev.Net.

More than 2,000 Brazilians were interviewed for the survey, which was conducted by the National Confederation of Industries (CNI) and published last month (December).

Read more: <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/brazil-beats-us-in-climate-change-awareness.html>

Wind Turbine Noise Causes Opposition

Source: www.miller-mccune.com
By [David Rosenfeld](#)

Mike Eaton and his wife live in northeastern Oregon for the peace and quiet. But ever since wind turbines arrived on the ridge above their home two years ago, the Eatons' slice of heaven has been a nightmare. "It makes me seasick and nauseous," said Eaton, who carries a cane. "I take medication for it, but it just keeps it slightly balanced so I'm not vomiting all the time, to be honest with you."

The constant *swoosh-swoosh* of wind turbines cutting through a downwind gust can be excruciating for Eaton. For others, like Dan Williams, who live nearby just a few miles south of the Columbia River, the sound is more than just annoying — it keeps him up at night, which causes stress.

“It’s like a train that’s neither coming or going, or a plane that’s constantly hovering, or an ocean that’s not breaking or receding,” said Williams, an otherwise healthy middle-aged man. “I will also sometimes get real tight in the chest and feel like I’m having a panic attack.”

The pair recently told their stories at one of three public meetings the state Office of Public Health held in eastern Oregon to assess the possible health effects from wind turbine noise. How and at what distances sound from these giant turbines affects human beings has triggered a brush war in the search for renewable energy, a war that has seen battles from Denmark to New England to the U.S. Midwest — and Oregon.

Read all: <http://www.miller-mccune.com/health/noise-complaints-draw-opposition-to-wind-farms-26673/>

Wind Power Turns Ski Areas Green

By Kristin Lummis

<http://braveskimom.com/ski-area-wind-turbines-another-way-to-be-green>

At some point, as a skier or rider, it dawns on you that skiing and snowboarding are not necessarily without environmental impact. When it comes to energy usage at ski areas, running ski lifts takes a lot of power. And, since most of us aren't about to begin "earning our turns" and skinning or hiking up for each run down, many ski resorts have made mitigating their environmental impacts a top priority.

Ski resorts have, in many instances, led the way toward energy efficiency. Their desire to cut energy expenses and to lighten their carbon footprint has led many, such as Vail Resorts and Aspen/Snowmass, to invest in wind-power credits to help offset their power consumption. Canada's giant Whistler-Blackcomb Resort took this one step further and completed a hydroelectric plant in 2009 that will generate more energy than the resort currently uses. Grouse Mountain, also in British Columbia, chose a different path and constructed an on-site utility-scale wind Leitwind turbine that offsets 25% of the resort's energy consumption, and has become a year-round tourist attraction with a 360-degree viewing pod located twenty stories above the ground.

Grouse Mountain is not the only ski resort in North America to install its own wind turbine. Jiminy Peak in Massachusetts led the way with a turbine installation in 2008. But what makes the Grouse Mountain Leitwind turbine unique is that its design was born of innovation in ski lift technology.

Leitner-Poma of America is a world-wide ski lift manufacturer based in Grand Junction and is one of several companies, including Leitner Lifts of Sterzing, Italy, under the Leitner Technologies umbrella. Looking for a way to develop a more simple, efficient and cost-effective ski lift, Leitner Lifts began experimenting with direct-drive technology.

A standard ski lift utilizes a motor, a gear box and a bullwheel. In order to operate at the correct speed, ski lifts use a gear reducer to slow down the speed of the chairs. A direct drive ski lift eliminates the gear box, utilizing only the bullwheel and an electric motor, with the motor's generator turning at the correct speed. While working on this technology, Leitner Lifts recognized that the process could be reversed and used to create direct-drive wind turbines. In essence, the direct drive allows the generator to turn at the same speed as the turbine blades, thus eliminating more than one-half of the rotating components in the mechanism and possibly, one-half of the potential headaches. Leitwind was born.



The Grouse Mountain Turbine with Viewing Pod. Photo courtesy of Leitner-Poma of North America.

Leitwind has focused on wind turbine installations in Europe and India and is just being launched in North America from Colorado. Highly efficient, but of a relatively small-scale, the Leitwind turbines range in power from 1.5 megawatts to 3.0 megawatts, enough to offset the energy consumption of between 400 and 800 homes. These are not the type of turbines which would be used to populate a big wind farm. Rather the Leitwind turbines are appropriate for use by individual companies and communities looking to supplement their local power supply with green energy. And, of course, they are appropriate for ski areas. Read entire article at: <http://braveskimom.com/ski-area-wind-turbines-another-way-to-be-green>

“Renewable Energy Future” Contest Launched

Source: The Renewable Energy Initiative

Celebrating one of America's fastest growing business sectors, the “Renewable Future” contest encourages production of clean energy TV commercials. Benefits of renewable energy include economic growth, jobs and lower energy costs. Consistently, ninety percent of Americans say they support increased solar and wind production.

The television commercials will present a bright future for American energy production with stunning visuals of wind turbines spinning in front of mountain sunrises and solar panels adorning neighborhoods. The contest is hosted by the Renewable Energy Initiative (TREI), a national educational organization. TREI's mission is to create a strong economy and healthy environment through increased investment, production and use of clean energy. Prizes include tours of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, in Golden, Colorado, and test rides in the Tesla Roadster- an all electric super car.

Entries are expected from the top film and environmental schools across the county including University of Southern California (USC) and University of Colorado, Boulder (CU).

“Renewable energy is big business,” explains Ken Beitel, TREI advisory board chair. “In 2010, solar and wind companies in America employed more than 178,000 people and global clean energy investment hit a record \$243 billion. Employment in the US solar industry is forecast to grow by 26% in 2011 with the creation of 24,000 new jobs.

Electric cars, powered by renewable energy, operate at a cost of \$1 per gallon equivalent. Increasingly popular all electric vehicles are expected to be a theme in many production entries. Faster than a Porsche, the Tesla Roadster can travel 250 miles on a charge and do 0 to 60 mph in 3.7 seconds. Electric cars such as the Nissan Leaf also allow commuters with solar carports or panels on their homes to commute for free.

In April, the “Renewable Future” competition will heat up when the public has the opportunity to view and vote on the best Clean Energy TV commercials via YouTube and Facebook. The “People's Choice Award” will be presented at the Clean Energy Economy Gala being held in Denver, Colorado on Saturday evening, May 7, 2011. The winning commercials are expected to air on national news segments.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.benzinga.com/press-releases/11/02/p866259/renewable-energy-future-contest-launched#ixzz1E9G14hiR>

General Info: Extension Energy Expo

By Kurt Jones, Chaffee County Director

Chaffee County hosted an energy expo on Saturday, February 12 in Salida entitled, “For the Love of Energy.” The event featured about 25 vendor booths, four presentations which included: *Growing Your Own Goodies, Gardens and Greenhouses; The First Step to Healing your Home – Residential Energy Audits; A Salida Home That Produces as Much as it Uses, Heating Up and Cooling Down; Geothermal Heat Pumps 101*. They also gave away 1200 cfls and one home energy audit.



Photos by Kelly Landau, INCITE Consulting and provided by Kathryn Wadsworth, INCITE Consulting, Chaffee County Community Energy Coordinator.

Upcoming Events

Energy Workshop

Saturday March 19th from 1:00 – 4:30 pm

Gilpin County Recreation Center (250 Norton Dr)

Your electricity bill will be changing in the future– Make your voice heard!

Join us for a workshop in which we will discuss:

- The future of energy prices and the structure of energy rates: this is your opportunity to provide feedback to United Power on those rate structures. In the future, you will be charged differently depending on when and how you use energy.
- What simple steps can you take today to begin reducing your energy footprint and the impact of the rate changes on your bill? Participants will learn how to use a Kill-a-watt device to reduce their energy bills, and will have the opportunity to take one home on loan.
- How you can get involved in community efforts to shape the future of energy. A new Energy Action Group in Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties is working on projects in your community and wants your help.

Participants will be entered into a drawing for a FREE home energy audit (valued at \$300). A free CFL lightbulb and light refreshments will also be provided. This workshop is part of on-going United Power – Energy Savings U series in cooperation with Colorado State University Extension. This will be an interactive workshop. Through the use of clickers and discussion in smaller focus groups, your opinion will help shape utility decisions. **Pre-registration is REQUIRED, space is limited, so sign up now!** If you would like more information or to pre-register for the workshop call the CSU Extension Office at 303-582-9106.

Global New Energy Summit

April 17-19, 2011

The Broadmoor

Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Global New Energy Summit is designed as an annual retreat of new energy (which includes new innovation in old energy) leadership from across the key disciplines of science, industry, policy and finance. By bringing together national and international leadership from across these key disciplines it is believed that unique discussions will lead to a more complete understanding of the critical issues needing attention for success in transitioning our energy economy over time. This will in turn lead to better informed public and private initiatives designed to succeed.

Rocky Mountain Technology Alliance

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Biodiesel Technology Workshop

July 18-22, 2011

Ames, Iowa

A five-day Biodiesel Technology Workshop co-sponsored by the University of Idaho and Iowa State University covers business management for biodiesel producers, biodiesel analytical methods, and biodiesel production technology. For more information and to register:

<http://www3.me.iastate.edu/biodiesel/>

2011 ACEEE National Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource (EER)

September 25 - Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Sponsored by Xcel Energy

Hyatt Regency Tech Center

Denver

Energy efficiency's importance as a utility resource has never been greater. Improving energy efficiency in our homes, businesses, and industries reduces energy costs, creates jobs, and improves the environment. Energy efficiency programs offered by utilities and related organizations are seeking unprecedented savings driven by both economic and environmental concerns. The 2011 ACEEE National Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource (EER) will highlight the latest legislative and regulatory developments in the energy efficiency field, and review the important advances being made in the design and delivery of customer energy efficiency programs. This is the number one forum for addressing the many issues facing utilities as they seek to acquire and integrate this resource into their planning and operations. Make plans now to attend this important and unique industry event! <http://www.aceee.org/conferences>.

CSU Energy Website

To learn more about wind, solar, geothermal, and biofuels, visit our energy website at:

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/energy>.

Furthermore

Go to <http://hes.lbl.gov/hes/db/zip.shtml> and you can do an online calculation of your own energy use and carbon footprint. It's easy to use. Tell your communities about it.

Send me anything that's newsworthy that you're doing in the world of energy efficiency and renewables. We need to keep our colleagues up to date on what's going on in Extension and the value of our role.