



# CENTER FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

*Illinois State University*

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

## Grant Submittals

The Center for Renewable Energy and the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology recently submitted for two new grants:

The first was a National Science Foundation grant for "Advancing Public Understanding of Wind Energy Through Informal Learning Environments: Assessing the Role of Context," with the intent to work with museums located in Cedar Rapids, Champaign, Kansas City, Normal, Rockford, and St. Louis.

The second was an Illinois State Board of Education grant for "Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnerships (IMSP): Summer Workshop or Institute (WIP 5)." The proposal supports an increased presence of energy-related material in K-12 education, with a Summer Workshop for teachers that would focus on teaching next-generation energy concepts by utilizing the Next Generation Science Standards.

## Center Founding Members:



If you would like to become a member of the Center for Renewable Energy, please contact Dr. David Loomis at 309-438-7979 or dloomis@ilstu.edu.

## Energy Learning Exchange Members Share Recommendations



*Dr. David Loomis facilitated the ELE discussion regarding plan recommendations.*

Illinois State University continues to lead the planning efforts of the **Illinois Energy Learning Exchange (ELE)**, a public-private partnership to improve education and boost careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Illinois. ELE has the support of Illinois State University's Center for Renewable Energy and Institute for Regulatory Policy Studies (Dr. David Loomis, Director of both), as well as the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (Dr. William Hunter, Director).

ELE members gathered for a meeting at Illinois State on January 18th to hear presentations by three subcommittees, and discuss their recommendations for the final report to be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education in June. The report will present a plan for the ELE to achieve nine required functions of the learning exchange, plus areas of strength and weakness, key resources, areas of perceived need, and a description of all public-private partnerships and funds to support implementation.

Dr. David Loomis facilitated the meeting and provided a background of what has been accomplished by the ELE to date. Jason Tyszko (Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) presented on the Illinois Pathways Initiative and STEM Learning Exchanges. Jeff Mays (Illinois Business Roundtable) also provided insight regarding STEM Learning Exchanges. Handouts and presentations summarizing each group's recommendations were prepared by the subcommittee co-chairs:

### Curriculum, Equipment, Student and Teacher Support Committee

- Dr. William Hunter (Illinois State University)
- Dr. Tod Treat (Richland Community College)

### Internships, Collaboration, & Career Development Committee

- Jim Monk (Illinois Energy Association)
- Jolene Willis (Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University)

### Personalized Education Plans & Performance Evaluation Committee

- Julie Elzanati (Illinois Green Economy Network)
- Dr. David Loomis (Illinois State University)



*Tony Svozil (Homewood-Flossmoore Community High School District 233), Stephanie Marum (Excelon Corporation), Ed Sitar (ComEd), Betsy Miller (Ameren), Jeff Reinkemeyer (Iberdrola Renewables), Matt Boss (Mainstream Renewable Power), and Paul Flynn (Peoria J-ATC Local 34), were among the ELE Members to take part in the discussion.*

## Illinois Wind Energy Team to Exhibit at AWEA Windpower



*Matt Aldeman, Dr. David Loomis, and Janet Niezgoda working the Illinois Wind Energy Team exhibit booth.*

The Illinois Wind Energy Team will again exhibit at the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) WINDPOWER Conference and Exhibition, thanks to a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IL DCEO). This year's event will be held at McCormick Place in Chicago, May 5-8, 2013. It was recently announced by AWEA that Illinois is fifth in the nation for new wind installations in 2012.

AWEA is a national trade association of wind power project developers, equipment suppliers, services providers, parts manufacturers, utilities, researchers, and others involved in the wind industry. WINDPOWER is the largest wind energy conference in North America and the

event provides speakers and poster presentations that highlight the latest industry trends, technology developments, and renewable energy policy developments. The event provides unmatched access to wind industry businesses and technology leaders. Complete conference details are available at [www.windpowerexpo.org](http://www.windpowerexpo.org).

The Illinois Wind Energy Team includes IL DCEO, Center for Renewable Energy as the administrator of the Illinois Wind Working Group, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, and more! Interested in being a **booth partner?** Please email to [jniezgoda@ilstu.edu](mailto:jniezgoda@ilstu.edu) right away for more details!

## Wind for Schools to be a Poster Presentation at Windpower



*Matt Aldeman explains the use of the KidWind turbines during a Wind for Schools teacher training session.*

The Illinois Wind for Schools program has been selected to be a poster presentation at AWEA Windpower 2013. Designed as an interdisciplinary and applied research approach to incorporate wind energy into classrooms across the state, the program is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The program team is comprised of expert personnel from the Center for Renewable Energy and the College of Education at Illinois State University, plus the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs and the College of Business and Technology at Western Illinois University.

Nine schools are participating to date:

- Astoria Junior High School
- Cuba Middle and High School CUSD 3
- Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
- Elmwood Junior/Senior High School
- Galva High School
- Plano High School
- Ridgeview Junior/Senior High School
- Riverview Grade School
- Southwestern Middle and High School

More details on the website [www.ILWFS.org](http://www.ILWFS.org).



*Students learn about wind energy, as they assemble a KidWind turbine in the classroom.*

## Dr. Loomis and Dr. Jo Present at Conference

Dr. David Loomis presented on "The National Database of Utility Rates and Rate Structure" at the 16th Annual Energy, Utility, and Environment Conference in Arizona at the end of January. The presentation regarding to the SunShot Initiative by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Jin Jo also presented at the conference on "Feasibility and Consumer Benefits of Meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard for Distributed Generation in Illinois." Illinois State University students Jared Hayden and Sarah Noll had assisted with the original report.



## CENTER STAFF

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