



CENTER FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Illinois State University

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

The Illinois Renewable Energy Conference is July 16th in Normal

The Center for Renewable Energy is leading the coordination of **The Illinois Renewable Energy Conference** with active participation from four statewide organizations to provide plenary speakers of interest to all areas of renewable energy plus four breakout session tracks to focus on wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. **The Illinois Wind Working Group, Illinois Solar Energy Association, Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, and Illinois Biomass Working Group** have been involved in planning the full-day conference on Wednesday, July 16th, at Illinois State University.

“Illinois renewable energy is poised to take a giant leap forward in 2014 and 2015,” said Dr. David Loomis, director of Illinois State’s Center for Renewable Energy, EnergyLearning Exchange, and Institute for Regulatory Policy Studies at Illinois State University. “Our renewable portfolio standard and our restructured energy markets make Illinois a very attractive place to develop renewable energy projects. This conference in a one-stop-shop for answers to issues concerning renewable energy in the state.”

PLENARY session speakers*:

- Mel Nickerson - *Illinois Energy Office, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity*
- Barry Matchett - *Environmental Law and Policy Center*
- Lillian Salerno - *USDA Rural Development*
- Anthony Star - *Illinois Power Agency*
- Susan Hedman - *Environmental Protection Agency Region 5*

The Center’s Founding Members:



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

WIND breakout session speakers*:

- Kevin Borgia - *Wind on the Wires*
- Lewis Opsal - *City of Geneseo*
- Bill Poole - *Stantec*
- Jeff Reinkemeyer - *Iberdrola Renewables*
- Matt Slager - *Hanson Professional Systems*
- Wes Slaymaker - *WES Engineering*
- Beth Soholt - *Wind on the Wires*
- Karen Tyrell - *BHE Environmental, Inc.*
- Jolene Willis - *Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University*

SOLAR breakout session speakers*:

- Joe Borkowski, *Phoenix Solar*
- Brian Haug, *Continental Electrical Construction Co.*
- Mike Hornitschek, *StraightUp Solar*
- Michelle Knox, *WindSolarUSA*
- Sean Middleton, *Illinois Rural Electric Co-Op*
- Chuck VonDrehle, *Jubl Renewable Energy Services*

GEOHERMAL breakout session speakers*:

- Dave Buss, *Connor Company and Geothermal Alliance of Illinois*
- Dan Couillard, *GI Energy*
- Doug Dougherty, *Geothermal Exchange Organization*
- Mark Nussbaum, *ACEMatt Slager, Hanson Professional Systems*

BIOMASS breakout session speakers*:

- Thomas Canam, *Eastern Illinois University*
- Patty Greteman, *Patriot Renewable Fuels*
- Steve John, *Agriculture Watershed Institute*
- Peter Johnsen, *Arvegenix, LLC*
- Cristina Negri, *Argonne National Laboratory*
- Regan Radtke, *UIUC EBI*
- Lillian Salerno, *USDA Rural Development*
- Jay Solomon, *University of Illinois Extension*

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.RenewableEnergy.IllinoisState.edu/Events/AllRenewablesConf.shtml/

Early Bird Registration rate is \$50 per person. Late Registration rate effective July 9th is \$70. Conference runs 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, including continental breakfast and lunch. A networking reception is planned for the evening before.

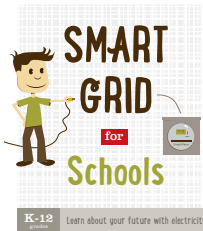
* schedule and speakers subject to change

CONFERENCE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS:



Smart Grid for Schools Training Begins in August

Through an Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation grant, the Center for Renewable Energy and the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology partnered to design and implement a Smart Grid for Schools program for schools to engage K-12 students in a fun, hands-on way that incorporates Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers have the opportunity to learn and then teach about the new Smart Grid technology being rolled out by Ameren and ComEd. Teachers statewide are invited to sign up for the paid professional development training at www.SmartGridforSchools.org.



Advisory Board Discusses Illinois State's Renewable Energy Major



Members of the Advisory Board met to discuss the Renewable Energy major, a broad-based interdisciplinary program addressing the social, economic, and technical issues that graduates will encounter in the emerging field of renewable energy and green careers. The curriculum is reviewed by renewable energy experts and potential employers who comprise the program advisory committee to ensure that its scope and depth will result in graduates that are highly trained and knowledgeable. The photo above represents a portion of the advisory board, including (left to right) **Phil Stiles** (GES North America), **Matt Boss** (Mainstream Renewable Power), **Jacob Baker** (Invenergy), **David Kennell** (Illinois State University), **Craig Pals** (Tick Tock Energy), **Dr. Jin Jo** (Illinois State University), **Shannon Fulton** (StraightUp Solar), **Richard Boser** (Illinois State University), **Matt Aldeman** (Illinois State University), and **Steven Smith** (Farnsworth Group). More information on this major may be found at <http://tec.illinoisstate.edu/renewable-energy/>.



The Illinois Wind Energy Team exhibited at the American Wind Energy Association's WINDPOWER Conference & Exhibition in Nevada, thanks to a grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. **David Baker** (DCEO) and **Janet Niezgoda** (Center for Renewable Energy) worked at the booth for retaining business and attracting companies, wind energy developers, equipment/supply chain manufacturers, to locate in Illinois.



The Center hosted a tour for students of Major Hector P. Garcia High School, an UNO Charter School in Chicago. The students enjoyed visiting Illinois State's Renewable Energy lab located in Turner Hall with instruction by **Dr. Jin Jo** (above). In addition, **Matt Aldeman** conducted a tour nearby at EDP Renewables' Twin Groves Wind Farm to explain how wind turbines work, and **Dr. David Loomis** prepared a class session on Illinois Wind Energy to answer general questions of wind energy and policy in the state.

Solar for Schools Teacher Training in Progress

The Illinois Green Economy Network partnered with Illinois State University to provide a Solar for Schools program with teacher professional development, curriculum resources, technical assistance and instructional equipment for middle school and high school teachers across the state of Illinois, to help them incorporate solar energy topics into their classroom. **Larissa Armstrong** of IGEN coordinated training to date through Kankakee Community College, Sauk Valley Community College, and McHenry County College. Illinois State's **Matt Aldeman** (Center for Renewable Energy) and **Allison Antink Meyer** (School of Teaching and Learning) conducted the workshops, topics covered included fundamentals of solar energy, curricula and lesson plans for integrating solar energy into existing curriculum, methods to utilize the Solar for Schools program to meet Next Generation Science Standards.

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