
The Center for Renewable Energy is leading the coordination of The Second Annual Illinois Renewable Energy Conference with active participation from statewide organizations to provide plenary speakers of interest to all areas of renewable energy plus five breakout session tracks to focus on 1) wind, 2) solar, 3) biomass, 4) geothermal, and 5) energy efficiency.

The event will be Thursday, July 16th, at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University, in Normal, IL, with a networking reception for registered conference attendees held the evening before at the Marriott. Last year, the conference welcomed 250 attendees with an interest to learn more about renewable energy.


Online registration is open, and Early bird registration is $50 per person. Conference sponsorship and exhibiting information will be available very soon on the conference website. For more details as they become available, and to register online, visit www.RenewableEnergy.ilstu.edu, click on the conference link.

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.

At the 2014 conference, Lillian Salerno (USDA Rural Development) presented on the Bio-Economy during the lunch plenary session.

Fred Iutzi (Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University), at right, talks with conference attendees at the Illinois Biomass Working Group’s exhibit booth in 2014.

A breakout session on Wind Policy last year featured Kevin Borgia (Wind on the Wires, at podium), Jeff Reinkemeyer (Iberdrola Renewables) and Kyle Barry (Husch Blackwell LLP).
The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) held their Sustainability Conference in January, designed for representatives of Illinois community colleges to come together and exchange successes and lessons learned to advance sustainability across the state.

Dr. David Loomis, Director of the Center for Renewable Energy, presented the keynote address at the event on January 28th, "Where Are All the Green Jobs?" The Smart Grid for Schools life-sized displays were demonstrated by the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology’s staff. A PDF of the presentation is available to view online, please visit www.RenewableEnergy.ilstu.edu, and click the image linked under “Presentations” on the homepage.

Students from Glenbrook South High School, Urbana High School, Washington Community High School, and Williamsfield High School are actively participating in the challenge. The program is structured as an after-school extracurricular activity, one to two hours per week in the spring semester. Student presentations will be in May.

“We want students to tackle a project with real world relevance, and I’m excited to see what creative solutions the students will come up with for this project,” said Dr. David Loomis, Director of the Center for Renewable Energy. “We will provide them with reliable and credible resources only when they hit roadblocks.”

As part of the challenge, the students will also visit Illinois State University’s Energy House, a single-family house that is used for the Center for Renewable Energy offices. Dr. Loomis hopes to implement the best student solutions presented at the Energy House.

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