Renewable Energy Policy and Technology Topics to be Presented


Plenary session speakers will include Molly Lunn (Deputy Director, Office of Energy and Recycling, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) and Anthony Star (Director, Illinois Power Agency). Plenary sessions will be of interest to all areas of renewable energy, and breakout sessions will discuss policy, technology, and case studies in specific tracks for wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and energy efficiency. Register online through the website, www.RenewableEnergy.ilstu.edu, click on Events for the conference page.

Center Faculty Honored with Prestigious Award on Founders Day

Center for Renewable Energy faculty Dr. David Loomis, Dr. Jin Jo, and Matt Aldeman received the Outstanding Cross-Disciplinary Team Research Award during Illinois State University’s Founders Day Convocation. The team members are from two academic departments (Economics and Technology) and two colleges (the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Applied Science and Technology), and they have been collaborating on a wide range of renewable and next-generation energy research issues since 2010.

The team conducted a series of increasingly complex renewable energy integration studies, including determining the technical potential to install a large amount of solar photovoltaics (PV) in Illinois, and another study on wind in Illinois. Then they analyzed the economic impact of solar energy installations in the state, an analysis commissioned by Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Their current study focuses on the impact of a combination of renewable energy technologies, and will be followed by an investigation of the impact of energy storage on the electric grid. Their research, outreach, and educational agenda has resulted in international, peer-reviewed journals, publications, and speaking engagements across the world.
Students Engaged in STEM Problem Solving Challenge

The Center for Renewable Energy is assisting with another STEM Challenge for high school students to brainstorm solutions for a modern energy problem. This challenge is funded by the Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF) and coordinated with the Research & Development Learning Exchange.

STEMchallenges foster integrated curriculum that applies STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts to real-world challenges through problem-based learning and highly-supported partnership. Over the course of a semester, students work in teams to project manage and apply what they learn in science, technology, engineering, math, and social science to solve complex issues. By examining real-world problems and networking with outside professionals, students are able to experience firsthand a variety of career opportunities.

“Last year’s STEM Challenge brought the real world into the classroom, and brought the classroom into the real world,” said Jeritt Williams, STEM Education Coordinator at the Center for Renewable Energy. “What impressed me the most, was that students not only came up with innovative solutions, but they also considered potential impacts on their own community and beyond.”

So far for this year’s STEM Challenge, Jeritt has been working with over 150 students from Downers Grove North High School, Downers Grove South High School, Washington Community High School, and Williamsfield High School. The students are developing an innovative solution to managing every day energy use by expanding on the concept of smart grid and connected home technologies. The students will continue to be mentored by Center staff until their final presentations in May in Chicago.

The photo above is provided by Williamsfield High School, showing Jeritt demonstrating how students can integrate prototyping technology into their solutions.

JBVELA Published New Article on Wind


With the state of Illinois emerging as a major wind energy producer in the United States, the study discusses a number of factors that have contributed to the rapid growth of wind power capacity in Illinois, and examines the economic impact of the 23 largest wind farms in the state using the JEDI Wind Energy Model.

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Center for Renewable Energy Founding Members

If your company would like to become a member of the Center for Renewable Energy, please contact Dr. David Loomis for details, email dloomis@ilstu.edu.