



Bill Introduced to Encourage Renewable Energy Development

Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) recently introduced an important piece of federal legislation that could spur an unprecedented amount of new renewable energy development in the United States. Titled the "Renewable Energy Jobs and Security Act" (H.R. 6401), it brings the successful feed in tariff system (more commonly called renewable energy payments) that has allowed Germany and other European countries to become leaders in renewable energy development over the past few years. A German report states that in 2006 alone, renewable energy payments were responsible for the creation of 134,000 jobs and a net positive economic impact of \$23.5 million.

The act as submitted to the United States Congress has three main components:

1. A guarantee to interconnect renewable energy projects under 20MW to the grid with uniform standards.
2. A mandatory power purchase agreement (PPA) through long-term contracts with fixed tariffs.
3. The creation of Renewcorps, a rate-recovery program, through a regional cost-sharing and systems benefit charge to end-users.

This act addresses some of the more important barriers that exist in developing renewable energy projects such as the lengthy interconnection queue and the uncertainty that comes with negotiating PPAs.

Several states, such as Michigan, California and Minnesota have introduced similar bills in their respective state legislatures.

For more information:

- Follow the status of the bill and read the full text through the [Library of Congress](#).
- Read the [news release](#) and a more thorough discussion about the bill.
- Learn more about the German system and its benefits [here](#).

Call for Wind Energy Center Volunteers

Volunteer with Windustry at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair's EcoExperience and help promote wind energy in Minnesota! The State Fair runs August 21 through September 1, and we need several volunteers each day to help answer visitor questions at the [Wind Energy Center](#).

Commit one four hour block of time to help staff the wind exhibit during the fair and receive a ticket for free admission and a wind energy t-shirt. Training for all volunteers will be provided.

Contact Dan Craigie at dan@windustry or 612-870-3461 to get yourself signed up!

Women of Wind Energy Continues to Soar

[Women of Wind Energy \(WoWE\)](#) is the little organization that could. Founded around a luncheon table in 2005 and housed at Windustry, this group now has a nationwide reach.

WoWE has a simple mission: to support and encourage the participation and advancement of professional women in the wind energy industry. Over the past four years, this group has developed a number of programs:

- **Local chapters.** There now are 11 chapters across the country where women gather on a regular basis to network and socialize: Boston, Boulder/Denver, Canada, Chicago, Minneapolis/Saint Paul, San Francisco, Seattle, Texas and Vermont.
- **Online mentoring program.** Introduced this summer, this program allows women from around the county to be involved as either a mentor or mentee.
- **Conference sponsorships for female students.** Each year, through the Rudd Mayer Memorial Sponsorship program, WoWE sends several college students or recent graduates to the annual American Wind Energy Association conference.

WoWE also sponsors a [Yahoo Group listserv for members](#); it's easy to join from the website and allows members to share information and networking tips. And, it all started with an idea at lunch - shows what a little networking can do!

Check Out the Windustry Blog!

Are you a regular reader of the Windustry blog? If not, be sure to check it out--you'll find it on our website [by clicking here](#).

The blog is a place where staff post interesting news, tidbits, and thoughts about the community wind world in a more informal, conversational venue than our website's other sections. You can leave comments too! (You'll need to log in first to leave a comment. You can read our comment [guidelines and terms of use by clicking here](#).)

You can also subscribe to an [RSS feed of the Windustry blog by clicking here](#).

Windustry promotes progressive renewable energy solutions and empowers communities to develop wind energy as an environmentally sustainable, community-owned asset. Through member supported outreach, education and advocacy we work to remove the barriers to broad community ownership of wind energy.

Contact the Wind Information Hotline

612.870.3461

800.946.3640

info@windustry.org

www.windustry.org



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