



WIND INDUSTRY

...harvest the wind

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2009 Inaugural Issue: A Renewable Recovery

Barack Obama will soon be inaugurated as 44th president of the United States, bringing a vision for "**New Energy in America**" to stimulate both economic recovery and job growth through renewable energy. Speaking on "American Recovery and Reinvestment" at George Mason University recently, President-elect Obama stated:

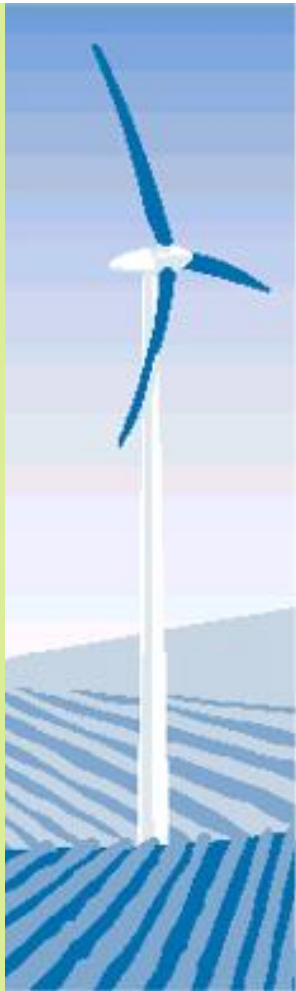
"We will put Americans to work in new jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced -- jobs building solar panels and wind turbines, constructing fuel-efficient cars and buildings, and developing the new energy technologies that will lead to even more jobs, more savings, and a cleaner, safer planet in the bargain."

With Community Wind, the American recovery can be an environmentally sustainable, community-owned asset. Sign up for one of the upcoming events and be part of the solution.

CERTS 2009: Harnessing Resources & Teamwork for Minnesota's Energy Future, February 10-11

The CERTS 2009 conference in St. Cloud, Minnesota will bring together over 500 Minnesotans who are blazing the paths to a clean energy future by working on energy efficiency and clean energy projects in their communities. Whether you're a farmer, utility representative, school staff, local official, student, business owner, or member of any community; there is a role for you to play. Learn what people are doing across the state, connect, and share resources.

CERTS 2009 will start with optional In-Depth Workshops on February 10 including Community-Based Energy Development, Accelerating Residential Efficiency, Saving Energy is Smart Business, Creating a Clean Energy School, Best Practices for Local Governments, and Networking for Clean Energy. As a



conference sponsor, Windustry is organizing the Community-Based Energy Development workshop covering the business models and economic feasibility of wind for community-based energy development.

The Daylong Conference on February 11 includes tracks on Clean Energy Trailblazers, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Development and Financing, and Expanding our Vision. Sessions will cover wind, solar, biogas, geothermal, manufacturing, green jobs, and much more. Keynote speakers include Randy Udall, former director of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency and a leading activist in promoting energy sustainability; Mary Hamann-Roland, President of the League of Minnesota Cities and Mayor of Apple Valley, where she helped create the School of Environmental Studies; and Minnesota Public Radio host Kerri Miller, who will host a Legislative Forum.

By attending CERTS 2009 you can be a part of Minnesota's clean energy future, and you can get energy efficiency and clean energy projects on the ground in your community!

For more information and registration, please visit www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org

Small Wind Turbine Installation Workshop, Feb. 11-13

This Small Wind Turbine Installation Workshop is designed for new and existing small wind installers, Minnesota small wind manufacturers, electricians, consultants, and PV Installers interested in wind. The workshop will be led by Roy Butler of Four Wind Renewable Energy, a technical editor for *Home Power Magazine* with more than 12 years of design and installation experience.

This three-day course will lead participants through the necessary background information required to site and install a small wind turbine, up to 40 kW in capacity. The training format is not hands-on, but it will cover all the steps for a successful project including timelines, initial planning stages, siting considerations, wind resource assessments and energy production estimates, tower considerations, zoning requirements, interconnection, insurance, used equipment, permitting, equipment assembly, and decommissioning.

The workshop will be held at the Great River Energy Headquarters in Maple Grove, Minnesota, with training provided by Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES), and with sponsorship from the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, Minnesota Power, and Windustry.

Registration is \$125 including lunches and the resource manual *Renewable Energy for Home, Farm and Business* by Paul Gipe. Registration is filling quickly; and while the workshop is open to all types of participants, priority will be given to new installers, electricians, consultants, and manufacturers.

For more information and to register visit: www.mnrenewables.org

Quick Links

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Big Stone II Transmission Lines Approved

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved a project for high-voltage transmission lines for the Big Stone II power plant on January 15. The 580-MW coal-fired plant to be located near Milbank, South Dakota had been approved by that state, but construction of transmission lines into central Minnesota had been the last critical aspect of the project under consideration.

Environmentalists have argued that carbon dioxide emissions from the coal-fired plant would contribute to global warming and that the plant could be expensive to operate or retrofit, if carbon cap and trade policies are implemented in the future. The PUC commissioned an independent report concluding that the utilities underestimated costs of the coal-fired plant while overestimating the cost of renewable energy alternatives.

Turbines in Water

A hydrokinetic turbine suspended in the Mississippi River at Hastings in December is the first commercial example of harvesting water current energy without a dam. The 35-kW turbine augments the capacity of the Army Corps of Engineers' Lock & Dam No. 2 and should produce an average annual generation of 364 MWh. "It's underwater windpower if you will," says Mark Stover of Hydro Green Energy, the company in charge.

Strategies to tap river and tidal currents are on the leading edge of green energy research, but federal regulations limit deployment of these innovative technologies. However, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved licensing of the Hastings hydrokinetic project as the first pilot of its kind in the U.S. Like wind and solar energy, hydrokinetic technology can be placed in remote areas and may be small or large scale. The Hastings project will add a second turbine this year, and studies will be made of the effects on water quality as well as aquatic and avian life.

For more information about advanced water power technologies visit the [U.S. Department of Energy Wind & Hydropower Technologies Program](#) or the [Union of Concerned Scientists Clean Energy](#) web site.

Welcome to our New Staff Member

Windustry is pleased to announce the addition of David Hedrick Skarjune to our team as Online Community Builder. David handles communications and technology needs for Windustry bringing over a decade of experience working with the World Wide Web. He's an Electronic Document Professional who champions using social media along with collaborative knowledge sharing. In recent years he taught digital design and development at Dunwoody College of Technology, and he worked at Minnesota AIDS Project and Minnesota State Arts Board. David holds a B.Sc. in Photography from the University of Minnesota, where he also completed graduate studies for the Teacher Education Series for Work, Community, & Family Education.

On the Windustry Trail...

Windustry staff started this year of change in various forums:

- We attended the [Growing Cooler](#) event at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Minneapolis, MN on January 5. Sponsored by [Fresh Energy](#) and other groups, the conference explored how development patterns impact climate change and how smart growth patterns can play a critical role in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- We cosponsored the [Bringing Renewable Energy Home](#) conference at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN on January 9, organized by the [Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#). There were engaging discussions on using feed-in tariffs in Minnesota and other states with some local legislators in attendance, including [Minnesota State Representative David Bly](#) (District 25B) who is authoring feed-in tariff legislation.