



Energy Task Force to Doyle: 10% RPS by 2015 *Panel Backs State Purchases of Renewable Power*

After months of study and deliberation, Governor James Doyle's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy agreed on a package of recommendations that would "help reduce Wisconsin's dependence on out-of-state fossil fuels, save ratepayers money and protect the environment."

Key recommendations made by the 25-member panel include:

- ✓ Increasing the state's renewable energy standard on electric utilities to 10% by 2015;
- ✓ Increasing state government's own use of renewable power to 20% by 2010;
- ✓ Expanding the role of the Public Service Commission in setting targets and funding for the state's Focus on Energy program;
- ✓ Improving the state's building codes on energy use;
- ✓ Encouraging the use of anaerobic digesters and wind turbines in rural Wisconsin.

From a starting point of 4% (assuming all hydro in Wisconsin is counted), a 10% renewable energy standard by 2015 would increase the renewable content of utility-provided electricity by six percentage points over that period. In contrast, under current law most of the utilities wouldn't have to expand their supplies of renewable electricity until 2010, if at all. Furthermore, the existing law does not require additional renewable electricity after 2011.

Presently Wisconsin utilities sell about 2.6 billion kWh of renewable electricity a year. If the successor renewable standard were adopted, by 2015 utilities would need to increase renewable electricity sales by 3.9 billion kWh/year, the equivalent output of about 1,700 MW of wind gen-

eration installed in Wisconsin. Given existing transmission bottlenecks, the utilities would have little choice but to look to Wisconsin generators to supply them with renewable power, at least through the remainder of this decade.

"We put together a framework that accelerates utility investments in renewable power while allowing utilities more flexibility in reaching the prescribed targets than what is allowed under current law," said RENEW Wisconsin Executive Director Michael Vickerman. "We've provided the Governor with a functioning and viable vehicle for getting to his goal of 10%. Now he has to pilot it through the political process so that it becomes state law."

Vickerman, who along with Xcel's Donald Reck co-chaired the Task Force's working group on renewables, was the principal author of the proposed 10% standard. Unlike the current mandate, the proposed standard would apply equally to all utilities in Wisconsin, no matter how much renewable power they currently generate or buy. If each utility increases the renewable content of its own electricity mix by six percentage points, the renewable fraction statewide will reach 10%.

In exchange for supporting this proposal, the utilities would be allowed to pursue new nonrenewable power projects without fear of a regulatory challenge from third parties. If this proposed successor standard is adopted, then utilities would be considered as complying with that part of Wisconsin's energy priority law that relates to renewable energy. No longer would it be possible to challenge a proposed coal or natural gas fired power project, as

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RENEW did when Madison Gas and Electric sought approval to build a gas-fired cogeneration plant on the UW-Madison campus, on the basis that renewable power is a preferred resource category under state law.

"It's reasonable," explained Vickerman, "to waive a challenge on a particular construction project, if the utility makes a good faith effort to produce 10% of its power from renewable energy sources by 2015."

The proposed standard would also define a process whereby utilities could seek relief from a compliance target if circumstances beyond their control (e.g., problems in acquiring the necessary siting permits) cause delays.

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New RENEW Members

RENEW welcomes the following new individuals who joined since the last newsletter:

Rick Burt • Roger Chuppa • Charles Cowie • Marian Holton-Manuel • Peter Lee • Donald Pardonner

We also welcome and thank the following new business members:

Tower Tech Systems • Midwest Renewable Energy Corporation • Cooperative Development Services • Midwest Wind Energy • Emerging Energies

To join RENEW, complete and return the membership form on page 2.

RENEW urges solar heat for Madison pool

Editor's note: Representing the City of Madison Task Force on Energy, Michael Vickerman addressed a citizens' panel charged with finding a suitable location for the city's first public outdoor swimming pool. His statement to the City's Ad Hoc Swimming Pool Committee is reprinted here.

My purpose in speaking to you is not to advocate for a particular location for a facility, but to ask that you incorporate solar heating in the plans for Madison's first municipally owned outdoor pool. In recent years solar energy has become a more cost-effective option for heating water than conventional fuels like natural gas.

The State of Wisconsin has a contract with Solar Mining Company, a Green Bay-based firm, to install solar thermal systems to heat three indoor swimming pools that it owns. In the past 12 months the same company has also installed solar systems on top of Memorial High School and East High School in Madison to heat the swimming pools inside. The Metropolitan Madison School District is pursuing this energy option because heating water from the sun, when offered as a utility-style service, is less expensive than natural gas. The savings would be even more pronounced for outdoor pools because a solar system obviates the need for gas heating equipment.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have the only company in the entire United States



Doug Dypold (left) and Richard Lane (right) watch as crews from Lane's Solar Mining Company lower solar collectors to heat water for Madison's East High School indoor swimming pool.

that provides solar water heating as a utility-style service. Under this arrangement a customer like the City of Madison can simply pay for the provision of hot water without having to own the panels, pipes, and electronic controls. This company simply bills the customer once a month for the service. It takes very little effort to compare the cost of water heated by Solar Mining Company's equipment with that which is heated with natural gas purchased from the local utility. Both the State and

the school district made that comparison, and solar water heating prevailed in each case.

The municipal swimming pool represents an opportune occasion to act on the Mayor's energy vision and employ a cost-effective renewable energy technology for this valuable civic enterprise. As a private citizen and a representative of the City of Madison Energy Task Force, I respectfully ask this Committee to make this a solar-heated pool. ✨

Yes! I want to help RENEW promote the use of clean, renewable energy resources to diversify Wisconsin's energy resource mix.

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RENEW Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization advocating the adoption of clean energy strategies to power Wisconsin businesses and households in an environmentally responsible manner. Through a combination of public policy and private sector initiatives, RENEW aims to increase the use of clean, self-renewing energy resources to generate electricity or displace fossil-generated electricity.

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Governor's Task Force

Continued from page 1

The recommended new role of the Public Service Commission—planning performance targets and determining appropriate funding levels for Focus on Energy—may generate controversy during the state's budget process in the next legislative session. Many of the Task Force participants protested the budget cuts visited upon the embattled conservation program by the Governor and the Legislature in the current biennial budget. "By authorizing the Commission to set funding and conservation goals, we would make it harder for state government to siphon off energy conservation dollars to plug holes in the state budget," Vickerman said.

The public benefits money comes out of utility rates from a small surcharge on utility customers' bills and is intended solely to promote energy efficiency programs and renewables, but Doyle and the Legislature diverted \$47 million out of the fund to balance the current biennium's state budget.

Positive Reactions

Nonetheless, Doyle liked the recommendations, saying "The Task Force is to be commended for developing a creative, consensus package."

An editorial in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison's morning daily, urged legislators to "do their part by endorsing the recommendations."

Similarly, the editorial writers for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* said the recommendations should "go a long way toward helping create a sound, balanced energy policy for Wisconsin."

The most important evaluation of the Task Force, however, comes after January when the new legislative session begins. All of the recommendations will have to be introduced as legislation, passed by both houses, and signed by the governor.

"The Task Force contained four key legislators: two from each party, two from each chamber," Vickerman observed. "The group followed a reso-

lutely bipartisan, deliberative and open approach in reaching full consensus on the entire package. The payoff should be a smooth ride through the Legislature."

Virtually every constituency affected by electricity policy had a representative on the 25-member body, which started meeting in November 2003.

The Task Force maintains a Web site at <http://energytaskforce.wi.gov>. ✨

Diverse Points of View on Governor's Task Force

Lee Cullen, Chair, Cullen Weston Pine & Bach LLP • Nino Amato, Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group • Rep. Spencer Black, Wisconsin State Assembly • James Boullion, Associated General Contractors of WI • Forrest Ceel, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2150 • Sen. Rob Cowles, Wisconsin State Senate • George Edgar, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp. • Kristine Euclide, Madison Gas and Electric • Randy Schneider, Monroe Equipment • David Helbach, Alliant Energy • Charles Higley, Citizens' Utility Board • Rep. Scott Jensen, Wisconsin State Assembly • Douglas Johnson, Wisconsin Merchants Federation • Charles McGinnis, Johnson Controls • Thomas Meinz, Wisconsin Public Service Corp. • Don Reck, Xcel Energy • Keith Reopelle, State Environmental Leadership Program • Sen. Fred Risser, Wisconsin State Senate • Brian Rude, Dairyland Power Cooperative • Larry Salustro, Wisconsin Energy Corp. • Dave Simon, Don Simon Homes • Roy Thilly, Wisconsin Public Power • Michael Vickerman, RENEW Wisconsin • Mark Williamson, American Transmission Company. ✨

RENEW will publish a special edition of the *Renewable Quarterly* with excerpts, legislative language, and analysis of the Task Force recommendations after it takes formal action at its final meeting on September 21, 2004.

Renewables Producer Profile

LMSW's John Hippensteel: Wisconsin and the World

After dropping out of college, working as a pipefitter in the shipyards, then returning for his engineering degree, John Hippensteel traveled from the Midwest to Africa and back before he purchased Lake Michigan Wind and Sun (LMWS) from founder Mick Sagrillo in 1997.

Hippensteel still travels afar, teaching wind resource assessment and turbine maintenance in China and South Korea, for instance. Shortly following this interview, he headed to Denmark to continue research on wind projects there.

When he's at LMWS in Sturgeon Bay, he splits his time along the lines of the company's business commitments -- 25 percent in solar thermal; 25 percent in photovoltaics; 20 percent in commercial wind site assessment, monitoring, and tower installations for data loggers; and 30 percent in small wind/larger wind maintenance and service.

LMWS (www.windandsun.com) employs two full-time people, including Hippensteel, and several part-timers, depending on the projects on hand.

Q. *In the last year or so, we've seen a number of Wisconsin utilities make significant commitments to renewable energy, have you seen a similar upswing in business at LMSW?*

All areas of our business are busier, and we don't do any marketing. Your question you might say exposes a flaw in LMWS. We don't know how big we want to get. The next step would be a quantum leap, but I'm a hands-on type of guy, and I already work 60 hours a week.

Q. *LMWS seems to cover a lot with both solar and wind. Are they really complementary in a business arrangement?*

Absolutely. With a 6 kW turbine and a 2.5 kW photovoltaic installation, you have a system with a perfect combination for use in a state like Wisconsin. And, in the winter when it is more difficult to schedule construction projects, LMWS manufactures wind towers, overhauls turbines, and concentrates on design work.

Q. *Gasoline prices broke all-time record highs recently. Do you they play any role in the upsurge in business?*

For small scale installations, I doubt that gas prices play a role. However, if LMWS wanted to become a big indus-

trial contractor, higher natural gas and electricity prices would lead to growth in the renewables industry.

For smaller projects, I'd say Focus on Energy grants have been critical in making it possible for people to enter the market. Grants help people make the decision to install a renewable system.

Grants should not have to be necessary. I believe in a level playing field, but we are no place close to the advantages fossil fuels get. It is unfortunate that we are not paying the true price of electrical power with the heavily subsidized fossil fuel industry. We will pay this price in the future, and it may not be enjoyable.

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John Hippensteel (right) talks with a fairgoer in front of the LMWS display at the Midwest Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair last June in Custer, WI.

Q. *If you're so busy, you must be pleased professionally and personally.*

I'm extremely thankful that I can make a living and support my family doing renewables. My mission is to save the world from environmental disaster. I believe that if I do something that I believe in, the money will follow. In fact, we can actually pay the bills. We have been able to feed and cloth our children and pay our bills and the mortgage, almost every month.

And, we're blessed with the customers we have. You couldn't ask for better customers. Their hearts and souls are in it, regardless of expense. These are people who don't mind paying \$8,000 for a solar hot water system or \$25,000 for a PV system, knowing they are doing their part for the environment.

It's funny though. More than anyone else, we try to talk people out of wind turbines, with the goal of providing a realistic perspective. Although there are many very successful installations, small wind isn't for everyone. Turbines are machines. And when you have a wind turbine or other renewable source of electricity, you become a power company. You have to look at the gauges and lights. That highlights the problem with small wind. Reliability and support, along with pricing, hurt the development of small wind. I've learned that you can't install a system, especially in some remote area, unless you have someone trained locally to maintain it. These are machines with moving parts that require maintenance.

I'd like to see some way for people to buy-in to commercial wind. We have friends who own shares in a large turbine in Denmark, and they are quite pleased.

Q. *Saving the world is a rather large undertaking. Do you have any more limited goals? Or, to ask it another way, how do you measure your success?*

Our goal is to have an impact with renewable energy. I'd rather see one turbine powering 500 homes than 500 turbines powering the same homes.

Q. *Do you find opposition to your wind projects from local officials?*

I'd say most local officials seem pretty reasonable, especially in rural communities that are agriculturally based. They realize that wind can be viewed as just another crop, and it helps farmland from becoming blacktop and condominiums. I had one official in a scenic, tourism-dependent county say that he'd rather look at wind turbines than gravel pits. The three blades on a turbine are just aesthetically pleasing.

Q. *What is LMWS doing in solar thermal, especially solar water heating?*

Solar domestic water heating is different than wind or PV, because even with the conventional view of payback, it is much more attractive. People need hot water, and it is very simple to heat water effectively with the sun. Solar thermal space heating is more difficult, requiring large arrays to provide useful heating. The key now becomes an aesthetic one.

Every house should be built with solar thermal, or at least be solar ready by installing a couple of insulated pipes from the basement to the attic during construction.

Q. *How's the competition in the energy industry in Wisconsin?*

I'd like to think that rather than competition we have an association of like-minded companies. That's one great thing about this industry we're in. On many projects we hire and work with our "competitors," and then on the next



Mike Brooks of LMWS wires the inverters on a 12 kW PV system installed on a barn owned by Tom Leitschub in Raymond west of Racine. The electricity will power Leitschub's home and electronics business.

installation, I might be a subcontractor to that "competitor." We are working together with a common goal.

Q. *When you think of your projects, which one sticks out as your favorite?*

This is very difficult, because we have had so many wonderful projects. Although the small projects can be quite rewarding, I'd have to say that the projects with the most impact provide the most satisfaction. Impact can be viewed in several ways. For example, we just completed a 12 kW PV system on a historic, restored barn. This is a very large PV system that should offset the customer's use of electricity in his residence and shop, while providing green electrons to the grid. Another example of impact would be a smaller system, in a more visible setting, such as a school or office. These demonstration projects help to bring renewables into the eyes of the public with the goal of becoming mainstream. Our next goal with impact is a community based wind project. We'd like to power all of Door County with community owned wind turbines. We have the good wind resource, now we only need the support from the community. ☼

Proposed Windpower Projects in Wisconsin

Town/County	Developer	Utility	MW	Turbine	Permit	PPA	Comments
Marshfield/ Fond du Lac Co.	Navitas Energy	We Energies	80	Gamesa 1.8 MW	Yes	Yes	Awaiting PTC extension
Calumet/ Fond du Lac Co.	Navitas Energy	We Energies	80	Gamesa 1.8 MW	Yes	Yes	Awaiting PTC extension
Herman/ Dodge Co.	Midwest Wind	We Energies	54	Neg Micon 1.65 MW	Yes	Yes	Negotiating over airport and bat issues
Seymour/ Lafayette Co.	Zilkha Renewable	None	99	Neg Micon 1.65 MW	Yes	No	Looking for utility purchaser
Eden/ Fond du Lac Co.	Eden Wind Energy, LLC	We Energies	3	Neg Micon 1.65 MW	Yes	Yes	Awaiting PTC extension
Addison/ Washington Co.	Addison Wind Energy, LLC	We Energies	1.65	Neg Micon 1.65 MW	Yes	Yes	Awaiting PTC extension
Fond du Lac & Dodge Counties	Invenergy Wind	MG&E (40 MW) WPPI (20 MW) WPS (70 MW)	130	Unknown	No	Yes	Application for CPCN - triggering PSC review authority - will be filed in September
Ashford/ Fond du Lac Co.	Eden Wind Energy, LLC	We Energies	3	Neg Micon 1.65 MW	Yes	Yes	Awaiting PTC extension

Wind Harvest Time Coming Soon In Wisconsin

by Dennis Briley

Large-scale wind electric generation development has reached the point where it is economically competitive with fossil fuel. You may have noticed media coverage of Wisconsin's wind farm developments and utility plans to purchase additional wind generated electric power. Clean, renewable energy has become a player in the strategy to address global warming and reduce pollution. It is no longer a marginal resource.

A quiet subset of this story is locally-owned wind. Ed Ritger, an attorney with Ritger Law Office, Random Lake, WI, is seeking to become a locally-based developer using large-scale wind turbines. These installations require an enormous capital commitment. Because of this capital appetite, large wind farms are usually developed by very large, even international businesses. Ritger, however, plans to install these same highly efficient turbines with local ownership. He has acquired siting permits for five wind generators, totaling eight megawatts.

The economic competitiveness of wind generation is dependent on a fed-

eral Production Tax Credit (PTC). This credit expired at the end of 2003 and now awaits renewal by Congress. Until Congress follows through on this long-overdue reauthorization, the entire U.S. wind industry will remain on hold, including Ritger's projects. There seems to be bipartisan support for the PTC, but the political challenge is in crafting a legislative package to include other energy issues which are considerably more controversial.

Wind development is not without opposition. Some don't want wind turbines within their view. Some feel a tax subsidy is wrong. Some don't feel the farm landowners receive enough compensation. Our opportunity is to not let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Wind power has begun to replace increasingly scarce and costly natural gas. Creative application of local ownership allows farmers to share in the investment in order to harvest the wind as well as the soil. ✨

Dennis Briley serves on the board of directors of RENEW and volunteers with the Wisconsin Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign.

Lakeshore Tech Adds Turbine for Savings and Instruction

Lakeshore Technical College (LTC), Cleveland, WI, flipped the switch on a 65-kilowatt Energy Management Systems (EMS) E-15 wind turbine on campus in mid-September.

The turbine, which was on display at this summer's Midwest Renewable Energy Association expo, ties into We Energies' grid and produces 480-volt, 3-phase electrical power for the college.

With a demonstration grant from Focus on Energy, LTC sees the turbine as a win-win situation -- reducing its annual electricity budget of nearly \$250,000 and serving the school's Renewable Energy Demonstration Center (REDC). The wind installation will help support hands-on training to students in the Physics for Technicians course and other LTC offerings, including Electrical Apprenticeship, Electro-Mechanical Technology, Electronics, and Industrial Maintenance. LTC also expects the REDC to host community renewable energy workshops.

Seventh Generation Energy Systems, Belleville, WI, installed the tower and turbine. ✨

Dairyland's Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility Goes Online

Renewable energy to power 2,600 homes in Dairyland's cooperative system

Dairyland Power Cooperative and Eau Claire Energy Cooperative began power production at the ONYX Seven Mile Creek Landfill gas-to-energy facility in Eau Claire in the spring. The three unit, 3 megawatt renewable energy facility has the ability to provide electricity to over 2,600 homes.

Dairyland contracted with ONYX Waste Services, Inc., to purchase methane gas collected at the Seven Mile Creek Landfill, a regional collector of residential waste. Dairyland uses the methane gas, a natural byproduct of the landfill, to generate renewable energy for the residential and business consumers in the cooperative system. Dairyland contracted with Ameresco to design, engineer and construct the facility. Dairyland owns the generating equipment and purchases the gas from ONYX, which owns the landfill and is a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.

Prior to the facility's operation, the energy from the methane gas was wasted; the gas was simply burned off into the atmosphere. Local air quality will now benefit, because the gas will be harnessed as a "green" energy source.

"This is progress. We are making the world a cleaner place simply by making the electricity we all need in our modern lives with this new facility. Cooperative members want more renewable energy in their power supply, and Dairyland is excited to provide the latest in efficient renewable generation to their local energy cooperatives," said Dairyland Power Cooperative President and CEO William Berg.

In addition, landfill gas is a reliable energy resource, enabling the power generators to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Turning this great renewable energy idea into reality required the cooperation of many people, working together. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, ONYX, Ameresco, and Dairyland staff pursued this opportunity jointly. As a team, we

were able to bring this facility online, on-time for Dairyland members," said Dairyland Project Manager Tony McKimmy.

Dairyland currently supplies renewable energy to its member distribution cooperatives from its Flambeau Hydro Station near Ladysmith, Wisconsin, and from participation in two wind farms in southwestern Minnesota. In addition, Dairyland is developing a manure digester program at several dairy farms in its service territory, which are scheduled to begin generating renewable energy in late 2004.

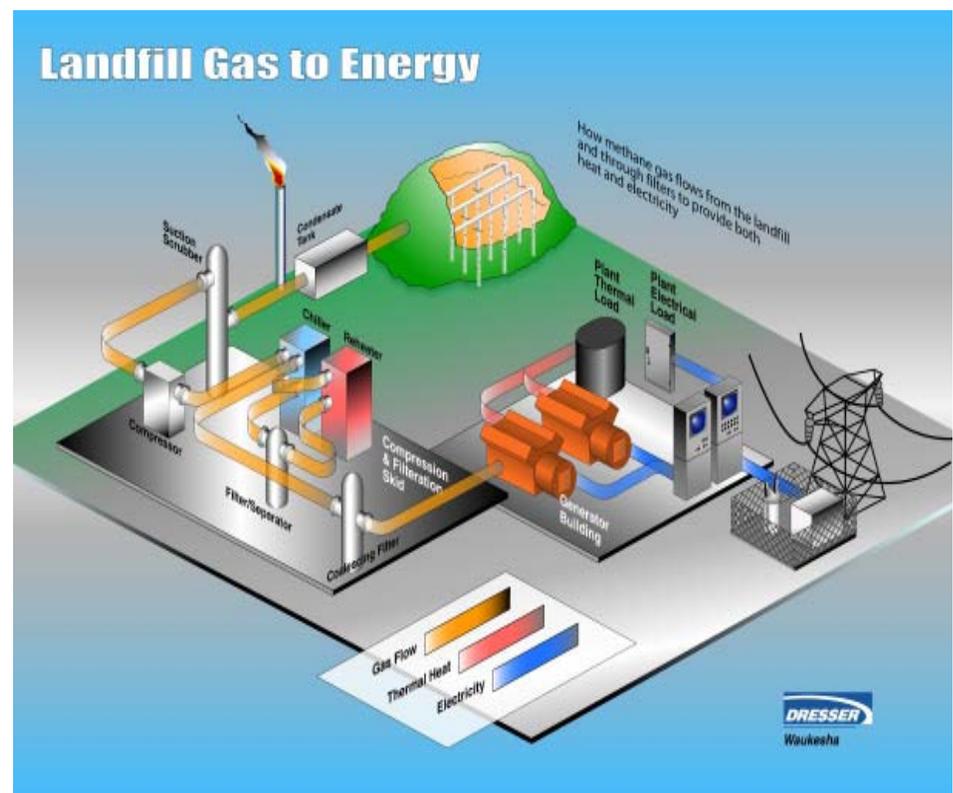
With headquarters in La Crosse, Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (Fall Creek, Wis.) and 24 other member distribution cooperatives and 20 municipal utilities. Dairyland's service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois). Dairyland has provided electrical energy and related services in the upper Midwest for over 62 years.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative provides electricity, propane gas, and

related energy services to residential, business and farm members in Eau Claire County plus portions of Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, and Jackson counties.

ONYX Waste Services is one of the largest solid waste management organizations in North America, providing a full range of services to more than 125,000 commercial/ industrial firms and one million residences in 11 states, the Bahamas, and Mexico. ONYX operates 49 collection facilities and 26 solid waste sanitary landfill facilities in the United States. ONYX was the 2002 U.S. EPA Industry Partner of the Year.

Ameresco, a national energy services provider and developer of landfill-gas-to-energy projects, offers a variety of services, including project design, financing, construction, and management of the landfill gas system and energy plants. Ameresco, winner of the U.S. EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program Ally of the Year, 2003 and Project of the Year, 2003, develops renewable and sustainable energy generation worldwide. ✨

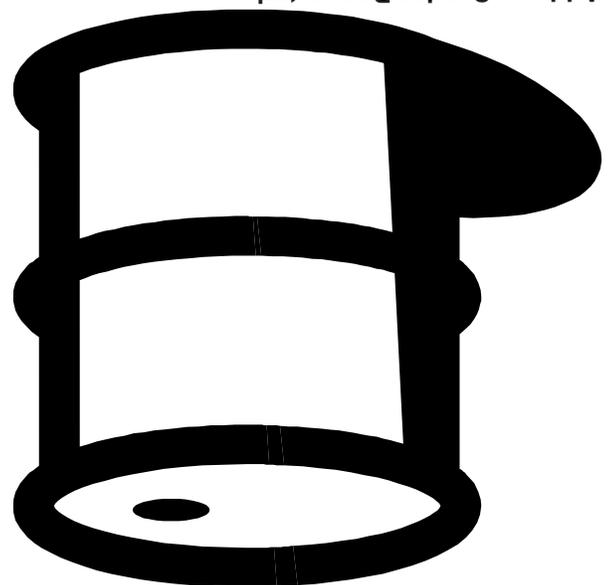


Renewable and Energy Efficiency Events

Oct. 1- 2	Solar Tour of Homes and Businesses throughout Wisconsin. Tours and open houses at homes and businesses with renewable energy and energy efficient installations. More information from the Midwest Renewable Energy Association at www.the-mrea.org .
Oct. 12-13	Sustainability Energy Efficiency Leadership Conference. Olympia Conference Center, Oconomowoc, WI. Conference will show how to achieve high performance in existing buildings and those still on the drawing board. Learn how whole-building team approach to design can produce efficient, healthy buildings with low short-term and long-term operating costs and little environmental impact. Sponsored by Wisconsin Green Building Alliance. For more information contact Connie Lindholm (414.224.9422 or connielindholm@wgba.org) .
Feb. 1- 2, 2005	Better Buildings: Better Business Conference 2005. Kalahari Resort and Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells. Unique learning, networking, and business development opportunity tailored to Wisconsin's residential building and remodeling industry. Sponsored by the Energy Center of Wisconsin, Focus on Energy, and others. More information on the events calendar at www.ecw.org .
Feb. 24 - 26, 2005	Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference and Organic University, La Crosse, WI. Watch for more details on the booth sponsored by Focus on Energy. More information at www.mosesorganic.org .
June 17 - 19, 2005	Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair. The world's largest and longest running event of its kind with workshops, exhibits, and displays on renewable energy and earth-friendly topics. Sponsored by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. More information at www.the-mrea.org .

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