



## RENEW, Clean Wisconsin Defend Wind Power Project

by Katie Nekola with Michael Vickerman

*[Editor's note: Attorney Katie Nekola, Energy Policy Director for Clean Wisconsin, serves on RENEW's Board of Directors. On behalf of RENEW and Clean Wisconsin, Ms. Nekola will submit an amicus brief this February in support of Manitowoc County's decision to approve Emerging Energies' windpower project. That decision is being challenged by several individuals who live near the project site.]*

In spite of strong case law in support of windpower development, citizen opponents continue to clog the courts with legal challenges to projects large and small. The latest round of this lamentable phenomenon involves a long-delayed proposal to install wind turbines in Manitowoc County, which since early 2005 has distinguished itself as a hotbed of anti-wind sentiment.

Emerging Energies' proposed development, a seven-turbine installation in the Town of Mishicot, was approved by a Manitowoc County board last July. This approval came more than a year after the County jettisoned its initial wind ordinance and adopted a moratorium on new wind projects. The moratorium was sought by WINDCOWS, a group of landowners that formed after the County in late 2004 approved Navitas Energy's plans to build a 49-turbine project within 10 miles of the Point Beach Nuclear power plant.

Stung by the County's approval, the WINDCOWS filed a lawsuit against the County. When the circuit court judge ruled against WINDCOWS' complaint, the group filed an appeal, but lost that round too.

During the moratorium a county-created

special committee drafted an unusually restrictive wind ordinance that was later approved by the County Board. However, the County's Corporation Counsel determined that because Emerging Energies had submitted its proposal before the moratorium was adopted, it should be reviewed under the original wind ordinance.

Shortly after that decision, three Town of Mishicot landowners hired attorney Glenn Stoddard to file a lawsuit on their behalf.

Among various other complaints, the petitioners assert that the wind turbines approved under the original ordinance constitute a threat to their health

***In spite of opposition, the U.S. wind industry has averaged a 29% growth rate from 2000-2005.***

and safety. Because of the implications of that complaint, both Clean Wisconsin and RENEW Wisconsin decided that it was necessary to contest that part of the lawsuit. The decision to team up makes sense because the interests of the two organizations are identical: to promote in an environmental responsible manner the development of renewable energy resources in Wisconsin.

### Health Impacts Alleged

Windpower opponents typically contend that their property will lose value, they would suffer health impacts from the turbine noise and "shadow flicker," and that turbine blades might fly off or throw chunks of ice. These statements, based on speculation and hyperbole, are presumed to be true despite substantial evidence to the contrary.

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Studies done at existing wind turbine sites show that shadow flicker occurs only a few hours per year and is easily avoided with proper siting.

Blade throw was common in the industry's early years but is unheard of today, with international engineering and safety standards in place.

Ice can build up on blades under certain conditions but when it happens, the blades stop spinning and remain motionless until the ice slides off. In any event, proper setbacks protect neighbors from anything that might fall from a turbine.

The WINDCOWS claim that wind turbine noise is a serious problem, yet Daniel Alberts, the author of a study linked on their website notes:

*While writing this paper, I visited the Bowling Green Wind Farm in Bowling*

*Continued on page 2*

### New RENEW Members

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

Jeff Anthony • Buzz Bocher • Beth Campbell • Energy Concepts • Energy Law Wisconsin • enXco  
Candice Mortara • Richard Potter  
Prairie Solar & Light • David Weissman

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

## Defend Windfarm

Continued from page 1

*Green, Ohio. At the base of a 1.8 MW turbine, we measured the noise level at 58-60 dB(A). However, the turbines stand in a corn field, and depending on our position relative to the turbines, it was very difficult to distinguish the sound of the turbine from the rustling of the corn stalks.<sup>1</sup>*

Mr. Alberts goes on to discuss the health impacts of noise exposure:

*Excessive exposure to noise has been shown to cause several health problems... however, there is no evidence that wind turbines generate the level of noise needed to create those problems.<sup>2</sup>*

Wind opponents typically complain that the value of their suburban property is likely to decrease if wind turbines are sited on their neighbors' land. In fact, a government-sponsored nationwide study done in 2003 surveyed property near multiple wind farms and found that not only do they not harm property values, but in some cases the values increased.<sup>3</sup>

### Clear environmental choice

Opponents ignore the enormous environmental benefits of windpower. Because they do not burn fossil fuels, wind turbines emit no global warming gases, no mercury, and no air pollution-

causing toxic chemicals. Despite this obvious fact, the WINDCOWS make the following statement on their website:

*If the tax dollars spent on wind energy would be invested to improve even more the efficiency of existing fuel plants and reducing their emissions, to improve vehicle efficiency...the benefits would greatly exceed anything the turbines can promise...*

This is patently absurd. The tax credits available to help develop clean energy sources like windpower are a tiny fraction of the subsidies provided to the well-established fossil fuel industries, which continue to fight hard against environmental regulations that would clean up their products. Our tax dollars already support the coal, oil, and nuclear industries, while at the same time any attempt by EPA to require greater emissions reductions is sure to result in lawsuits filed by utilities and industry.

The exact opposite of what the WINDCOWS say is true: if the tax dollars spent to support the fossil fuel industry were spent on clean energy, we would see real progress toward cleaning up our planet.

### The good news

In spite of opposition, however, the U.S. wind industry has averaged a 29% growth rate from 2000-2005. At the end

of 2005, the United States' wind generating capacity exceeded 10,000 megawatts, enough to power 2.5 million residences.<sup>4</sup>

Those 10,000 megawatts are displacing fossil generation that would put sixteen million tons of carbon dioxide per year into the air. They are keeping 73,000 tons per year of sulfur dioxide out of the air, and 27,000 tons of nitrogen oxide, as well as mercury and other toxic compounds.

Clean Wisconsin and RENEW believe that wind developers can work with local officials and neighboring residents to make sure their concerns are addressed, as they have in several projects around the state.

In our view Emerging Energies has been particularly diligent in that respect, setting a high standard for other developers to emulate. And we know beyond a doubt that we can no longer afford to rely on outdated and dirty power plants when we can tap into a renewable, emission-free energy source right in our backyard.✪

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Daniel J. Alberts: "Primer for Addressing Wind Turbine Noise", Nov. 20, 2005, p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Sterzinger, Beck, and Kostiuk: "The Effect of Wind Development on Local Property Values," Renewable Energy Policy Project, May 2003

**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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## WISCONSIN RENEWABLE QUARTERLY

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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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RENEW also moderates a blog at [www.renew-energy-blog.org](http://www.renew-energy-blog.org).

# We Energies Cops National Honors

We Energies (WE) won two awards for its Energy for Tomorrow (EFT) program at the 11th National Renewable Energy Marketing Conference in San Francisco last December.

The Center for Resource Solutions (CRS), the organization that administers the Green-e certification program for renewable energy products, handed Wisconsin's largest utility the prestigious Green Power Beacon Award for its leadership "in developing new approaches to utility renewable energy pricing marketing." EFT is the only Green-e certified renewable energy offering in Wisconsin.

Subscribers to the EFT program voluntarily agree to purchase up to 100 percent of their electricity from renewable sources and pay a small premium to cover the above-market costs incurred in procuring and marketing the renewable energy.

CRS also highlighted WE's willingness to "share its expertise with other programs and providers to improve the development of the national market for renewable energy."

EFT is the only voluntary renewable energy program in the country that offers customer-generated solar electricity to its subscribers. Through its special solar buyback rate, WE pays customers 22.5 cents/kWh for PV-generated electricity that is exported to the utility. There are now 40 customers, with a combined installed capacity of 257 kW, receiving that rate.

WE also instituted a bulk purchase rate for customers who purchase a minimum of 70,000 kWh of renewable energy a month. At one cent per kWh, the reduced premium proved instrumental in motivating Neenah Paper to become the state's largest buyer of renewable energy. The quantity of renewable energy that Neenah Paper buys annually, 10.9 million kWh/year, represents 12% of its electrical usage in Wisconsin.

These developments helped EFT enjoy its best year ever in customer participation and energy sales. In 2006, the number of residential subscribers increased 25.7% from 12,070 to 15,175, while participation among business customers jumped 67%, rising to 648. Total energy sales rose 32% from 53,423,000 kWh in 2005 to 70,531,000 kWh last year.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) of the U.S. Department of Energy added an honorable mention to WE's awards in the agency's supplier category of its Green Power Program of the Year.

NREL praised WE for finding a way to offer customers "the most lucrative 'solar buyback rate' in the nation."

"In effect," NREL noted, "program participants act as micro-power plants to supply solar energy to all other Energy for Tomorrow participants."

RENEW's renewable energy advocacy with WE also gained NREL's praise. "We Energies . . . created a significant partnership with RENEW Wisconsin to enhance their product."

Prior to the award selection process, RENEW wrote to NREL in support of EFT. "To a degree unmatched by other regulated utilities," wrote RENEW's Executive Director Michael Vickerman, "WE uses its renewable energy program to encourage the expansion of renewable generation owned by customers, as well as to show customers that wind generators are safe, reliable and environmentally benign."

"The Byron Wind Tours may be the most successful education and awareness activity in the nation that involves utility-scale wind turbines," Vickerman added.

"Once in the spring and again in fall, WE opens up its two 660 kW wind turbines to a well-organized public viewing. The tours attract between 300 to 600 people who come out on Saturday morning to get a closer look and walk inside the turbines that supply a portion of the electricity sold through EFT."✪

## Renewables Profiles

## Don Wichert: RENEW Founder and Tireless Advocate

From a teenager surfing on Lake Michigan along a career path across the country, Don Wichert now manages the Renewable Energy Program of Focus on Energy ([www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com)), the state's only ratepayer-funded energy efficiency and renewable energy program.

Born in Chicago and raised in the shadows of storied Wrigley Field, Wichert entered Western Illinois University in 1966. A traffic accident his junior year put him in a full body cast and traction for four months.

In the process of recuperating Wichert worked in a factory and then headed to California to experience the free everything lifestyle, which after three months, motivated him to return to school.

After earning a degree in geography from Western Illinois, he enrolled at the University of Illinois-Chicago to get more education in science.

Wichert picked up a part-time job with an engineering firm specializing in air quality testing just when the Clean Air Act of 1970 created a boom market for the firm's services. With little prospect of further advancement without an engineering degree, he returned to school once again and completed the thermal and environmental engineering program at Southern Illinois in Carbondale.

A job offer as an air pollution engineer in the Department of Natural Resources brought Wichert to Madison in 1980. But he quickly moved to the Division of Energy in the Department of Administration (DOA), where he stayed 21 years before jumping to Focus on Energy.



*Don Wichert stands near the pole-mounted PV arrays at the new building of the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation and home to Focus on Energy.*

**Q.** *So it started as a surfer on Lake Michigan? Is it even possible to surf on the lake?*

It is possible. This was right outside of Chicago. Depending on the speed and direction of the wind, the lake produced three- to five-foot-high waves in a sheltered area near the Northwestern campus.

My experience on the lake sparked an interest in natural resources and that eventually led to geography.

After the traffic accident, I tried school again, thought I'd major in History, but I got a C in French history and took that as an indication to try something else. So I switched to geography.

After the California experience, I pretty much became motivated and took being a student seriously and went back to Western Illinois. And I've been

a student ever since no matter what I've been doing.

Those four years at Southern Illinois in engineering training shaped my mind. I started as a 28-year-old non-science person and took chemistry, physics, algebra-trigonometry in the first semester and it was really tough. But, it got easier and easier, and added a huge amount of analytical process to my generalist-dreamer state of mind, which I will never give up.

In all of my job functions, I use the engineering approach – considering what is known, the relationships of the variables, what the objective is, and then putting the pieces together.

**Q.** *What was your role in founding RENEW Wisconsin?*

I became section chief of the Energy Resources Section in DOA's Energy Bureau in 1986 or 1987 shortly after finishing a Master's in Energy Policy and Planning at the UW-Madison.

I saw that it was going to take a third party outside of government to move renewable energy along, so I included the creation of a renewable energy organization into the annual state energy plan. That initiated RENEW Wisconsin in 1990.

**Q.** *You created RENEW to push the state to do more in renewables? Did that create any challenges?*

Yeah, and after about six months, my boss said that the state shouldn't be developing what might be construed as a lobbying group. But it was one of the most significant things that I ever did.

RENEW wasn't viable yet. For \$10 a month, it had an address at Clean Wisconsin. I went over at lunch and after work to do what needed to be done.

The big break came in 1991 with Advance Plan 6, the sixth edition of a huge

electricity generation planning process that was conducted every two or three years. It was the next to last advance plan that was taken seriously by the PSC.

The PSC accepted RENEW's inter-venier status application that I wrote and provided funding. I put together a renewables package with the help of lots of experts, that is, all the people I knew specializing in renewable energy. It was a massive undertaking and changed the renewable energy landscape in Wisconsin.

Additionally, we were able to use the funding to buy a computer and hire Michael Vickerman along with a more technical person, Myles O'Kelly. After that I was able to move out of the development picture, but remained involved.

**Q.** *So RENEW grew out of your work at DOA and money from the PSC?*

That's right. But RENEW went through some growing pains. For instance, I had worked with an UW graduate student at the Energy Bureau on a very favorable renewable energy economic study in 1994. However, the utilities asked for a delay in the release of the report.

Michael said that the utilities shouldn't be allowed to hold up the process, so he and attorney Frank Jablonski, who still does legal work for RENEW, sent a grad student to the energy office at lunch and asked the receptionist for a copy. When the receptionist said she was not authorized to release a copy, Michael and Frank sued the state for \$1 million. Shortly after that, the document was released.

Many energy office and DOA staff were mad. It put me in a huge amount of trouble that made my life miserable for a few years.

The agency threatened to countersue saying that RENEW's suit was frivolous. The agency knew it could bankrupt RENEW in court if it wanted.

In the end, RENEW's lawsuit got thrown out on a technicality. DOA chose not to countersue.

**Q.** *Did Focus on Energy and the renewables program grow from the hubbub?*

Many things events and factors led to the eventual creation of Focus on Energy, including the experience that I and my late friend Dan Moran gained through managing a variety of renewable energy programs in the 1980's and 1990's.

Focus on Energy got a big push in about 1997-98 when PSC commissioner Joe Mettner rejected Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's annual energy efficiency plan. At that time, utilities ran their own energy programs. Mettner felt the WPSC's effort was lacking, so he was able to get the energy efficiency programs moved to the energy office in the DOA, which launched a four year pilot program.

I pushed for an expanded renewable energy assistance in the Focus on Energy program based on previous programs in the state and new ideas that I researched from other state programs, like the Massachusetts Energy Trust's public benefits program that was under development at the time. That triggered the Focus on Energy renewable energy pilot program in 1999 funded with \$1 million for projects in 13 counties in northeastern Wisconsin.

Then came legislative passage of 1999 Act 9, which formally created a statewide public benefits program funded through ratepayer dollars collected by the utilities.

**[Editor's note: Focus on Energy's current renewable energy program essentially grew out of the earlier pilot. However, the program's scope and funding level was shaped by a February 1999 RENEW White Paper proposing that the state set aside a portion of a statewide energy conservation program to promote customer applications of renewable energy.]**

**Q.** *How has Focus on Energy turned out?*

In my mind, the Focus on Energy Renewables Program is one of the best in the country, as measured by some studies funded through the Clean Energy States Alliance and my own knowledge of other programs. In funding, it's one of the smallest, but we've achieved a lot with targeted, effective programs.

For instance, we're light years ahead of where most Midwest states are on PV.

**Q.** *Focus on Energy is administered by Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC), and WECC will move to a new building in the spring, and you had a role including renewable energy generation, correct?*

I was asked to develop the case for renewable energy in the new WECC building in the University Research Park on Madison's west side.

Although many owners want to add PV to their buildings, not all companies, especially nonprofits like WECC, know how to pay for it. I worked with WECC staff to negotiate some cost-savings with contractors as well as a public bid process in return for demonstrating the equipment and publicizing the contractors on the WECC building.

We ended up with 19 kW of PV and a drainback solar water system. WECC will own the equipment, which is currently the second-largest PV installation in the state.

I also wanted to make the equipment as visible as possible, so you can see two large pole-mounted arrays from Whitney Way, a major corridor with thousands of cars passing every day, plus arrays in the parking lot and on the roof.

I started with grandiose plans for the building, but like many of my accomplishments, such as founding RENEW, there was a lot of give and take in the process. I look back now and say, "Wow!" It's been an interesting, fun and rewarding experience. ✨

# How I Fell in Love with My Solar Dryer

by Michael Vickerman  
RENEW Wisconsin

A year ago my wife was firmly in charge the household laundry. Now, not only am I washing and drying all our clothes, including the sheets, towels, and pillow cases, I find myself looking forward to doing it. What is going on here?

A divorce? Wrong answer. Anyway, that would only explain the shift in personnel, not the attitudinal change. A personality transfer à la “Freaky Friday”? Incorrect. This is not a case of life imitating a Disney movie.

Place the blame instead on our rooftop solar water heating system installed in January 2006. That purchase challenged me to think about integrating our solar ration—the daily allotment of sunlight that falls on our house and yard—more effectively into our regular routines. And few routines are as unavoidable as doing the laundry.

In years past, my wife would hang the clothes out to dry during the warm summer months, but in the colder months she would simply transfer the wet clothes to the gas-fired dryer stacked above the washing machine.

One may wonder: why deviate from that routine? Using the washing machine and dryer in our decidedly unfinished basement would allow her to go through a week’s worth of dirty laundry and finish the job in three hours.

But some time this spring, a question started plaguing me: if it’s good to use sunlight instead of natural gas to wash clothes, why isn’t it equally true for drying them? And if my solar panel can pre-heat up my water tank on a sunny day in March, why not rely on the same energy source to dry the wet clothes after they’ve been washed?

With these questions tumbling round and round inside my brain, I decided to take action by commandeering the laundry and doing it myself. So what did I learn?

First and foremost, weather condi-

tions should be the deciding factor in selecting when to do the wash. On cold days, clothes dry much faster in breezy, sunny days than in slack days under overcast skies. If you’re depending on the weather to deliver the energy it takes to dry your laundry, you’ll need scheduling flexibility and an opportunistic attitude. And I can’t emphasize enough the value of periodically checking the Internet weather sites, particularly the radar images, to avoid being unpleasantly surprised by sun showers or swiftly moving thunderstorms.

Everything you hang on the solar dryer, as I like to call it, will become dry over time. The same is true for garments hung inside your house or apartment. But there will be occasions, especially around the winter solstice, when there isn’t enough solar energy outside to finish the job by sundown. If your goal is to avoid using a fossil-fueled dryer, then you’ll need to deploy a drying rack or two to take advantage of the low-humidity warmth inside your dwelling. In the dead of winter, your furnace or wood stove can deliver whatever supplemental heat is needed to dry a full load of laundry in a 24-hour cycle.

Since I’ve taken over laundry duties, the combination of our solar ration and the available indoor heat handles about 80% of what the gas dryer used to do. The only action the gas dryer sees these days are towels and heavy garments.

And how is my obsession with the solar ration affecting our bottom line? While it’s too soon to estimate an annual savings, we did use about 20% less natural gas this November versus the year-earlier period, even though November 2005 was a much warmer month.

The rewards of a well-used solar dryer are by no means limited to the energy and dollar savings reported on the monthly utility bill. The best part of

the package is the time spent outside. There you can take the pulse of the day from the sunlight, clouds, air temperature, wind and humidity that make up this continuous flux of energy that we call the weather. Relying on solar energy in this way makes a person more attuned to the ebb and flow of weather conditions.

Yes, forsaking the fossil-fueled dryer for the great outdoors does take more time and effort, but it’s a small price to pay for eliminating the drudgery that comes with doing the laundry on autopilot.

Amazingly enough, community prohibition of clotheslines is not uncommon in the United States. Ironically, this inane belief that the sight of gym trunks and sweat socks hanging in a yard will drive property values lower is strongest in the Sun Belt, a region where solar drying—and water heating—should be the norm and not the exception.

What can you say about a mindset that thinks nothing of wasting a precious fossil fuel on doing the laundry just to keep up appearances? Given how prevalent this silly and self-destructive behavior is in our land, is the imminent arrival of the oil peak and terminally declining natural gas stocks necessarily a bad thing?✪

## Lobby State Lawmakers with RENEW on February 21

RENEW will join other groups on Conservation Lobby Day to press legislators to support industrial development funds for companies that want to enter renewable energy and energy efficiency product manufacturing.

Sponsored by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the well-organized event begins with a briefing on issues and then moves to appointments with legislators, lunch, and an evening reception.

For information or to register log on to [conservationvoters.org](http://conservationvoters.org) or call Francie Gray at 608.661.0845.✪

## PSC Approves WE Wind Project

Renewable energy advocates cheered the January decision by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin to approve We Energies' application for development of a large wind generation facility in Fond du Lac County.

"We couldn't agree more completely with PSC Chairman Dan Ebert when he said that We Energies' Blue Sky Green Field project is a vitally important step in meeting the state's goal of sourcing 10 percent of the electricity sold here from renewables by 2015," said RENEW Executive Director Michael Vickerman. The decision gives We Energies the green light to install up to 88 turbines in a 10,600-acre project area straddling the towns of Marshfield and Calumet northeast of the City of Fond du Lac.

The amount of electricity generated will depend on the capacity of each turbine that We Energies installs, though the Milwaukee-based utility initially expected the project to have a capacity of 160 megawatts, which would produce enough energy to supply approximately 45,000 households.

Project manager Andy Hesselbach told *Wind Energy Weekly* that We Energies is "negotiating with a vendor right now. Hopefully in the not-to-distant future we'll have that done."

"Blue Sky Green Field is located in one of the most productive locations in Wisconsin for large-scale wind development," Vickerman said. "From an environmental, economic, and energy security perspective, large-scale wind is vastly preferable to fossil-fuel generation, and Commissioner Ebert noted all of those advantages during the PSC's open meeting."

When completed, the project will be the second-largest wind power project owned by a U.S. electric utility.✪

## Doyle Sets Plans to Expand Renewables

To enhance Wisconsin's energy security Governor Jim Doyle proposed to create a Cabinet-level energy Office of Energy Independence and earmark \$40 million in his budget proposal for renewable energy.

Doyle previously set a goal for the state to derive 25 percent of the electricity, heat energy, and motor fuels consumed in Wisconsin from renewable sources by 2025.

"The scope and consequences of global warming are so massive that the responsibility for action rests not only with our leaders in Washington, but with all of us," Doyle said.

The centerpiece of the proposal is creation of the Governor's Office on Energy Independence, which will coordinate the state's efforts to promote bioenergy and other renewable resources.

The office will include staff from three departments (Administration, Natural Resources, and Agriculture) and the Public Service Commission.

Doyle also announced creation of the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming, comprised of businesses, industry, environmental organizations, local governments, and private citizens.

The task force will develop a state plan of action to explore state and local solutions to global warming.

The Governor's budget will include the Wisconsin Energy Independence Grant and Loan Program – \$30 million in grants and loans for companies and researchers that develop new technologies to increase renewable energy and speed their commercialization. The investment will leverage up to \$300 million from private investors, based on the results achieved from a recent \$1 million biogrant program and agriculture diversification grants administered by DATCP.

Grants worth \$5 million will be earmarked to make Wisconsin home

to the first cellulosic ethanol plant in the United States. Potential applicants for this funding could include such pulp and paper producers as Flambeau (Park Falls), Stora Enso, or Georgia Pacific.

Doyle's budget will also include a \$10 million increase in tax credits for angel and venture capital investment, bringing the total tax credits available to \$23 million. The additional credits will be targeted for both renewable energy and commercial applications spurring from biomedical and stem cell research.

The Governor will also launch an initiative to create 400 new renewable fuel pumps. Currently approximately 65 stations sell E-85 and 14 sell biodiesel.

His proposal calls for tax credits for locally-owned gas stations and private fleet operators looking to invest in E-85 and biodiesel tanks and pumps. The state tax credit would equal 25 percent of the cost to retrofit or install a new pump that dispenses E-85 or biodiesel (B-20 or higher).

"In terms of power, Wisconsin currently spends over 15 billion on out of state fossil fuels. Decreasing our reliance on these fuels will have a substantial positive impact on Wisconsin's economy."

Capturing 10 percent of the emerging bio-industry market would add over \$13.5 billion dollars to Wisconsin's economy. The United States spends over \$430 billion annually on petroleum with a majority of our energy dollars leaving the country. According to USDA and U.S. Department of Energy reports, the United States could displace 30 percent of current petroleum consumption with renewable fuels by 2030.

In the last fiscal year, Wisconsin spent over \$38 million helping over 220,000 families and individuals implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These participants saved enough electricity to power 22,000 homes and reduced natural gas consumption by the equivalent of 10,000 homes.

Doyle will formally introduce his budget later in February.✪

# Renewable and Energy Efficiency Events

<b>Feb. 17, 2007</b>	<b>Citizens Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting.</b> Madison, WI. An annual meeting with appetizers, refreshments, speakers, and an overview of the cooperative's progress and future. More information at <a href="http://www.cecofwi.org">www.cecofwi.org</a> .
<b>Feb. 21, 2007</b>	<b>Conservation Lobby Day.</b> Madison, WI. Members of a wide variety of conservation groups, including RENEW, lobby legislators in the state Capitol. Lunch provided; evening reception. Sponsored by Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. More information at <a href="http://www.conservationvoters.org">www.conservationvoters.org</a> .
<b>Feb. 28 - March 2, 2007</b>	<b>Wind Power Siting Workshop.</b> Milwaukee, WI. Workshop will look at the various ways wind power projects affect - and don't affect - elements of the human and natural environment. Sponsored by the American Wind Energy Association. More information at <a href="http://www.awea.org">www.awea.org</a> .
<b>Mar. 6, 2007</b>	<b>Exploring the Potential of Cow Manure.</b> Madison, WI. Presentations on tested strategies on how to make money from manure. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Agriculture Stewardship Initiative. More information at <a href="http://www.datcp.state.wi.us">www.datcp.state.wi.us</a> .
<b>Mar. 8-9, 2007</b>	<b>Renewable Energy Summit.</b> MATC campus downtown, Milwaukee, WI. Covers opportunities in renewable energy, including workforce, manufacturing, technology, and innovation. More information at <a href="http://www.matc.edu/energysummit">www.matc.edu/energysummit</a> .
<b>Ap. 29 - May 5, 2007</b>	<b>Turbine Installation Workshop.</b> Mequon, WI. A rare opportunity to learn by helping with the installation of a Vestas V-17 90kW utility-tied wind turbine on a 132' free-standing tower with a crane. Mornings will be spent in lectures, afternoons on assembly of the wind system. More information at <a href="http://www.the-mrea.org">www.the-mrea.org</a> .
<b>June 15-17, 2007</b>	<b>Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair.</b> Custer, WI. The world's oldest and largest fair of its kind. Sponsored by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. More information at <a href="http://www.the-mrea.org">www.the-mrea.org</a> .

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