



Minnesota Renewable Energy Society

connecting minnesotans with renewable energy resources

The Solar Flare

E-Bulletin from the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society
August 2007

August 2007 Highlights:

- **Guest Speaker** this Thursday - **Some Like it Hot - Not!**
- Solar Thermal Course this Weekend!
- September Tour of Minnesota's largest PV array

Upcoming Events

Events Committee Meeting -

Wednesday, August 8th, 7:00-9:00 pm

Phone Conference Call

Join us for the Events Committee Meeting via teleconference and hear updates for the Eco Experience and help design the upcoming 2007 Minnesota Solar Tour. **NOTE TIME/LOCATION CHANGE:**

Events Committee Meeting, call in number: (712) 432-2323 and enter access code: *504057.

Guest Speaker, Craig Tarr

Thursday, August 9th, 6:00-7:00 pm

Some Like it Hot - Not!

Join Craig Tarr for an abbreviated presentation of AL Gore's **Inconvenient Truth** slide show. Mr. Tarr is a registered engineer (PE), Leed accredited professional, MRES board member and president of Energy Concepts - a renewable energy firm (www.energyconcepts.us). He recently attended a training with Mr. Gore for his "the climate project" (theclimatoproject.org) cavalry. Join the MRES for this lively presentation on global climate change and how renewable energy is part of the solution.

Solar Hot Water Basics Workshop

August 11th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Solar Hot Water Site Assessor Training

August 12th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

There is space available for this weekend's workshop:

August 11th -12th, 9:00-5:00 pm

Flannery Construction, St. Paul

Learn how to use the sun's energy for domestic uses: showers, sinks, clothes washer. A household can save 50% or more in energy costs annually, by incorporating a SDHW system. These systems are easy to install and often pay for themselves in energy savings in just a few years. This class provides an overview of a variety of system types. Call the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to register

Basics of Solar Energy Training

August 20th, 6:00-8:00 pm

Libby Conference Center, Minnesota State Fairgrounds

Join us for an educational evening about the various applications of solar energy being used today!

For more information, email: info@mnrenewables.org

Eco Experience

August 23rd – September 3rd, 9:00 am – 9:00 pm daily

MRES is coordinating the Solar Area and is looking for enthusiastic volunteers. In exchange for volunteering, you will receive training, free entry into the MN State Fair for the day, and a great t-shirt. Volunteer at: www.ecoexperience.org – click on "Volunteer!" and fill out the form under "Solar Area".

Tour of Quality Bicycle

September 13th, 6:00-7:00 pm

Save the date to join us prior to the September board meeting for a tour of Quality Bicycle, Minnesota's largest working array of photovoltaic panels. A "must see" for all interested in solar energy technology! See next month's Solar Flare for more details.

Outreach Committee Wants You!

Outreach committee has been working on a number of advertising items. Look for the MRES ad in the 2008 Blue Sky coupon book (effective 12-1-2007) as well as in Air America's Blue-Green directory. Air America will be distributing the directory at the Great Minnesota Get-together (the MN State Fair).

The Outreach committee efforts will now shift to focus on the upcoming October Solar Tour. We are looking for volunteers to assist with PR efforts on this event. If you would like to get further involved with MRES, especially if you have had some PR experience, please contact Kellye Rose at (kellyer@mnrenewables.org).

Solar Water Heating Resurgence Ahead?

As global warming and economics position the U.S. market for widespread adoption, national players move to dominate. **By Les Nelson**

As great strides in the development and implementation of U.S. solar energy policy are occurring at all levels, there is a growing recognition that the first commercially available solar energy technology — solar water heating (SWH) — has a critical role to play. This proven, cost-effective technology reduces the user's reliance on fossil fuel-based water heating, thereby reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and monthly energy bills. Even in cloudy climates, SWH systems can return their cost in utility bill savings in less than 10 years. To read this and other great articles, join MRES at the Empowered Plus level and receive a subscription to Solar Today (basic ASES membership). For more information, visit, www.mnRenewables.org

To learn more about Solar Thermal technology, join us this weekend at the Solar Hot Water Basics Course (see listing above).

The Solar Flare is a monthly service brought to you by the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society. To submit information for consideration of inclusion or to unsubscribe, email: info@mnrenewables.org