



# The Solar Flare

E-Bulletin from the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society

June 2007 Highlights:

- Get answers to your questions: **CitizenRE** speaks at next MRES Board Meeting
- Save 50% in annual energy costs: Learn how at a **Renewable Energy Class**
- Solar Area **"Eco-Experience"** – Your gateway to the MN State Fair!

*Note: The June member presentation and Board meeting has been rescheduled to June 21<sup>st</sup> due to the Renewable Energy Fair.*

## Member Resources

### Attend an upcoming MRES Committee Meeting

Did you know that as a MRES member, you are welcome to join or lead a committee and run for the board of directors? Come check it out at one of the upcoming meetings (no commitment needed to see what it is all about). Get more details at: <http://www.mnrenewables.org/aboutus/committees.php>

Date	Committee	Time	Location
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month	Events	6:00 pm	Flannery Construction
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month	Outreach	6:00 pm	Burnsville Library
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month	Advocacy	6:30 pm	Green Institute
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month	Board meeting	6:00 pm	Flannery
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month	Finance	6:00 pm	Whole Builders
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month	Curriculum/Training	6:00 pm	IPS

**Special Invite from the Outreach Committee:** Looking for ways to contribute to change? We need help! The MRES Outreach committee has a long list of exciting things to accomplish, and we're looking for volunteers to help do so. Outreach meets at 6pm the 1st Thurs of every month, generally at the Burnsville library (conference calling is available) – we will tackle numerous agenda items - Electronic outreach, Member communications, Web-site development, event marketing, and more! With so many great things happening at MRES this summer, it's a great time to get involved and make a difference! Email [info@mnrenewables.org](mailto:info@mnrenewables.org) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### June 21<sup>st</sup>, 6-7 pm, Timothy Aspin, Citizenre

Flannery Construction, 1375 St. Anthony Avenue, St. Paul, MN

*Timothy Aspin of Citizenre will share an explanation of his solar energy business model for the growing and controversial Citizenre business. Come get your questions answered and decide for yourself! For more information on Citizenre, visit: [www.solarpowerMN.com](http://www.solarpowerMN.com). To RSVP, call Doug at 612-308.4757.*

### June 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair

Renew the Earth Institute, Custer, WI

*Come join us at the world's largest renewable energy fair this summer! The renewable energy and sustainable living fair is located outside of Stevens Point, WI. For more information, visit: [www.the-mrea.org](http://www.the-mrea.org). To volunteer to staff the MRES booth (and get in free), visit: [www.mnrenewables.org](http://www.mnrenewables.org) or email: [info@mnrenewables.org](mailto:info@mnrenewables.org)*

### June 30, 11 am – 3 pm, Linden Hills Community Solar Celebration

Linden Hills Co-op, 2813 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN, [www.lindenhills.coop](http://www.lindenhills.coop)

*"Rays the Roof," Linden Hills Co-op's **Community Solar Demonstration Project Celebration** begins at noon with food, entertainment, and an Energy Education Fair, and continues with the dedication of the solar panels at 2 p.m. Invited speakers include State Representative Frank Hornstein, Betsy Hodges, Minneapolis City Council, Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak, and J. Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy Minnesota. For more information, contact: Jeanne Lakso, Marketing & Member Services Manager, 612-279-2460, [jlakso@lindenhills.coop](mailto:jlakso@lindenhills.coop)*

## **July 12<sup>th</sup>, 6-7 pm, Zero Energy, Zero Emissions, Zero Impact: Integration of renewable energy in Sustainable Architecture**

Flannery Construction, 1375 St. Anthony Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Loren Abraham, AIA, LEED AP, Abraham Architects, will present innovative approaches to achieving energy self-sufficiency in architecture and industrial design. Current projects reviewed will include a zero energy – zero impact home, a solar hydrogen powered 65' catamaran emergency response vessel dubbed the "Ark Angel," the Brookdale Resource Library, several green roof projects and others. Cradle to cradle concepts for material and product design will also be discussed. To RSVP, call Doug at: 612-308-4757

## **Experience the State Fair**

Join us at the Eco-Experience August 23<sup>rd</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 during the 12 days of fun at the Minnesota State Fair. For more information, visit: [www.ecoexperience.org](http://www.ecoexperience.org). MRES will again be coordinating the Solar Area and are looking for enthusiastic volunteers. In exchange for volunteering, you will receive training, free entry into the state fair for the day, and a great t-shirt. Please check out: <http://www.mnrenewables.org/events/ecoexperience/index.php> and email us at [info@mnrenewables.org](mailto:info@mnrenewables.org) for more information on volunteer and sponsor opportunities.

## **Renewable Energy Classes**

Want to learn about a great Renewable Energy technology for use in Minnesota? Join us at Renewable Energy education classes, offered jointly by MRES and Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA).

Classes kick-off in August, with two days dedicated to how to use the sun for heating purposes. 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.

Solar Hot Water Basics will be taught on Sat 11Aug, with the following day dedicated to Solar Hot Water Site Assessor training. **Sign up now! Space is limited.** Find out more at: [www.mnrenewables.org/events/classes/index.php](http://www.mnrenewables.org/events/classes/index.php)

## **National Notes: SEPA**

SEPA, The Solar Electric Power Association, is a nonprofit organization with 175 utility, electric service provider, manufacturer, installer, government, and research members. SEPA's mission is to facilitate the use and integration of solar electric power by utilities, electric service providers, and their customers. Learn more about solar through one of their upcoming calls (2 pm EST) see [www.solarelectricpower.org](http://www.solarelectricpower.org) for details:

- June 14 - "Performance Based Incentives: Set-up and Operation" Sara Birmingham, Pacific Gas & Electric Company & Nathalie Osbourne, San Diego Regional Energy Office
- July 26 - "New Home Solar Subdivisions: How-to for Your Community" Mike Keese, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- August 16 - "Getting It: The Art of Salesmanship in Solar Incentive Programs" Susann Rivera, Team SRC
- September 13 - "Solar RFPs: Utility and Developer Perspectives" Speakers: Austin Energy, MMA Renewable Ventures, and SPG Solar

## **Thank You!**

### **~Solar Regatta is a Success~**

The MRES Solar Board Regatta coordinators, Doug Shoemaker and Chris Born and all of us with MRES, send out a huge "thank you" to this year's sponsors, volunteers, participants, and spectators of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Solar Regatta. With nine boats racing from students across Minnesota there was exciting competition, trophies, and cash prizes. Next year plans are already in the works with discussion of adding a class for college students, specific curriculum for classes, and a sponsor program to support the schools.

Thank you to the many sponsors that helped make this event happen, including Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association, Great River Energy, Neighborhood Energy Connection, Minnesota Technical Education Association, Izzy's Ice Cream, and General Mills. Congratulations to all participants for a great race! Keep watch on our website for event highlights, photos, news coverage, and changes for next year. Thank you!

### **~Minnesotans say "yes" to Living Green~**

Thanks to all of the volunteers and visitors that came by the MRES booth at the Living Green Expo. With over 20,000 guests at the Living Green Expo, it is clear that Minnesotans are striving to live green. We are thrilled by the numerous visitors that stopped by the booth. Thanks to all who helped make this a great event.

*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](mailto:info@mnrenewables.org)*