

THE CONSORTIUM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WEST¹ (CREW) CHARTER

Purpose:

The purpose of this multi-state/territories CONSORTIUM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WEST (CREW) is to serve as a catalyst for multi-state, multi-disciplinary, multi-function collaboration in the West. Members will identify and collaborate on projects including research, Extension, education, policy development, and other ventures; and will partner with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to identify and jointly act upon opportunities that meet the goals outlined in this charter.

Goals:

To address unique challenges and opportunities in the West CREW will:

- Advance research and use of renewable and alternative energy resources
- Promote energy conservation and efficiency
- Help the Nation achieve energy independence by identifying, developing and evaluating a variety energy options
- Enhance the quality of life in the Western Region by creating energy related jobs and economic opportunities

Scope of Activity:

CREW will accomplish these goals by:

- Identifying needs and opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Identifying knowledge gaps and facilitating joint research, education and Extension projects.
- Organizing regional approaches to take advantage of opportunities in renewable energy afforded by the 2008 Farm Bill, new programs in the NIFA and other agencies.
- Creating and maintaining an inventory of expertise, research projects, Extension and education activities, materials and programs in the West.

CREW will work with the members to facilitate the following activities:

- Work collectively to attract funding.
- Develop and share resources, educational materials and expertise that mutually advance education and research on renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation practices.
- Focus attention on distributed energy development and production.
- Focus attention on unique energy resources of the western region.
- Raise the profile of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation practices in the media, among policymakers, and the public.
- Enhance bioenergy and bioproducts research and development.
- Enhance information-sharing and dissemination to the public.

¹ American Samoa, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Micronesia, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Island, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

Organize a coordinated regional approach for working with federal, state and regional organizations and agencies².

Initial Members:

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations
- State Extension Services
- Western Rural Development Center
- Western Region Sun Grant Association

Other Potential Members

- State Departments of Agriculture
- State Energy Offices
- State Transportation Offices
- WGA – Western Interstate Energy Board
- Others

Principles of Participation:

- Participate in CREW conference calls and meetings
- Promote CREW materials and projects
- Actively engage in workgroups
- Work with members to identify and prioritize potential activities
- Work toward the goals and purposes of CREW
- Recognize and take advantage of each member’s strengths, skills, and perspectives.
- Discussions shall be open, honest and forthright.

Number and Frequency of Meetings:

CREW will meet at least two times annually (possibly by conference call or web conference) to develop short term and longer term plans, and to review accomplishments made since the previous meetings.

Actions:

- Establish short- and long-term priorities for CREW.
- Determine staffing needs and funding mechanisms for CREW

Governance:

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall consist of 3 members each from the WAAESD and WEDA and one member from each of the other member entities.

² The Western Governors’ Association, the Council of State Governments - West, the State energy and transportation offices, WIR-National Association of Counties (WIR-NACo), the US-Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, and Education, and other energy related agencies and/or organizations.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be made up of a chair, vice chair (chair elect), secretary/treasurer, past chair and two at-large members representing the Steering Committee. The chair and vice chair will rotate between the Experiment Station and Extension Directors to insure representation and rotation of leadership. The terms shall be one year. The Executive Committee shall provide fiscal management and oversight, and will act on behalf of CREW to conduct business between meetings.

Standing Committees and Task Forces

Standing committees and/or task forces will be established when substantial investigation or other needs are identified that cannot be achieved at a regular CREW meeting. All products of the standing committees and task forces are meant to advise CREW members on various issues, directions, and processes. All members of CREW will make final decisions on action items and expenditures.

Staff

The Executive Director of the Western Extension Directors Association, the Executive Director of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, and the Director of the Western Rural Development Center may be employed to provide staff support for CREW. Adequate funding will be provided by CREW members to hire and support this staff involvement. Staff will be ex-officio non-voting members of the Steering Committee and Executive Committee.

Projects and Products

Projects of CREW may include multi-state/territory activities that are conducted jointly between members and/or by individual organizational membership depending upon the focus and needs identified. Products of CREW will be accessible to all members.

External Contracts:

CREW may enter into contracts for services. This consortium may use funding from Foundations, Federal Agencies, consortium members and other entities for operational and project expenses. Furthermore, CREW may contract for services or hire staff as determined by a majority of the members. Services needed may include organizational facilitation and support, meeting planning, webpage development and maintenance, publications, internal and external communication, outcome and impact reporting, specialized publications and materials, relationship building, etc. The repository for all funds collected in support of CREW will be the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors office. The funds will be managed by the Secretary/Treasurer in consultation with CREW membership.

Review of Agreements and Commitments:

Projects and accomplishments of CREW shall be reviewed annually by the membership. A comprehensive review of this Charter Agreement and Existing Memorandums of Understanding will be conducted every three years.

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