

Consortium for **Renewable Energy** in the West



THE CONSORTIUM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WEST (CREW) June 1-2, 2011 Seattle Meeting Report

Created in 2009, The Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West (CREW) serves as a catalyst for multi-state, multi-disciplinary, multi-function collaboration in the West. To date CREW has stimulated the formation of a Development Committee entitled “Wind Energy - Opportunities and Challenges in the Rural West” (WDC022) with 5 participants. In addition, a small grant from the Farm Foundation was obtained, allowing a regional meeting to be held in Seattle June 1-2, 2011. This meeting was attended by 17 people with interests in wind energy, energy efficiency and weatherization, and/or the socio-economic factors of energy workforce development and its impacts in rural communities.

Meeting Goal: To create action oriented multi-state committees by bringing together Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station professionals in the West who are interested in and working on research and community education focused on energy conservation and efficiency, wind energy, and the community socio economic factors related to energy workforce development. Sub-groups plan to develop and/or finalize their applications to create a Western regional development committee and begin drafting an action plan for exploration and implementation.

Outcomes: The three groups met separately to engage in discussions about the individual topic areas but also jointly to discuss items of mutual concern. In addition to enhancing multistate collaboration on energy related matters, other major points of agreement include:

- Energy development in the West will continue to be an important activity;
- CREW needs to recruit pertinent expertise from across the university as participants in these efforts; and,
- As new multistate projects will emerge on energy efficiency in the home and on the farm/ranch, an existing project will be modified to include socio-economic factors of energy development, and a third (wind) will be modified as needed.

Future of Energy Efforts in the West: The group recognized the budget and funding climate and framed its discussions with this in mind. The region wide survey of several years ago suggested the need for state wide energy specialists a need reinforced at this meeting. Additional expertise is sorely needed; simply stated, the topic of renewable energy in its current context is too broad for any single person to master. Alternatively, topic experts with knowledge in one or two specific areas that might cover more than one state would be of great value and help to position us as providers of unbiased, factual information. Budget considerations might favor the development of shared faculty staff across state lines as has been done of other regions.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Wind Energy Group

Three members of the development committee (WDC022) met to discuss future activities. It was agreed that an additional call for participants should be issued targeting folks who are working in wind energy.

Dr. Geiger has a SARE Professional Development Program (PDP grant that has funded training sessions for extension personnel and others in WY and MT. Sarah Hamlin has done several of these events with attendees responding that this information was “just what they needed”. However, most extension agents indicated that they would refer questions to Sarah and the topical expert rather than dealing with them. This finding is

consistent with the results obtained in a region-wide survey conducted in 2007-08, which indicated that agents needed access to topical experts who can answer questions.

Current Participants:

Milton Geiger, WY**, Irene Schonle, CO**, Sarah Hamlin, MT**, Thomas K Foulke, WY, David Taylor, WY

Energy Efficiency in the Home and on the Farm/Ranch Group

This group agreed to work together to coordinate efforts for the primary purpose of reducing energy consumption. They will draft a development committee proposal that will tentatively include:

1. Inventory energy conservation and efficiency programs currently available, identify the gaps, and develop a plan to address the gaps.
2. Analyze and utilize effective energy conservation and efficiency educational materials that are already available.
3. Seek human and fiscal resources to provide transformational education and evaluation research that will support the expansion of Extension programs for home owners and farm/ranch owners to reduce their energy use.
4. Form partnerships with industry, state energy offices, and other public and private organizations that are working in this area.
5. Identify Extension's role without duplicating others.
6. Identify the role and process of research, evaluation, and accountability.

Currently interested and attending the June 2011 meeting: Rich Seifert, AK, Ed Martin, AZ, Joe Junker, OR, Tom Karsky, ID, Richard Beard, UT; others: Mike Vogel, MSU Extension Weatherization Center, Jake Fey, WA (or someone from the WSU Extension Energy program)

Socio-Economic Factors of Energy Workforce Development and Impacts in Rural Communities

A number of options were discussed and it was decided to modify a current multistate project WERA1005 - Addressing the Rural Development Concerns of the Rural West by adding additional objectives relating to this topic. Tentative new objectives include:

- Develop procedures for development of budgets of potential renewable energy projects
- Implement procedures to incorporate renewable energy budgets into county or multi-county input-output models
- Develop procedures to analyze potential occupational demands of renewable energy projects.

Currently interested: Don Albrecht, WRDC**, Buddy Borden NV-Extension**, Lisa Gaines, OR, Roger Coupal, WY**, Tom Harris, UNR**, Valerie Barber, AK**

**** Attended the June 2011 meeting**

Day One, Wednesday, June 1, 2011

8:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Board Room One
8:30 a.m.	CREW Overview	Board Room One
8:45 a.m.	Regional Development Committees	Board Room One
	What are they?	
	How do they work?	
9:15 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings	
	1. Wind Energy	Board Room One
	2. Energy conservation	Board Room Two
	3. Socio-economic	San Juan One
10:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break	
10:15 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
	1. Wind Energy	Board Room One
	2. Energy conservation	Board Room Two
	3. Socio-economic	San Juan One
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	Progress Check	Board Room One
2:00 p.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
3:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break	
3:45 p.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	

5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day

Day Two, Thursday, June 2, 2011

8:00 a.m.	Progress Check and Questions	Board Room One
8:30 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
9:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break	
10:00 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
11:30 a.m.	Summary of activities and action items	Board Room One
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	

Participants

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	University	Interest area
Don	Albrecht	Director	Utah State University	Socio-economic Factors
Buddy	Borden	Associate Professor	University of NV Cooperative Extension	Socio-economic Factors
Ed	Martin	Associate Director, Programs	University of Arizona	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Irene	Shonle	Gilpin Extension Director	Colorado State University	Wind Energy
Joseph	Junker	Director Energy Efficiency Center	Oregon State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Lyla	Houglum	Director	Oregon State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Mike	Harrington	Director	WAAESD	Energy Efficiency and Conservation. Wind
Mike	Kahn	Associate Director, Agricultural Research Center	Washington State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Wind
Milton	Geiger	Energy Extension Coordinator	University of Wyoming	Wind Energy
Richard	Sefiert	Professor, Extension	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Richard	Beard	Professor	Utah State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Roger	Coupal	Professor	University of Wyoming	Socio-economic Factors
Sarah	Hamlen	Community and Energy Associate Specialist	Montana State University	Wind Energy
Tom	Karsky	Professor	University of Idaho	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Tom	Harris	Professor and Director	University of Nevada, Reno	Socio-economic Factors

Valerie

Barber

Research Professor
and CES Forestry
Specialist

University of
Alaska
Fairbanks

Socio-economic
Factors