

NEW
LOOK

Arkansas Renewable Energy News



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"The blunt truth about the politics of climate change is that no country will want to sacrifice its economy in order to meet this challenge, but all economies know that the only sensible long term way of developing is to do it on a sustainable basis."
—Tony Blair,
former Prime
Minister of the
United Kingdom

Ag Dept Accepting Applications for Alternative Fuel Production

The state Agriculture Department is now accepting applications for funding to produce or distribute alternative fuels.

Sixteen million dollars in incentives are available for fiscal year 07/08 under the Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Program (Act 873 of 2007).

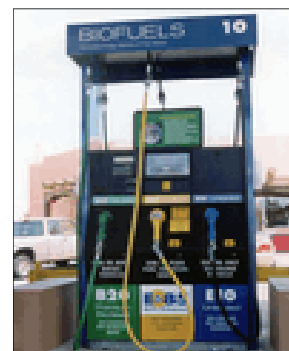
Companies that either produce alternative fuel from biomass or other renewable sources or process the feedstocks are eligible for grants up to \$2 million, and alternative fuel distributors

are eligible for grants up to \$50,000 for each alternative fuel distribution site.

Currently, Arkansas has two soybean-based biodiesel plants, and 60 service stations that sell biodiesel and/or ethanol.

The deadline to apply for grants for fiscal year 07/08 is February 28, 2008.

For more information, visit <http://aad.arkansas.gov/Topics.htm>, or call 501-683-4851.



Triple Biofuels dispenser. Photo credit: NREL

Clinton Presidential Library Earns a LEED for Existing Buildings Platinum Rating

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced last week during Greenbuild that the William J. Clinton Presidential Library has earned Platinum Certification under the LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) Rating System. President Clinton received the certification plaque from USGBC CEO Rick Fedrizzi.

This certification recognizes that the Clinton Library in

Little Rock, Arkansas, has implemented a continuous sustainability improvement process guided by LEED-EB.

Leonardo Academy was the primary LEED consultant for this project, supporting the successful implementation of LEED-EB and advancing the Library's LEED rating from the Silver Certification earned under LEED for New Construction (LEED-NC) to the Platinum Certification earned under LEED-EB.

LEED-EB provides a framework for achieving green improvements in all existing commercial buildings. Buildings certified under the LEED-NC program can also continually

improve environmental performance by seeking LEED-EB re-certification.

Green actions in this initiative include: (1) Green cleaning (green cleaning chemicals and increased recycled content for paper products); (2) Waste reduction (increased recycling and source reduction for paper; light bulbs, aluminum, etc.); and (3) Climate neutrality (all carbon emissions from energy use in 2007 and 2008 that were not addressed by additional efficiency actions and onsite renewable energy by the Library were offset with renewable energy credits). Additional actions under consideration include a green (vegetated) roof for the building and increased building efficiency of lighting, heating, and cooling systems.



Photo credit: William J. Clinton Presidential Library



The new Research Support Facility will join other 'green' facilities at NREL, such as the Solar Energy Research Facility, above.

"Greater fuel efficiency is something we must approach more aggressively, effectively and creatively than we have over the past 30 years,"

Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman

NREL to Dramatically Increase Use of Renewable Energy

DOE recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a highly efficient and "green" Research Support Facility and also announced two major renewable power projects at the Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

These projects further President Bush's goal to increase the use of clean, renewable energy and maximize energy efficiency across the federal government.

NREL's new Research Sup-

port Facility promises to be one of the most "green" buildings ever constructed; the new Renewable Fuel Heating Plant will use biomass to cut NREL's future natural gas use by 75 percent; and the Mesa Top PV Project – a new five-acre photovoltaic array, and one of the largest solar power systems in Colorado – will help power the lab's main campus.

The projects underscore NREL's role in advancing

DOE's Transformational Energy Action Management (TEAM) Initiative, a Department-wide effort to maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy generation across the DOE complex. TEAM Initiative puts DOE on an aggressive footing toward meeting and possibly exceeding President Bush's executive order to reduce energy use across the federal government.

EPA-DOE Release Fuel Economy Lists for 2008 Models

EPA and DOE have released the 2008 Fuel Economy Guide to help consumers make well-informed choices when purchasing new vehicles.

"The president's ambitious Twenty in Ten Plan forces us not only to approach increased vehicle efficiency like never before, but significantly reforming CAFE standards in a way where safety remains a priority," said Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman.

Data show that hybrid vehicles continue to lead the government's fuel economy ratings and hybrid technology can be effectively used to improve fuel economy. The Toyota Prius tops the list at 48 mpg city and 45 mpg highway. More hybrid models are available than ever – including SUVs as well as cars – giving consumers greater

choices when shopping for fuel efficient vehicles.

Fuel economy estimates, which appear on the window stickers of all new cars and light trucks prior to sale, are determined by tests that manufacturers and EPA conduct according to EPA specifications.

This year's label values are based on new test methods EPA finalized in December 2006. The new methods are designed to better account for actual driving conditions that can lower fuel economy, such as higher speed driving, use of air conditioning and cold weather operation.

Because of the new methods, fuel economy estimates for all vehicles will generally be lower than those of last year.

To view the guide and for tips on increasing vehicle efficiency, visit

www.fueleconomy.gov/



With 48 mpg city and 45 mpg highway, the Toyota Prius is the 2008 fuel economy leader. Photo credit: Toyota.

National Governors Association Launches Clean Energy Initiative

The National Governors Association (NGA) has committed to promoting clean energy policies across the country, reports DOE's EERE Network News.

NGA's new "Securing a

Clean Energy Future" initiative will enlist the efforts of all governors to enact meaningful clean energy policies at the state level.

Specifically, the initiative will promote state policies that

encourage energy efficiency and conservation, promote non-petroleum fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and accelerate research and development of advanced clean energy technologies.

AWEA Increases Projections for 2007 Wind Installations

Continuing a major growth trend, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) recently announced a substantial increase in the projected installation of new wind energy facilities in 2007.

Previous projections for a record-setting 3,000 megawatts (MW) of new wind

power capacity in 2007 have now been raised: AWEA reports that the U.S. wind energy industry is currently on track to complete a total 4,000 MW in 2007, shattering its 2006 record of 2,454 MW, and generating enough new electricity to power the equivalent of over one million homes.

In its third quarter market report, AWEA also reports that the industry has already added over 2,300 MW of generating capacity to the nation's electrical grid so far this year with a total of more than 5,000 MW in various stages of construction, establishing wind as one of the largest sources of new power in the country today.



Range Fuels Breaks Ground on the Nation's First Commercial Cellulosic Ethanol Plant

Range Fuels, Inc. has announced that it is breaking ground on the nation's first commercial cellulosic ethanol plant, located in Treutlen County, Georgia, near the town of Soperton.

Range Fuels, one of six companies selected by the Department of Energy (DOE) for financial support in building a commercial cellulosic ethanol plant, will be the first to break ground.

The plant will use wood and wood waste from Georgia's pine forests and mills as its feedstock and will have the



The new plant will use wood and wood waste from Georgia's pine forests and mills as its feedstock. Photo credit: NREL.

capacity to produce over one hundred million gallons of ethanol per year. Construction of the first 20 million-gallon-per-year phase is expected to be completed in 2008.

As part of its \$76 million Technology Investment Agreement with the DOE, Range Fuels will receive \$50 million based upon the project construction schedule for the first 20-million-gallon-per-year phase of its Soperton Plant. The remainder of the grant, \$26 million, will be provided for construction of the next phase of the project.

Funding Opportunities Plant Feedstock Genomics for Bioenergy

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program is accepting applications for genomics-based research that will lead to the improved use of biomass and

plant feedstocks for the production of fuels such as ethanol or renewable chemical feedstocks.

Specifically, applications are sought for fundamental research on plants that will improve biomass characteristics, biomass yield, or sustainability.

Systems biology approaches to identify genetic indicators enabling plants to be efficiently bred or manipulated, or research that yields fundamental

knowledge of the structure, function and organization of plant genomes leading to improved feedstock characterization and sustainability are also encouraged.

Some \$4 million is expected to be available. Applications are due January 23, 2008.

The [full RFP](#) is available online. For more information, e-mail SCbio-mass.genomics@science.doe.gov

If you're interested in learning more about wind energy, check out the AWEA website. The American Wind Energy Association is a national trade association that advocates the development of wind energy as a reliable, environmentally superior energy alternative in the United States and around the world. AWEA's website has a host of useful resources to help you learn more about wind energy and its applications.

www.awea.org

This newsletter is a bi-monthly feature of the Arkansas Renewable Energy website, which features solar, wind, biomass, and other renewable energy sources.

We're on the web:
arkansasrenewableenergy.org

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Mark Your Calendars

Here's a sample of the many upcoming events focusing on energy issues. For a more complete list, see our [Events Calendar](#).

Wind Energy Conference — January 17, 2007 in Fort Smith, AR

help the public better understand the potential of wind power, the Arkansas Energy Office is sponsoring a day-long Arkansas Wind Energy Conference on January 17, 2008, at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Keynote speaker Larry Flowers of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory will discuss global and national trends for wind energy, according to Maureen Rose, program associate with the U of A Cooperative Extension Service, who is helping organize the event. He'll give an overview of which states have been successful in developing wind power and how they achieved success by developing capacity and policy. There will also be a discussion of the costs of wind-produced electricity, land leasing and financing options through private and public/private investments, and much more.

Future Fuels 2007 — December 3-5, 2007 in Washington, DC

Based on the theme, "The Strategic Challenges Of Successfully Bringing Biofuels To Full Commercialization," this event will address the experiences and achievements of the last 12 months, debate how to address current challenges and seek to pave the way for further development in this dynamic industry. Cellulosic ethanol and other 2nd generation biofuels could open vast new horizons for fuels produced from biomass, including dedicated energy crops, forest products and agricultural waste. This annual conference from Platts focuses on commercial viability—the business outlook for bringing these advanced biofuels into industrial-scale production.

Tip of the Month: Build New Homes That Are 'Solar Ready'

If you're planning a new home, the design phase is the perfect time to seriously consider solar energy. If you wait until after the house is built, it will likely be too late.

Not all homeowners choose to install solar energy systems during construction. Still every home should be designed and built so that it will easily accept a solar energy system later. This approach is called "solar ready."

At a minimum, new homes should address several key issues:

Site selection. Choose a building site that lends itself well to solar gain—for example, good southern exposure and no substantial shading from mountains, trees,



Solar House. Photo credit: NCAT

or buildings.

Orientation. Orient the house to provide maximum southern exposure for rooms and windows. Although due south is best, a deviation of 30 degrees or less from true south is considered acceptable for most applications.

Solar Access. Ensure that the solar collector area, roof, and

window surfaces are unshaded from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. to maximize solar gain.

Plumbing. For solar water-heating systems, provide a pipe chase from the solar collector area to the hot water storage area.

Electrical. For solar electric systems, provide a wire chase to connect the solar array, the inverter, and the electrical circuit panel. Also provide a circuit in the breaker box for the solar electric feed.

For more information, visit these links:

[How to Build a Better Home With Solar Energy and Energy Efficiency](#)

[Solar Ready Buildings](#)