



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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***Community Wind across America* Conference Focuses on Wind Energy Production with the Highest Local Benefit to Rocky Mountain Region**

USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development opens the event designed for all who are interested in locally-owned wind energy; Colorado Governor to deliver keynote on second day.

Minneapolis, MN - (October 18, 2010) - The ***Community Wind across America* conference for the Rocky Mountain Region** will cover the full range of what's needed to advance opportunities for locally-owned wind energy production. The event is being held in Denver CO, October 26-27, 2010. Attendees include rural landowners, community leaders, elected officials, clean energy advocates, state and federal agencies, zoning and permitting officials, wind developers, educators and academics and economic development professionals, and a number of national leaders.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) **Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager** will open the event October 26.

Other highlights include Colorado's Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., as keynote speaker on Wednesday Oct 27, and Commissioner of Agriculture John Stulp speaking on behalf of Community Wind and Small Wind development

Said Lisa Daniels, Windustry Executive Director:

“We are please and excited to have these visionary leaders join us. Strengthening the Community Wind network is at the heart of this conference, with top people in this industry and a program that will make it easy for people to meet and get good solid wind energy information.”

Tonsager has more than 35 years of dedicated work as a farmer, businessman, and community, state and national leader. He has been a vocal advocate for USDA Rural Development's continued investment in renewable-energy options, which he sees as

“absolutely critical” to our future and the “greatest opportunity for economic growth in rural America today.”

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. is the architect of Colorado’s New Energy Economy and was recently given an A+ rating for his work in promoting renewable energy industries area by the Colorado Conservation Voters.

During the morning Plenary Session, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John R. Stulp will describe the Lamar Wind Energy Project, a Community Wind farm with four, 1.5 mega-watt turbines commissioned in February, 2004. It is owned by the Lamar Utilities Board and Arkansas River Power Authority, a joint action agency comprised of seven members, Lamar being one.

Two Days - Two Tracks

Practical information is provided along two tracks: how to put together a Community Wind project and topics on Small Wind such as how to choose a turbine, installation, and rebates and grants.

Community Wind Track sessions include: Financing and policy for Community Wind; Distributed Generation; Utilities and Public Power; and Mid-sized wind turbines; siting, leasing, incentives, working to get community support, project development, and business models.

Small Wind Track sessions will cover basics such as how to get started and present examples. “The Unrealities of Wind” will provide an overview of the wide variety of new machines available and the importance of Small Wind Certification.

A film screening the evening of day one will present *Wind Uprising*: A documentary following the turbulent path and final success of a Utah wind farm developer and engineer.

***Community Wind across America* conference for the Rocky Mountain Region**

WHEN: October 26-27, 2010, 7:30 – 5:30

Networking Reception 5:30 - 7:30

Wind Uprising Film: 7:30 -8:30

WHERE: Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, CO.

Other *Community Wind across America regional* conferences are planned for the **Midwest and Mid Atlantic regions.**

What is Community Wind?

Community Wind projects come in many shapes and sizes, all sharing significant elements of local ownership and participation (public or private). These projects maximize the local economic benefits of wind energy development and provide new opportunities for rural communities.

What is Small Wind?

Small Wind turbines produce clean, emissions-free power for individual homes, farms, and small businesses. The U.S. leads the world in the production of small wind turbines and the market is expected to continue strong growth through the next decade.

Support for Community Wind across America comes from U.S. Department of Energy funding and national partnering Nordic WindPower. REGISTRATION is available at www.windustry.org or by phoning Catherine O' Neill at 612-870-3477.

About Windustry®

Windustry is a nonprofit working to increase wind energy opportunities for local landowners and communities. Community Wind across America regional conferences are presented with support from the United States Department of Energy.

www.windustry.org

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