# renewable energy update recast



SPRING 2010 - VOLUME II - ISSUE I

#### This issue

- Wind farm tour
- A decade of Blue Sky<sup>SM</sup>
- Top renewable energy commuities
- 2009 project funding
- Call for applications
- Renewable energy answers
- You can be wattsmart
- What's in store for the future?
- Find us on Facebook

Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky<sup>18</sup>

These businesses support renewable energy through Blue Sky.

# Utah

• Lifted Life Yoga Center

# Cottonwood Heights

• Next Full Service Salon **Emery** 

Live Earth Products, Inc.

#### Harrisville PCR. LLC

### • Comfort Tech

Salt Lake City

# • 222 S. Main Investments, LLC

- Granite Office Momentum Recycling
- Varian Medical Systems
- · Associated General Contractors, UT
- The Children's Hour
- · Coffee Garden
- Vasuvios
- Green Leaves Press

### West Bountiful

• Holly Refining and Marketing

# West Jordan

Consonus Technologies

# **Wyoming**

### Casper

• Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming

For the complete list, please visit rockymountainpower.net/ partners.

Want to learn how your business can become a Blue Sky Business Partner? Visit rockymountainpower.net/ blueskybiz.



### Let's turn the answers on.

# Jordan Valley Water sees nexus between conserving water and green energy



When the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District planned to build its Conservation Garden Park building, it not only wanted to showcase water-wise landscapes, it elected to feature more sustainable energy use.

"The main purpose of our Conservation Garden Park expansion is to educate the public on water-wise principals and practices in the landscape," said Bart Forsyth, assistant general manager for Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. "But we also see a nexus between saving water and conserving power, so we're working with Rocky Mountain Power to offset the environmental impacts of our new building's electricity use with renewable energy.

"Currently 65 percent of the water we deliver is applied to landscaping, so the greatest potential for water conservation exists there," Forsyth said.

Central to the garden's expansion this coming year is a new, energy-efficient, community education center. The District has agreed to install solar panels and to buy 350 blocks a month of Blue Sky renewable energy from Rocky Mountain Power. Forsyth said that the building design is nearly finished. The District will award a construction contract in 2010, and it hopes for a public opening in April 2011.

"We've designed a very energy-efficient community education center, one that should qualify for LEED platinum status as defined by the Green Building Council," he said. "We recently received a \$100,000 award from Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program to purchase photovoltaic panels for the roof, from which we hope to generate 20 percent of the building's load - a 15 kW system. We're also offsetting much of our energy use with Blue Sky renewable energy."

"The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District is supporting enough Blue Sky renewable energy to avoid nearly 256 tons of carbon dioxide each year," said Dave Spalding, customer and community manager for Rocky Mountain Power. "Over 12 months, its purchase has the environmental benefit of planting 6,015 trees or not driving a car more than a half-million miles."

The garden is located at 8215 South, 1300 West in West Jordan.

# Come with us on a wind farm tour



Rocky Mountain Power is inviting you to learn more about renewable energy first hand. Our first annual Wind Farm tour will take place in the fall at the Spanish Fork wind project in Utah. Space is limited so contact us today. Simply send an e-mail to windtour@rockymountainpower. **net** or call 1-866-476-9378 extension 40 for more information.

### A decade of Blue Sky



This month our Blue Sky Block program celebrates its 10th anniversary. In 2000, 2,746

Blue Sky enrollments supported nearly 2.4 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy. At the end of 2009, more than 71,000 Blue Sky customers were investing in renewable energy to the tune of more than 576 million kilowatt-hours annually. Blue Sky customers also have helped support more than 80 community-based renewable energy projects. The Blue Sky Block program was originally launched in Utah in April 2000, Wyoming in May 2000 and Idaho in August 2003.

Happy anniversary to all of our Blue Sky participants!

## Renewable energy supported through the Blue Sky program

Ever wondered how much renewable energy is supported through the Blue Sky program? In your annual thank you letter, (sent in late January each year) we let you know how many kilowatt-hours you supported in 2009 – your part in the more than 576 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy Blue Sky customers supported last year.

For the past decade, participating Blue Sky customers have made a difference by supporting renewable energy in the region. Customers participating in the company's Blue Sky Block program have supported a total of more than I billion kilowatt-hours of wind energy over the past ten years, voluntarily increasing the demand for renewable energy and offsetting the impact of their electricity usage. But how does your community stack up?

We looked at communities with more than 500 customers to see who is leading the charge with their renewable energy support. (See list below).

# Top renewable energy communities (through December 2009)

Communities with more than 500 Rocky Mountain Power customers.

## Idaho

Lava Hot Springs	3.11%
McCammon	2.69%
Idaho Falls	2.25%
Arco	1.84%
Ashton	1.78%

# Utah

Summit Park	17.98%
Moab	13.40%
Snyderville	12.87%
Park City	11.13%
Provo Canyon	8.53%
Salt Lake City	7.88%
Holladay	6.65%
River Heights	6.60%
Cottonwood Heights	6.24%
Murray	5.18%

# Wyoming

Lander	5.80%
Laramie	4.93%
Pinedale	3.24%
Powell	2.59%
Buffalo	2.56%
Cody	2.50%
Green River	2.46%
Buffalo	2.45%
Rawlins	2.03%

Some smaller communities that have huge percentages include: in Utah, Castle Valley (25%), Springdale (14%), Alta (10%) Rockville (9%). To see where your community ranks, visit rockymountainpower.net/blueskycommunity.

# You make it happen... Blue Sky community-based projects

For a decade, Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky customers have supported renewable wind energy in the western region. Since 2006, Blue Sky program customers have also provided funding to help advance locally owned renewable energy projects. To date, more than 80 community-based renewable energy projects across the company's six state service areas have received funding. Many of these projects are now completed, generating electricity and providing education opportunities. Photos included here are some recently completed projects.

Blue Sky funds totaling \$951,600 were awarded in 2009 for 19 renewable energy projects in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho – made possible by you – our Blue Sky customers.

Organizations that received project funding in 2009 include:

#### Utah



Planned Parenthood in Orem, Utah

- Christ United Methodist Church (Salt Lake City) 22.14-kilowatt, Solar
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Salt Lake City) – 40-kilowatt, Solar
- Grand County Public Library (Moab) 10-kilowatt, Solar
- Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Conservation Garden Park Education Building (West Jordan) – 15-kilowatt, Solar
- Milford High School (Milford) 20-kilowatt, Solar
- Ogden City 20-kilowatt, Low-Impact Hydro
- Park City Parks & Trails Creekside Park –
   5-kilowatt, Solar
- Planned Parenthood (Orem) 2.5-kilowatt, Solar
- South Salt Lake Columbus Center (South Salt Lake) – 47.9-kilowatt, Solar
- The Front Climbing Club (Salt Lake City) –
   6.9-kilowatt, Solar

- Town of Springdale 7-kilowatt, Solar
- Utah State University Agriculture Extension Summit County (Coalville) – 4.3-kilowatt, Solar
- Weber State University, Davis Campus (Layton) 12-kilowatt, Solar

### Wyoming



Sublette County Library, Wyoming

- Converse County School District #2 -Grant Elementary School (Glenrock) – 7.2-kilowatt, Wind
- Natrona County Meals on Wheels (Casper) 4.5-kilowatt, Solar
- University of Wyoming, Agriculture Resource and Learning Center (Casper) – 6.6 kilowatt, Solar and Wind

#### Idaho



Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

 Idaho Wind for Schools - Clark County Junior Senior High School, (Dubois); Midway Middle School (Rigby); Rigby Senior High School (Rigby) – 7.2-kilowatt, Wind

Want more information about the projects that you've supported to date? Visit rockymountainpower.net/blueskyprojects.

# Blue Sky project funds – call for applications

Funds from Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program are used to purchase renewable energy credits from regional wind energy facilities equal to a customer's Blue Sky purchase, cover administrative costs, and grow the support for renewable energy through community outreach and education. They can also provide funding awards to help advance new community-based renewable energy projects. Renewable energy projects eligible for funding awards through the Blue Sky program include those that support technologies such as wind, solar, biomass, wave, landfill gas, certified low-impact hydro and

geothermal. Residential installations are not eligible for funding.

The Blue Sky program is seeking applicants for community-based renewable energy project funding. To be considered in this competitive application process, interested parties must complete and submit an application form along with supporting materials by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2010.

Eligibility guidelines, details regarding the application process, evaluation criteria and tips for fund award seekers can be found at rockymountainpower.net/blueskyfunds.

# Find the renewable energy answers...

Our customers are asking some excellent renewable energy questions. You might be interested in the answers, too.

- 1. How do farmers rent their land to be used as sites for wind generators for information, check out the AWEA factsheet.
- 2. Advances in renewable technology what is the progress on the implementation of ocean wave generators to produce electricity along Oregon's coast? Check out the latest on creating energy from the ocean's waves.
- 3. Want more information about customer generation (i.e. small solar/small wind)?
- a. American Wind Energy Association
  Small Wind Factsheet
- b. State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency
- c. Solar Energy Industries Association
  Solar information
- 4. For up-to-the-minute news about renewable energy, <u>click here</u>.

If you have a question that you want answered, e-mail us at <a href="mailto:bluesky@pacificorp.com">bluesky@pacificorp.com</a>.

# Moving forward

# You can be wattsmart

Save energy and money – by taking advantage of our energy efficiency programs and incentives at wattsmart.com.

wattsmart tips - beat the summer heat and keep energy

- Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher if you're still comfortable.
- · Keep air conditioner filters clean.
- Don't block window air conditioners.
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Reduce the use of heat producing appliances such as the oven, range, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer during hot summer days.
- · Don't place lamps or televisions near your air conditioning thermostat.
- Make sure your home has the appropriate amount of insulation in walls, attics and crawl spaces.
- Seal and insulate air conditioning ducts that run through unconditioned spaces.
- Plant deciduous trees to shade your home's walls, windows and roof in the summer.
- · Install a ceiling fan to circulate air above the area where you spend most of your time. You'll feel like it's five degrees cooler.

For more tips, visit wattsmart.com.

### Contact us:

Do you have any comments, concerns, questions or suggestions about the Blue Sky program - write to bluesky@pacificorp.com and we can help!

# What's in store for the future?

According to a recent article in The Wall Street Journal, five technologies exist - either in development or in theory - that could change modern energy production. Here's a look at what may be in store for the energy industry.

#### Space-based solar power

How it works: Solar panels in orbit beam microwaves to Earth, where the energy is turned into electricity and routed onto the grid.

Major pros: The sun always shines in space, providing access to renewable, nonstop energy.

Biggest obstacles: Cost of launching the panels into space; energy conversion efficiency.

#### Advanced car batteries

How it works: Vehicles run solely on lithium batteries rather than gasoline.

Major pros: Reduction in petroleum use and emissions from automobiles.

Biggest obstacles: Battery technology does not yet exist to make this a viable large-scale option. Electric power generation will have to find a way to rely entirely on low-carbon technology for this option to be effective.

#### **Utility storage**

How it works: Battery storage devices located close to customers' homes can store electricity for use when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. Another possibility is compressing air into underground chambers, which is later fed into natural gas-fueled combustion turbines to increase efficiency.

Major pros: Wind and solar energy have to be used immediately or the energy is lost; effective technology for storing electricity would provide benefits for the renewables industry.

Biggest obstacles: Utility-scale battery technology does not yet exist. Available battery technology capable of storing energy on a commercial scale is either too expensive or not efficient enough. The compressed air option relies on large underground reservoirs, which are difficult to find.

### Carbon capture and storage

How it works: Carbon dioxide is removed from flue gasses, compressed, pumped deep underground and stored in porous rock formations.

Major pros: Carbon capture allows utility companies to continue using coal – the most costeffective and reliable source of energy generation available.

Biggest obstacles: If applied to large-scale power plants, current carbon capture techniques would reduce output by one-third and double production costs; technology designed for commercial plants would need to be developed to make this a viable option.

#### Next generation biofuels

How it works: Researchers are working to convert nonfood crops, such as lumber and crop wastes and inedible perennials, such as switchgrass, garbage and algae, into competitively priced fuel.

Major pros: These nonfood crops are available in large quantities and reproduce quickly. In theory, the technology would be used in existing refining and distribution systems, enabling the U.S. to produce enough fuel to meet all of the nation's transportation needs. A similar technology may be the solution to lowering carbon dioxide emitted by power plants.

Biggest obstacles: It is in the early stages of development; it could be years before widespread implementation becomes a cost-effective option.

Power Source, Jan. 6, 2010

# Find us on Facebook





If you have a Facebook page, you can become

a fan of Blue Sky online. It's easy. Go to Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky fan page and click the "Become a Fan" button located on the top of the page to the right of our photo.

Once you become a fan, you can tell your friends all about why you like Blue Sky and encourage them to become a fan by clicking the "Suggest to Friends" link on the right hand side, under the picture on the Blue Sky page.

Want to be sure you're getting all of our updates? When you're on your homepage, scroll to the bottom of your News Feed and click "Edit options". If you see "Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program" in your list of pages then you can click the "Add to News Feed" button and see when we post new items on our page. If you don't see the Blue Sky page under "Edit options", that means you already have us on your News Feed.

Once you're a fan of our page and have us added to your News Feed, you'll be able to follow any new items we add to the page. These things can include events, links to articles in the press, educational items about renewable energy and links to Forecast online.

