

Indiana Energy Conference

The Indiana Energy Conference will feature film screenings, DVD presentations by various speakers, discussion, networking activities and opportunities to consider our culture's relationship with energy.



Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28
1 - 5 p.m.

The Vanity Theater
122 South Washington St
Crawfordsville, IN

The Conference is designed for people to explore our culture's relationship with energy. The purpose of gathering together is to discuss our experiences, share ideas, explore action, and build community. Admission is free.

For more information, registration directions, conference schedule:
www.indianaenergyconference.org

Frank Cicela, Indiana Energy Conference

Green Power Purchasing Up 1000% in Five Years

Renewable energy capacity in the United States supported by voluntary demand rather than regulatory requirements now tops 2,200 megawatts (MW) - up more than 1000% in just five years, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The report notes that purchases by large businesses, institutions and governmental entities are driving the growth of the U.S. voluntary green power market.

Green power currently accounts for about 2% of America's electricity supply, but voluntary purchasing of renewable energy is accelerating development of new renewable energy sources.

The report, from DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Green Power Marketing in the United States: A Status Report, shows that renewable generating capacity in the United States installed to meet voluntary green power purchasing soared from 167 MW in 2000 to more than 2,200 MW by the end of 2004.

While the number of residential customers buying green power has more than doubled over the past 5 years, green energy purchases by large businesses and other U.S. organizations have increased dramatically. This is further illustrated by new data released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership. The partnership, a voluntary program that encourages large organizations to switch to green power for a specified minimum portion of their annual electric usage, has grown from 21 founding partners in 2001 to over 600 partners, including Fortune 500 companies, universities, trade associations, and local, state, and federal government agencies.

These green power partners are collectively purchasing over 3.1 billion kilowatt hours of green power annually, a figure which has doubled over the past 15 months. This represents a growth of 1000% since the partnership began in 2001, with founding partners purchasing 3.1 million kilowatt hours annually. Three billion kilowatt hours is enough electricity to power about 300,000 average American homes for a year, and is roughly equivalent to the annual output of a 1000 megawatt wind farm.

"Five years ago, the voluntary green power market was focused primarily on residential purchasers, and there were only a handful of significant non-residential purchasers," said Douglas L. Faulkner, acting assistant secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. "The entry of commercial, industrial, and government purchasers into the renewable energy market has resulted in tremendous growth in the development of clean and limitless renewable energy resources."

"Leading retailers, universities, manufacturers and federal agencies are demonstrating outstanding

environmental leadership by choosing to purchase clean, renewable energy sources for their electricity," said Kathleen Hogan, director of EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division.

The new report also notes that over the past five years, average renewable energy price premiums for utility programs have declined at an annual average rate of 8% as wind-generated power becomes increasingly competitive against natural gas-fueled generation. In Colorado and in Texas, escalating natural gas prices have pushed electricity rates for regular utility customers higher than rates being paid by customers subscribing to green power options.

SOURCE:
Clean Edge News
www.cleandedge.com

Notice of 2006 ISEA Board of Directors Nominations and Elections

Nominations for expiring ISEA Board of Directors' positions are being accepted by mail, email, or in person at our Winter Membership meeting.

All current, full ISEA members, of at least one year, are eligible. Self nominations are welcomed. (At the end of December, ballots will be made available to ISEA members; they will be due within 2 weeks of their delivery.)

Please indicate "Nominations" on the outside of your envelope, or in your email subject line - and send to:

Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA)
P.O. Box 634, Wheaton, IL 60189-0634
info@illinoisolar.org

Quotable:

"Imagine pushing your car for 20 miles. You can use rope and pulleys, but no motors, no electricity. That's the hard work that we pay \$3 a gallon for."

Richard Heinberg
Author of: *Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World*