

## EnergyRoundtable

*Crookston, Minn.*-Dozens of leaders in Minnesota's renewable energy industry will be gathering in St. Paul for the next gathering of Minnesota's Renewable Energy Roundtable. The Roundtable is a working group made up of leaders from dozens of Minnesota organizations, colleges, universities, businesses and government who work together to identify issues facing renewable energy and then develop plans for addressing those impediments.

To date more than 200 people representing over 60 different organizations have taken part in the Roundtable, which was established in 2006. The first quarterly meeting of 2008 will take place:

**February 22, 2008**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.**  
**Minnesota Department of Agriculture**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota**

"The Roundtable has been instrumental in helping to identify issues, fostering collaboration and in bringing a varied cross-section of folks together to work together and maximize resources," says Teresa Spaeth, AURI executive director. "Renewable Energy holds tremendous promise for Minnesota, but it will occur much more efficiently and effectively when the interested parties work together."

Roundtable participants have identified hundreds of issues facing renewable energy in Minnesota and have developed five initiatives to address those challenges. Those initiatives include:

- Talent Development
- Public Policy and Awareness
- Financing
- Infrastructure
- Basic and Applied Research

For more information on the Roundtable and activities that are occurring, visit the AURI website at [www.auri.org](http://www.auri.org) and click on the Action Now button. Those wanting to attend the February meeting should contact Valerie Gravseth at [vgravseth@auri.org](mailto:vgravseth@auri.org) to RSVP.



## CenterSupport

*Washington, DC*-A program for developing farmer-owned renewable energy enterprises in Minnesota has been given a boost as part of the federal 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The Center for Producer-Owned Energy (CPOE), operated by the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), was identified to receive \$984,000 in support.



The Center provides scientific technical and project development assistance to produc-

er-driven renewable energy enterprises. Created in 2004 as part of the USDA's Agricultural Innovation Center program, the Center for Producer-Owned Energy has provided assistance to more than 25 projects impacting over 8,000 Minnesota farmers. Projects have involved biomass, biodiesel, ethanol, gasification, wind generation and coproduct utilization.

"For years AURI has been an invaluable resource to virtually every producer-owned renewable fuel plant in the state and works to promote local and producer ownership. This critical funding will empower AURI to continue making local and producer ownership a reality in Minnesota," said Senator Norm Coleman.

"We are thrilled for the continued federal support of the Center and its efforts to boost locally-owned renewable energy activities," says AURI Executive Director Teresa Spaeth. "Local ownership is key to creating and maintaining economic activity in rural Minnesota. We are very pleased that Senator Coleman and Minnesota's delegation in Washington has recognized the importance of this type of activity and has played a vital role in garnering continued support."

AURI is a nonprofit corporation created to improve the economy of rural Minnesota through the development of new uses and new markets for the state's agricultural commodities. The Center for Producer-Owned Energy is operated by AURI to assist in the development of producer-owned energy opportunities.

## Biodiesel Shelf Life

*Marshall, Minn.* -Antioxidants aren't only good for human health, it turns out they're also good for biodiesel.

AURI chemist Ranae Jorgenson tested a number of vegetable oil and biodiesel samples to determine their shelf life before they started to break down. She found that it was necessary to add antioxidants or stabilizers to the oils and biodiesel to maintain quality for any significant periods of time.

“The concern is the length of time between when biodiesel is produced and when it's used, because fuel breakdown will affect performance,” Jorgenson says. “The addition of stabilizing agents in both the oils and biodiesel significantly inhibited degradation.”

The biodiesel and oils were tested out to 6 months. Since the additives inhibited breakdown, they would help to increase the optimal usage period. The stabilizing agents are typically added to fuels by the refiners and not by the end consumer.



*AURI tests found that adding antioxidants or stabilizing agents inhibits biodiesel breakdown, giving it a longer usage period.*



*“Ag Innovation Update”* is a publication of the *Agricultural Utilization Research Institute*.  
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