

Intermountain Harvesting Energy Network

The seven-state Intermountain Harvesting Energy Network (Network) is growing out of a Colorado coalition drawn from agriculture, industry, finance, government, and advocacy organizations.

The purpose of the Intermountain Harvesting Energy Network is to facilitate an agriculture-driven support network to advance renewable energy development and energy efficiency in seven states: Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and Kansas. Preliminary goals for the Network are:

- Create a continuous and informed network of rural leaders.
- Forge partnerships/coalitions with a diverse set of stakeholders.
- Mobilize grassroots constituents around the development of renewable energy projects and support for appropriate public policies.
- Reach the general public with the message that agriculture is a key component of a national energy strategy.
- Determine how large a role the ag sector can play in each state to help the nation achieve energy independence.

Renewable Energy Resources from Agriculture:

- Wind
- Agricultural Biomass for Power
- Biofuels for Transportation
- Solar
- Geothermal
- Small Hydro
- Sequestration of Carbon

Agriculture Can...

- Dramatically increase the production of liquid transportation fuels;
- Generate electricity by harnessing wind and solar energy and capturing and converting biogas emissions; and
- Produce biomass and turn crop residues, ag byproducts and wastes into value added energy feedstocks.

Intermountain Harvesting Energy Conference

The Network Steering Committee is seeking to recruit approximately 20 select leaders from each of the seven target states to participate in a March 27-28, 2006 Intermountain Harvesting Energy Conference.

On March 27-28 the Colorado Network will convene 150 leaders from agriculture, business, finance, academia, government, and advocacy organizations to create a seven-state Intermountain Harvesting Energy Network. This highly interactive conference will explore linkages with the Western Governor's Association's Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative and produce action plans and workgroups targeted to issues common to multiple states.

Each state will be represented by selected leaders representing the following key interests:

1. Governor (or CDEAC member)
2. Commissioners of Agriculture
3. Production agriculture leaders
4. Land Grant University
5. Rural Economic Development Leader (including USDA Rural Development)
6. Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Electric Utilities
7. Local Elected Officials
8. Financial institutions serving rural communities
9. Wind, Biomass, Solar and Geothermal Industrial leaders
10. Advocacy/environmental organizations