



Illinois 25x'25 Renewable Energy Forum

***Assessing Renewable Energy Opportunities in the
Heart of the Midwest***

**November 18, 2011
The Drake Hotel - French Room
140 East Walton Place
Chicago, IL**

***Hosted by
The Illinois 25x'25 Renewable Energy Alliance and
the 25x'25 National Steering Committee***

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Illinois 25x'25 Renewable Energy Forum

Assessing Renewable Energy Opportunities in the Heat of the Midwest

**The Drake Hotel – French Room
Chicago, IL
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Forum Purpose: To discuss university research initiatives, distributed generation challenges and opportunities, and economic impacts associated with the use of energy crops, agricultural and forestry residues, and clean technologies in the production of energy for electricity, transportation fuels, and other renewable energy applications in the region.

8:30 a.m. ***Networking Over Coffee***

9:00 a.m. ***Welcome and opening remarks***

- Thomas Ewing, Illinois 25x'25 Renewable Energy Alliance Chair

25x'25: Achieving the Goal

- [Read Smith, Co-Chair, 25x'25 National Steering Committee](#)

9:20 a.m. ***Illinois' Advantage-Higher Education Research and Outreach***

Moderator - Blake Roderick, Pike and Scott County Farm Bureaus

- [Matt Aldeman, Center for Renewable Energy, Illinois State University](#)

- [Fred Iutzi, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University](#)

- [Julie Elzanati, Illinois Green Economy Network](#)

- [Hans Blaschek, Center for Advanced BioEnergy Research, University of Illinois](#)

- [Andrew Barbeau, Robert W. Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation, Illinois Institute of Technology](#)

10:45 a.m. ***Break***

11:00 a.m. ***Distributed Electricity and Renewable Energy***

Moderator - Fred Iutzi

- Mark Burger, Illinois Solar Energy Association

- [Cliff Haefke, Energy Resources Center, University of Illinois at Chicago](#)

- John Dalton, Prairie Power, Inc.

12:00 p.m. ***Renewable Energy in the New Fiscal Environment***

- Ernie Shea, 25x'25 Project Coordinator

12:30 p.m. ***Summary of Discussions and the Path Forward***

- Tom Ewing and Read Smith

Sponsored by:



Pike County Farm Bureau



**The Center for Advanced
BioEnergy Research**



Speaker Biographies

Thomas Ewing, Illinois 25x'25 Renewable Energy Alliance Chair; 25x'25 National Steering Committee Member

Tom Ewing is a former Member of Congress who served the 15th District of Illinois from 1991 to 2001. While in congress, he served at the Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. Tom is also the former Chair of the USDA-DOE Biomass R&D Federal Advisory Committee.

Read Smith, Co-Chair, 25x'25 National Steering Committee

Read Smith is a 1969 graduate of Washington State University with a BS degree in Agriculture. After 4 years n Washington's Yakima Valley with Del Monte Corporation, Read joined his father on the family farm near St John in 1973 where is continues to operate the family farm. Read has been a conservation district official since 1974 serving as president of the Washington Assoc of Conservation Districts and the National Assoc. of Conservation Districts from 2001 to 2003.

Read along with his wife Deanna and Son Jeremy operate a 10,000 acre diversified grain and livestock operation in the "Palouse" country of Eastern Washington near St John. Read is a member of "Columbia Plateau Producers" marketing value added wheat flour under the "Shepherd's Grain" label (shepherdsgrain.com). This small group of direct seed, food alliance certified producers are providing the market with safe, sustainable food products from local family farms. The Smith's are Co-owners of "Pasta Mama's" producing and marketing gourmet pasta products all over the US (pastamamas.com). Read is also a member of "Country Natural Beef" providing the marketplace with food alliance, GAP certified beef throughout most of the West.

Blake Roderick, Pike and Scott County Farm Bureaus

Blake E. Roderick is the Executive Director of the Pike and Scott County Farm Bureaus and Two Rivers Farm Bureau Foundation. He attained a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University.

He serves as liaison for the 25x'25 Illinois Renewable Energy Alliance. He is Secretary-Treasurer on the Illinois Council for Food and Agriculture Research (C-FAR). He also serves on the Illinois Comptroller's Rural Affairs Advisory Council. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Illini Community Health Care System, Illini Community Hospital, and IHS Pharmacy; Vice-Chairman, BlessingCare Corporation; and a board member of the Illini Community Health Care Foundation, Pittsfield Public Library, and many other community groups. He is a graduate of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation program and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

Matt Aldeman, Center for Renewable Energy, Illinois State University

Matt Aldeman provides technical assistance and public outreach to the external community, assists faculty in applied research, and operates the Center's SODAR unit, meteorological tower, and off-grid hybrid wind/solar system. Matt joined the Center for Renewable Energy after working for General Electric as a wind site manager, where he managed operations at the Grand Ridge and Rail Splitter wind projects. Previously, he served in the U.S. Navy as the Reactor Electrical Officer on the USS John C. Stennis and as the Gunnery Officer on the USS O'Bannon. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School and holds a Master of Engineering Management degree from Old Dominion University and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Northwestern University.

Fred Iutzi, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University

Fred Iutzi manages agriculture and energy programs for the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University (WIU), overseeing research and outreach on topics including bioenergy, wind energy, value-added and sustainable agriculture, applied economics, and green business development. Iutzi chairs the Illinois Biomass Working Group, sits on the executive committees of the Illinois Wind Working Group, the 25x'25 Illinois Renewable Energy Alliance, and the Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass initiative, and was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to the Illinois Alternate Fuels Commission. He holds an MS in Sustainable Agriculture and Agronomy from Iowa State University and an AB in Geography from the University of Missouri Columbia, and is a Certified Crop Adviser. Iutzi's previous professional roles include Research Agronomist for the Alternative Crops Research Program in the WIU School of Agriculture and Assistant Coordinator of the joint Practical Farmers of Iowa - Iowa State University Extension on-farm research network. He resides in rural Hancock County, IL, where he assists with his family's cash grain farm. Founded in 1989, the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs is the state's designated academic clearinghouse for rural development research and initiatives. Information on IIRA programs is available at IIRA.org.

Julie Elzanati, Illinois Green Economy Network

Julie Elzanati is the interim Executive Director of the Illinois Green Economy Network (www.igencc.org). IGEN enables collaboration among all Illinois community colleges and their partners to establish sustainable best practices, promote energy demand reduction projects, and drive growth of the green economy. Through an intergovernmental agreement which includes her employer, Heartland Community College, Julie works closely with Jerry Weber, College of Lake County President, Georgia Costello, Southwestern Illinois College President, and the IGEN Presidents Steering Committee to provide leadership and coordination for IGEN. Julie oversees IGEN operations throughout the statewide network related to the expansion and implementation of IGEN programs and services designed to address green campus initiatives, green workforce development, greening of curriculum, and green community outreach. Julie holds a M.S. in Conservation Biology from Illinois State University and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Currently, she serves as co-chair of the Governor's Green

Universities & Colleges Subcommittee and as vice-chair for the Illinois Association of Professional Energy Consultants.

Hans Blaschek, Center for Advanced BioEnergy Research, University of Illinois

Dr. Hans Blaschek is the Director of the Center for Advanced BioEnergy Research (CABER) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. CABER was formed four years ago in response to a perceived campus need. The mission of CABER and its associated staff is to help facilitate bioenergy-related activities as it relates to research, teaching and outreach. Along these lines, a graduate level curriculum in bioenergy (<http://bioenergy.illinois.edu/education/major.html>) was developed. Recently, renovated pilot space for scale-up of faculty bioenergy-related projects was included. Hans' role in the College of ACES has been to orchestrate and plan the development of the Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory (IBRL). CABER received \$3.2M from the State of Illinois to plan the \$20M facility. The IBRL is anticipated to be an intermediate level pilot facility designed for the scale up of bench level processes and unit operations, with a particular focus on biofuels and bioproducts. As leader of the molecular bioengineering of biomass conversion (MBBC) team in the institute for genomic biology, his role has been to facilitate the interactions of group members representing various disciplinary areas, including plant biology, microbiology, chemistry, chemical engineering and systems biology. The MBBC group was successful in obtaining funding from the USDA NRI biofuels program and the CFAR Sentinel Program. Additional funding has currently been obtained from the DOE GTL program to work on fundamental aspects of butanol production by *Clostridium beijerinckii*. Dr. Blaschek is also the Co-Founder and CSO of a company called TetraVita Biosciences that is involved with the commercialization of the butanol fermentation process.

Andrew Barbeau, Robert W. Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation, Illinois Institute of Technology

Andrew Barbeau is the Managing Director and co-founder of Illinois Institute of Technology's Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation. Mr. Barbeau oversees the Center's \$40 million in research and demonstration projects in smart grid, wind energy, solar power, transmission and distribution, microgrids and electric vehicles. The Galvin Center has become a global leader of the smart grid technological revolution by building the first ever fully-functional Perfect Power system, a smart microgrid demonstration project, on IIT's Main Campus in Chicago. The Galvin Center's other projects include: The IIT Smart Grid Education and Workforce Training Center that will educate and train 49,000 people on smart grid; The IIT Wind Energy Consortium that is working to improve the reliability and performance of wind power, ultimately lowering its cost and adoption; The Illinois Smart Solar Initiative that is working to accelerate distributed roof-top solar power in Illinois; The IIT-Korea Smart Grid Collaboration that is working to expand Korean smart grid research, technology and business development in Illinois; and the Illinois Smart Grid Regional Innovation Cluster, an collaborative effort by more than 70 companies to make Chicago a global hub for smart grid economic and technology development.

Mark Burger, Illinois Solar Energy Association

Mark Burger is a Principal Consultant at Kestrel Development Company, a firm providing consulting services on renewable energy policy and market development. Mr. Burger has over 20 years of experience in renewable energy and building energy applications. Previously, he was a Sales and Marketing Manager at Spire Solar, a firm manufacturing solar electric panels and designing systems. Prior, Mr. Burger worked for the US Department of Energy, last heading the Strategic Assistance Team for the Chicago Regional Office. He is also the President of the Illinois Solar Energy Association, a Life Member of the American Solar Energy Society, a member of the Midwest Solar Training Network, and the Illinois Wind Working Group. Mr. Burger holds a BS in Alternative Energy from Jordan College of Cedar Springs, Michigan and an MA in Environmental Studies and Urban Geography from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Cliff Haefke, Energy Resources Center, University of Illinois at Chicago

Cliff Haefke has been with the Energy Resources Center (ERC) of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) for over 10 years. Mr. Haefke's current research focuses on distributed generation (DG), combined heat and power (CHP), waste heat recovery, and district energy for the regional U.S. DOE Midwest Clean Energy Application Center (CEAC), formerly known as the Midwest CHP Application Center. The Midwest CEAC was established in 2001 for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as the first of its kind regional application center with the mission to provide application assistance, technology information, and educational support relating to Integrated Systems for CHP for industrial, commercial, institutional, and agriculture facilities located in the Midwest. Mr. Haefke's main responsibilities for the Midwest CEAC include technical and economic evaluations of potential clean energy candidate sites, development of regional marketing material and information, support of the Midwest state energy offices, and daily operations management of the Midwest CEAC and its overall project management with the U.S. DOE in Washington D.C.

Mr. Haefke has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an MBA from the Liautaud School of Business (UIC). Mr. Haefke is a member of the International District Energy Association (IDEA) and serves as Vice President for the Midwest Cogeneration Association.

John Dalton, Prairie Power, Inc., Grid Access a Rural Perspective

John Dalton is currently Vice President of Engineering, Operations and Planning for Prairie Power, Inc., an electric generation and transmission cooperative located in Jacksonville, IL. John has over 30 years experience in electrical engineering with electric cooperatives, municipalities, investor owned electric utilities and a family owned engineering consulting company. In these various positions John has been responsible planning and design of electric power transmission and distribution facilities as well as business management and finance.

John has a Masters of Business Administration degree from the Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from VA Polytechnic Institute and State University. He holds various professional registrations, association memberships and service positions, including: Alternate Director of the SERC Reliability Corporation, Member of the SERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee, Alternate Director on the Aces Power Marketing Board of Managers, and Alternate Director on the Prairie State Generating Company Management Committee. John is a Registered Professional Engineer in 8 States.

Ernie Shea, 25x'25 Alliance

Ernie Shea has been the Project Coordinator of the 25x'25 Alliance since its inception in 2004. He is President of Natural Resource Solutions LLC, a consulting firm with deep contacts and established relationships with federal, state and local government agencies; conservation, environmental and agricultural organizations; opinion leaders and media outlets; university experts; natural resource consultants; non-government organizations and non-profit entities.

With more than 25 years of experience at the national, state and local levels, Ernie has worked in partnership with government agencies, conservation organizations, stakeholders and business interests to help landowners and managers conserve, protect and ensure the orderly development of the nation's natural resources. He worked for the State of Maryland for 10 years, holding a number of senior leadership positions, including Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation. Among other responsibilities, he served as the senior Department official responsible for soil and water conservation, land preservation, domestic and international marketing and other service-oriented programs designed to strengthen the state's agricultural industry. Before starting his own consulting firm, Ernie served as Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

25x'25

“By the year 2025, America’s farms, ranches and forests will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the U.S. while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fiber.”

www.25x25.org

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