

The Non-Hydro Renewable Energy Program provides leadership in developing renewable energy throughout the central and western United States.

Western works with customers to support renewable resources

Editor's Note: This is the second in a two-part series on initiatives to promote renewable resources. The first part appeared in the Feb. 18 Closed Circuit and focused on DOE initiatives. This article focuses on ways Western works to promote renewable energy throughout its service area.

Working with many Western customers, the Non-Hydro Renewable Energy Program provides leadership in developing renewable energy throughout the central and western United States

Randy Manion, program manager, said, "We provide technical support and point people to the resources and help them find funding for their projects. We also set the example by using renewable resources in our own facilities."

Million Solar Roofs Initiative

From installing a 4-kW photovoltaic system at the Rocky Mountain Region office to helping schools in California tap the power of the sun, Western has helped the Million Solar Roofs Initiative get closer to its goal of putting a million solar energy systems on roofs across the country by 2010.

The MSRI is the oldest and therefore the most well developed of DOE's renewable initiatives. Western has supported it since its beginning in 1997.

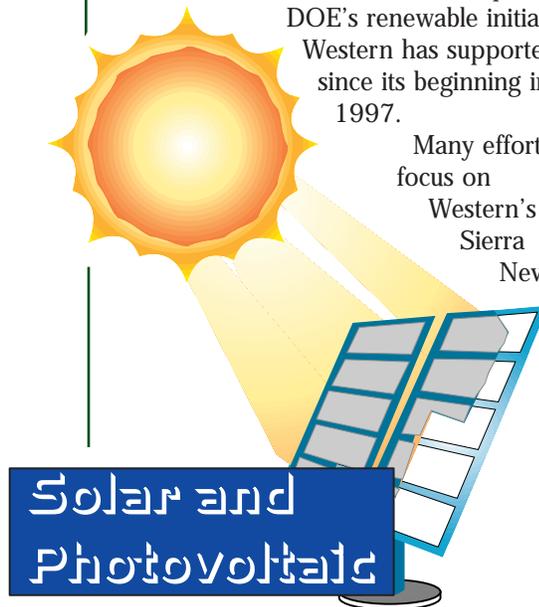
Many efforts focus on Western's Sierra Nevada

Region, where Energy Services Specialist **Bob Parkins** has championed solar technology, including:

- ◆ Installing a 12-kW system at the Folsom office as the second of a three-phase solar PV demonstration project, showing that solar energy is a viable alternative. It also installed a smaller system at the Redding, Calif., Maintenance Facility.
- ◆ Working with the city of Roseville, Calif., to secure a grant that paid 30 percent of system costs for an 8.5-kW system.
- ◆ Assessing a PV site for the city of Redding and designing a system that is currently being purchased.
- ◆ Providing technical advice to the city of Anaheim, Calif., in evaluating bids for a 75-kW system for the Anaheim Convention Center.
- ◆ Helping the city of Santa Clara, Calif., with a PV system for a school.

The rest of Western's service area has also benefited from solar initiatives.

- ◆ Western's RMR used the installation of a 4-kW system as an opportunity for a hands-on PV installation workshop. It drew 30 Western customers and other interested parties. Similar workshops will be held in Salt Lake City, Phoenix and Folsom this year.
- ◆ Western helped the University of Nevada at Reno in developing a K-6th grade Renewable Resource Educational Video Series. Two 15-minute videos will be produced this year.
- ◆ Seven "Solar in a Box" kits are available for loan to Western's customers. Developed with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, the kit shows different ways to use solar energy.



Wind Powering America

If the answer to our energy future is blowin' in the wind, Western is helping DOE and our customers find it.

In fact, Western provided a two-page list of recommendations to DOE in support of wind power strategic development efforts. Western also recommended ways to make a WPA strategy conference in Denver more useful.

Providing information is an important part of Western's program. For example, Western is working with IREC to develop a Wind Workshop in a Box similar to the Solar in a Box kit. Kits will be available through Western's Equipment Loan program. A prototype was completed in March.

In October, Western presented information on wind energy to the Mni Sose Tribal Energy Issues Conference in Rapid City, S.D. The presentation was on behalf of DOE.

But information isn't the only focus. Western also provides technical assistance. For example, in late

1999 Western mailed six wind measurement devices and tape recorders to the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy.

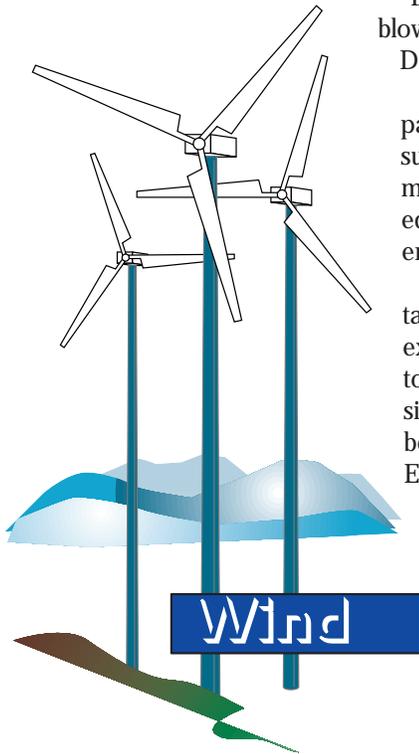
Biobased Products and Bioenergy

One of the newer initiatives, the

Biobased Products and Bioenergy Initiative seeks to increase the amount of energy produced from organic materials.

Western's non-hydro program is currently working with three partners on biomass initiatives. They include:

- ◆ Informing the Imperial Irrigation District about the potential benefits of ethanol production in California.



- ◆ Coordinating with a biomass developer who wants to market biomass power from a planned facility near Lake Tahoe to a customer within the SN region.

Western has provided \$20,000 to EPRI to develop a Renewable Energy Technical Assistance Guide. RETAG will help Western customers interested in finding specific technical information in wind power. It will be available in December 2000.

Geothermal Initiative

As the most recently announced initiative, the geothermal project is the least well developed. Manion has already begun laying the groundwork for Western's involvement, however. He plans to visit several key industry representatives and learn about current and planned projects. This background will allow Western to respond to requests for information from customers interested in exploring geothermal energy alternatives.

Peggy Plate, RM energy services manager, has been instrumental in promoting the use of ground-source heat pumps.



Newsletter shares information

During 1999, Western introduced its Green Power and Market Resource News, a weekly newsletter that summarizes renewable energy activities and opportunities. It also offers technical assistance from Western's Power Line, Energy Services Website, and local energy services representatives.

To subscribe to the newsletter, e-mail Manion at manion@wapa.gov.

