



March 16, 2009

[Live video, blog on now: Renewable Energy Roundtable](#)

Discussions among stakeholders in the energy system have been going on for more than a year in earnest. Now the public is invited to join the conversation during "Plugging into the Future," a roundtable discussion on Florida's emerging renewable-energy market.

The questions to be answered are: What should Florida do to create a robust renewable energy market? How much renewable energy is it possible to generate from solar, biomass and wind sources in Florida? How fast can it be produced? What are the costs? Who benefits?

These are the same questions being posed to a diverse panel of experts during the public roundtable to be held 6-7:30 p.m. Monday in the Tallahassee Community College Business Center located beneath the Mary Brogan Museum, 350 S. Duval St.

<http://tallahassee.com/section/news02>">Tallahassee.com/energy will have live, streaming video of the panel discussion and will take questions live over the Internet. Tallahassee Democrat Managing Editor Africa Price, the moderator, will take questions and turn to panelists for answers.

You can also check out stories, blogs, a forum and green events on that page.

The panelists include Sen. Lee Constantine; Rep. Paige Kreegel; Rep. Debbie Mayfield; Dr. Julie Harrington, director of the FSU Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis; Robert Scheffel Wright, an attorney specializing in utility and energy law; Cecillia Aguillon, director of market development and government relations for Kyocera Solar Inc; Eric Silagy, vice president for Florida Power & Light; and Susan Glickman of the Renewable Energy Alliance (REAL).



March 16, 2009

Panelists discuss Florida's renewable energy future

*By Dave Hodges
Democrat Business Editor*

Florida's renewable energy future was the topic Monday night at "Plugging Into the Future," a panel discussion at the Brogan Museum of Art and Science that was streamed live on Tallahassee.com.

The event was sponsored by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and the Tallahassee Democrat.

"I look at it from the standpoint of energy independence and security for Florida. I also look at it to be a very important economic driver for our state," said panelist Rep. Debbie Mayfield, R-Vero Beach, of

the role renewable energy could have in the state's future.

Florida's goal of producing 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 will require 14 gigawatts of power output to meet the objective, said economist Julie Harrington, director of Florida State University's Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis.

"In terms of benefits, it's important to note that energy purchases that go outside the state in terms of importing for oil are a loss of dollars," Harrington said. "Every time that we can keep those dollars in the state and generate dollars here, that's a benefit for the state."

Citing recent studies, Harrington told the gathering that top jobs in renewable energy will range from solar systems installers, wind turbine technicians and biodiesel production specialists to electrical engineers and construction personnel needed to build facilities.

For example, as many as 140 construction jobs will be required for every 100 megawatts of production capacity built.

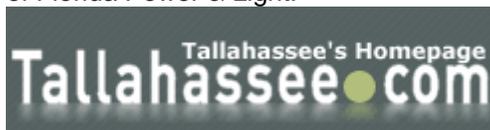
Attorney Robert Scheffel Wright, who represents the Florida Retail Federation and various biomass and solar energy development companies, said the impact of renewable energy will be widespread.

"At a very personal level, energy touches everybody in Florida in meaningful, very very real ways," he told the gathering. The average state resident pays \$150 to \$180 a month for power, based on 1200 kilowatt hours consumed.

Renewable energy, implemented properly, will provide more stable electric bills. Wright noted that Florida imports 96 to 97 percent of the power-generating fuel used in the state to make electricity. It's not all from overseas, but it must be brought in nonetheless "Every kilowatt hour that we displace by renewable energy or efficiency in Florida is a kilowatt hour of fuel that we don't have to import into Florida."

Moderators for the 90-minute program were Tallahassee Democrat Managing Editor Africa Price and George Cavros of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

Other panelists included state Sen. Lee Constantine; Cecilia Aguillon, director of market development for Kyocera Solar; Susan Glickman of the Renewable Energy Alliance; and Eric Silgay, vice president of Florida Power & Light.



March 15, 2009

'Plugging into the Future' opens discussion on renewable energy

*By John Wark
special to the democrat*

Florida appears on the verge of reinventing its electric power system with potentially far-reaching consequences for utilities, homeowners, businesses, the state economy and even national security.

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earnest. Now the public is invited to join the conversation during "Plugging into the Future," a roundtable discussion on Florida's emerging renewable-energy market.

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The *Tallahassee Democrat* and the Renewable Energy Alliance, a group made up of renewable energy companies, clean energy advocates and nonprofit environmental groups are sponsoring the roundtable.

heyjack wrote:

Comments:

Regarding cellulosic ethanol, Verenium has touted itself as a leader its development from canes, grasses, wood chips, & other biomass sources.

Verenium, owned by Vinod Khosla, owner of Sun Microsystems, was given a \$7M grant by Florida's Ag Commissioner. After having also been funded \$112.5M by BP, Verenium announced to the SEC March 16 that independent accountants hired by the firm have raised "substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern." Company stock was selling for 30 cents today.

Mixing CE with gasoline causes mpg to decrease 4 to 5 mpg. CE takes 5 gallons of water per gallon to produce, and we in FL don't have water to waste.

Verenium is proving that CE from wood chips will be a failure; it cannot be transported by pipeline as it absorbs moisture from the air & causes problems in auto engines.

Florida shouldn't sink more taxpayer money into failing CE ventures, & CE shouldn't be included the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

I think it is time to break up the monopolies and "good old boy" networks in the state of Florida and then we will have a market.

<http://www.solarglobalgreen.com>



beyondgreen wrote:

There could be no better investment in America than to invest in America becoming energy independent! We need to utilize everything in our power to reduce our dependence on foreign oil including using our own natural resources. Create cheap clean energy, new badly needed green jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The high cost of fuel this past year seriously damaged our economy and society. The cost of fuel affects every facet of consumer goods from production to shipping costs. After a brief reprieve gas is inching back up. OPEC will continue to cut production until they achieve their desired 80-100. per barrel. If all gasoline cars, trucks, and SUV's instead had plug-in electric drive trains the amount of electricity needed to replace gasoline is about equal to the estimated wind energy potential of the state of North Dakota

3/16/2009 5:27:41 PM

beyondgreen wrote:

We have so much available to us such as wind and solar. Let's spend some of those bail out billions and get busy harnessing this energy. Create cheap clean energy, badly needed new jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. What a win-win situation that would be for our nation at large! There is a really good new book out by Jeff Wilson called The Manhattan Project of 2009 Energy Independence Now. <http://www.themanhattanprojectof2009.com>



Havanaberry wrote:

I visited the World Fair in 1964 to see the new Fuel Cell that was going to revolutionize our energy needs, powered by LP & Natural gas, 20 years later when I wondered what happened to it, I found it being used in our Space Program, and never released to our general public. I think we are doing good with our renewable energy programs available today, but I think we are overlooking some areas that need to be pursued. Years ago we dammed up our rivers for reservoirs to convert water power to energy, then coal, natural gas, & nuclear. Today we have a flow that we didn't have 50 years ago. It is the flow of vehicle traffic, to and from our cities everyday. I am talking about secondary means of electricity to our existing system, sure we need more power plants that take years to build, but capturing from several sources will sustain our current needs and should not be that complicated. We our government owns our highways and the private sector own our power plants.

3/16/2009 9:58:27 AM

jiles wrote:

President Obama has proposed a carbon cap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and invest \$150 billion over the next ten years to spur private development of clean energy technology. He wants to set a national renewable energy standard of 25 percent by 2025 and weatherize one million homes each year. This plan would create up to five million new jobs. Within 10 years, it would save more oil than we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela combined. Consumers will save on their energy bills thanks to more efficient homes, appliances, and vehicles.

Weatherization in Florida - sounds like a real opportunity that all Tallahasseeans should take advantage of. This meeting should be useful for finding out more about green jobs and renewable energy.

3/16/2009 9:27:03 AM

Plugging Into The Future



DAVE HODGES/Democrat

TALLAHASSEE.COM

- Replay the interactive blog from the roundtable.
- Read blogs and stories about renewable energy.
- Discuss renewable energy in our forum and check out green events.

Julie Harrington, right, director of the Florida State University Center for Economic Forecasting & Analysis, responds to a question from the audience Monday night at "Plugging Into the Future," a panel discussion on renewable energy's role in Florida's future. Also pictured are fellow panelists Cecilia Aguillon, director of market development for Kyocera Solar, and attorney Robert Scheffel Wright.