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Energy education program aims to KEEP teaching energy efficiency
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) to sponsor
Educator Tent at Renewable Energy Fair -

Stevens Point – This year’s Midwest Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair (MREA) is being held June 17-19 in Custer. For the last two years, the Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) has been at the fair and sponsored the Educator Tent – where many graduate level courses, educator sessions, presentations, and displays are provided specifically for K-12 educators.

Since its inception in 1995, KEEP has provided elementary and secondary education teachers a one-stop shop for energy activities in the classroom. The program aims to provide in-service opportunities to Wisconsin’s K-12 educators and by working through UW-Extension at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point delivers an average of 22 courses per year. According to Jennie Lane, KEEP director, program participants learn or review fundamental energy concepts, increase awareness of energy issues both locally and globally, gain hands-on experience in energy education, and develop strategies for integrating energy concepts into the curriculum.

At the 2005 MREA fair Educator Tent, the first 200 teachers to visit will receive a solar sack, a lunch-size bag made out of natural, organic material. The sacks were sewn together at a Stevens Point home that uses 5 solar panels for electricity. These solar sacks will be filled with energy and energy efficiency related items that the educators can take back with them and introduce to their students.

About the MREA Fair

With over 15,000 people expected to attend and 150 workshops scheduled, the MREA fair is the world’s largest venue for learning about energy efficiency, sustainable living and renewable energy. For more information on the Fair, visit www.the-mrea.org.

About KEEP

Support for KEEP comes primarily from Focus on Energy, a public private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin, and the WCEE through the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. For more information on KEEP, visit www.uwsp.edu/keep.