

# KEEP On Going

Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program Newsletter

SPRING 2010 | VOL. 11 NO 1

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## Wisconsin Schools Develop Energy Policy and Education Plans

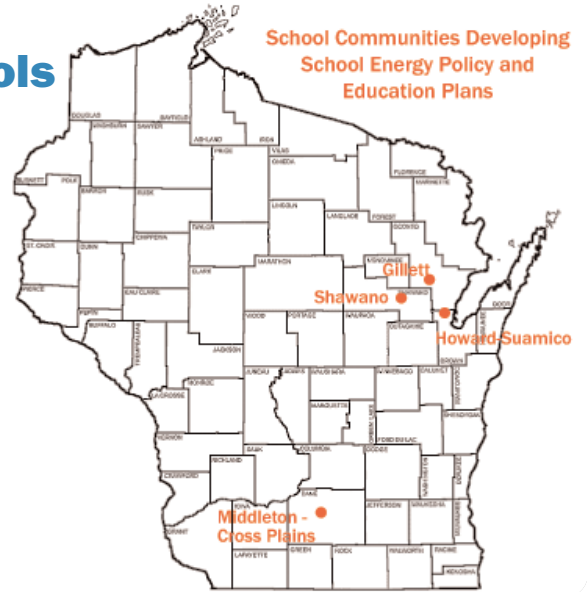
Four Wisconsin school communities will spend the next year developing a School Energy Policy and Education Plan with the assistance of grant funding through KEEP. KEEP is located at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP) and aims to improve and increase energy literacy in Wisconsin’s K-12

schools through teacher education. The School Energy Policy and Education Plans will provide guidelines on how energy should be used wisely to save school districts money and resources. The plan will also outline how energy education should be integrated into school or district-wide curriculum to improve the energy literacy of students.

“With America’s schools spending over \$6 billion annually on energy, now is the time to evaluate energy use in schools and create policies that will not only reduce energy consumption, but save school districts money when operating budgets are only getting smaller,” said Charlie Schneider, Sector Manager for the Focus on Energy Schools and Local Government Program. The School Energy Policy and Education Plans being developed will allow schools to prioritize their energy needs and identify areas where energy savings could be realized.

“Facility personnel are not the only people in a school building that can influence a school’s energy consumption; every building occupant should be aware of the energy he or she uses and manage that energy wisely,” said Melissa Rickert, School Energy Education Specialist for KEEP. The School Energy Policy and Education Plan will identify how basic energy concepts can be integrated into classroom curriculum so that students can make informed decisions regarding their energy use. The plan will also address how to improve the energy

School Communities Developing School Energy Policy and Education Plans



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## KEEP Staff Corner

Happy Spring everyone:

We hope you enjoy this second publication of the online version of our newsletter. There are many benefits to using this paperless version besides saving costs and paper; we especially like being able to include live links and color graphics that better inform and illustrate our news and updates.

With each newsletter, we provide some updates about KEEP and its staff. This edition, we are happy to announce that we have hired a program assistant, Beth Beimel, who will work with Carrie Ziolkowski, Program Coordinator, to administer the *Bright Idea* Fundraiser. Beth is a UW-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Education and Interpretation. Kelly Smith, the student who has worked with Carrie on the *Bright Idea* Fundraiser for several semesters, will be student teaching in Amherst this spring and graduating soon after; we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors! We know Kelly will continue to work with KEEP as she starts her career as a Family Consumer Science teacher.

Carrie will be shifting half of her time to work with the community of Brillion to involve teachers and their students in service learning projects that support the iCanConserve project (a collaborative effort of Wisconsin Public Service, the Citizen Utility Board, and Focus on Energy:

[www.icanconserve.com/Brillion/default.aspx](http://www.icanconserve.com/Brillion/default.aspx)).

This newsletter highlights some opportunities and events that may be of interest to many of you. It includes information about applying to host a Pedal Power unit for two years, earning graduate credit while attending the Energy Fair, and applying for funds for grants through WEEB and KEEP. Applications for Energy Educator of the Year are due February 22, 2010. We look forward to hearing from many of you!

We will continue to provide you with updates through our electronic bulletin and our Web site and welcome any ideas and suggestions you have for future programming of KEEP (see the article KEEPtacular News on page 4 to learn how we are already gathering ideas).

## KEEP Staff

**Jennie Lane**  
 Director

**Beth Beimel**  
 Program Assistant

**Jamie Mollica**  
 Program Specialist

**Melissa Rickert**  
 School Energy Education Specialist

**Sara Windjue**  
 Energy Education Specialist

**Carrie Bea Ziolkowski**  
 Program Coordinator

## 2009 KEEP Advisory Committee Participants

**Randy Champeau (chair)**  
 Director, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

**Julie Fitzgerald**  
 Fond du Lac School District

**Lisa Fox**  
 Manager, Cross Sector Initiatives  
 Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp.

**Sarah Glibert**  
 LEAF, WI K-12 Forestry Education Program

**Jacquelyn Haas**  
 Education Outreach, We Energies

**Jim Jensen**  
 Community Education Coordinator  
 Madison Gas & Electric

**Don Keck**  
 CESA 10, Focus on Energy

**Brent Kindred**  
 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

**Sara Krauskopf**  
 Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center

**Tehri Parker**  
 Executive Director, Midwest Renewable Energy Association

**Sara Van de Grift**  
 WECC, Focus on Energy

**Ken Walz**  
 Madison Area Technical College

**Kelly Zagrzebski**  
 Public Affairs  
 Wisconsin Public Service

## 2010 Energy Educator of the Year Awards – Call for Nominations

KEEP is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2010 Energy Educator of the Year Awards. This award recognizes one formal educator and one nonformal educator who take the extra step to improve energy literacy in Wisconsin. Nominating someone or yourself involves completing an entry form and submitting a one page narrative that details the nominee's energy education initiatives and outcomes. If this is a self-nomination, we also require a letter of reference. The nomination form can be found on the KEEP Web site, [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep).

Both Formal and Non-Formal Energy Educator of the Year Award recipients will be awarded \$1,000 and additional resources (worth up to \$250) to be used to further their energy education efforts. The due date for nomination form and narrative is February 22, 2010.

For questions regarding the 2010 Energy Educator of the Year Awards Program, please contact Carrie Ziolkowski at 715.346.4651 or email [cziolkow@uwsp.edu](mailto:cziolkow@uwsp.edu).



## World's Largest Energy Fair Right Here in Wisconsin

Have you attended the annual Energy Fair in Custer, Wisconsin yet? Consider joining us on June 18-20, 2010 for a wonderful professional development and networking event. KEEP will be hosting the Educator Workshops and Resources Tents where you have the opportunity to win hands-on materials and learn about the most up-to-date ways to integrate energy concepts into your classroom!

KEEP will also be offering the following 16-hour graduate courses at the Fair:

### **NRES 610-Exploring Renewable Energy**

This course provides K-12 teachers with a unique opportunity to network with other teachers and learn more about renewable energy technologies and applications and receive hands-on activities, project ideas, and information on renewable technologies.

### **NRES 731-Exploring Energy Technologies** (for Technology Education Teachers only)

This course will focus on introducing educators to the technologies of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Through informative sessions from energy experts and a remarkable tour of local renewable homes, teachers will gain vital background knowledge to integrate energy concepts into classroom activities. Networking opportunities will connect participants to leaders in energy efficient building methods, domestic renewable energy techniques, and alternative transportation and fuels.

To learn more about these courses and to download a registration form, visit [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/ProfessionalDevelopment/#Fair](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/ProfessionalDevelopment/#Fair).

### **Would you like to share a project or activity with other educators at the Fair?**

If you have an activity or project that you would like to share with other educators who attend the Fair, we invite you to submit a session proposal for the Educator Workshop Tent. We encourage you to share your successes with your peers and challenge them to integrate energy education into their curriculum. To be considered for a 50-minute session, download the proposal form at [www.uwsp.edu/keep/Renewable\\_Energy\\_Education/EnergyFair/educatortent\\_workshopproposal2010.doc](http://www.uwsp.edu/keep/Renewable_Energy_Education/EnergyFair/educatortent_workshopproposal2010.doc).

### **Ranbow's End - Childrens' Tent**

If you are interested in leading a children's workshops during the Energy Fair in the Rainbows End Tent, you can download a proposal at the MREA Web site: [www.the-mrea.org/](http://www.the-mrea.org/). You can create your own workshop or choose from a variety of standard formats and activities. This is a tremendous opportunity to educate future generations about renewable energy (and free entrance into the fair!). For more information, please contact Abbie Enlund at [aenlund@uwsp.edu](mailto:aenlund@uwsp.edu).



UWSP Continuing Education (UWSPCE) is a branch of UW-Extension (UWEX) based on the UW-Stevens Point campus. This unit facilitates professional development, credit classes, certificate programs, degree completion programs, summer camps, non-credit workshops & seminars, technical training, conference planning services, contract training, business consulting, customized training and an array of learning options for youth, working adults and special audiences.

KEEP courses are offered through UWSPCE. They have helped KEEP reach over 4,500 teachers, therefore they are featured in this edition of our newsletter's "In the Spotlight."

The Vision and Mission statements for UWSPCE (see below) are complementary to the goals and objectives of Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) programs:  
**Vision Statement:** We promote lifelong learning by providing a variety of innovative, educational programs and activities that focus on professional development and personal enrichment for learners of all ages.

**Mission Statement:** We connect learners of all ages with the resources of the University, meeting the needs of clients and community, through innovative solutions and quality practices and programs.

To carry out its Mission and Vision and to help each college at UWSP realize its outreach desires, there is a CE team assigned to each college. The College of Natural Resources (CNR) CE team is: Tim Byers, Program Manager, Jessica Tomaszewski, Outreach Specialist, and

Sheila Bannister-Gross, Credit Coordinator. Tim and Jessica are based in the WCEE in the CNR while Sheila is based in Old Main. Each person plays a role in the development, scheduling, logistics, and fulfillment of courses.

As Program Manager, Tim Byers is responsible for the overall operations of Continuing Education with the WCEE and CNR. His primary program responsibility is to the MS in Environmental Education for K-12 Teachers, but he provides setup, instruction agreements, fiscal disbursements, summary reconciliations, and online course advice for all programs.

As Outreach Specialist, Jessica Tomaszewski is responsible for daily interaction with all programs. In this capacity she handles registrations, invoicing to appropriate programs, fiscal records, database coordination, registration trouble-shooting, communications about grade reports, facility reservations, general logistical coordination, and marketing material distribution. Beyond the KEEP staff, Jessica is the next person in line to handle any of your KEEP course questions.

As Credit Coordinator, Sheila Bannister-Gross is the ultimate problem-solver and interface with campus units such as Registration and Records, Student Billing, and Information Technology. Sheila is the last stop in the process and completes registration processing and grade reporting after a given semester is completed. Her wide experience with CE people and problems has headed off more than one crisis.

"KEEPtacular" is the word KEEP uses when referring to teachers who have participated in three or more KEEP courses. KEEPtacular teachers have demonstrated their value for energy education, and KEEP wants to continue to provide them with opportunities to teach about energy in their classrooms. To date, there are 186 teachers in Wisconsin who are considered KEEPtacular.

KEEP met with ten KEEPtacular teachers during the WEAC Convention in Milwaukee for a one-hour session to discuss these five questions:

- How have KEEP courses helped you in the classroom?
- How can KEEP continue to help you professionally?
- What could KEEP do more of to promote energy education statewide?
- Should KEEPtacular teachers be recognized, and if so, how?
- How can KEEPtacular teachers help to promote energy education?

We received great feedback from the participants, and we plan to implement many of the suggestions. If you are a KEEPtacular teacher who wasn't able to attend the meeting, but would like to provide some feedback, email your comments to Jamie Mollica at [jmollica@uwsp.edu](mailto:jmollica@uwsp.edu).

KEEPtacular teachers are given special opportunities to participate in unique events. For example, each teacher who participated in this meeting received a Kill-a-Watt Meter and a \$75 gift certificate to Solar World to thank them for their contributions and help them continue teaching about energy in their classrooms. In addition to that, five lucky KEEPtacular teachers will be traveling to Taiwan this summer at a significantly reduced cost for an eight day energy education teacher exchange program. So, if you are a KEEPtacular teacher, be on the lookout for opportunities just for you!

## Wisconsin Schools Develop Energy Policy and Education Plans Cont'd.

literacy of staff, administrators, and community members so they can also take responsibility for the energy they use at school.

The resources and support to develop the School Energy Policy and Education Plans, including grant funding for the four school communities, comes from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide resource for energy efficiency and renewable energy. A portion of these funds are administered through the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board. KEEP will work with the school communities as they go through the plan development process.

The plans developed by these four school communities will be shared with other districts around the state to help them develop their School Energy Policy and Education Plans. For more information, contact Melissa Rickert at [mrickett@uwsp.edu](mailto:mrickett@uwsp.edu) or 715.346.4320.



## Woody Biomass Energy Education Opportunity

Biomass fuels are a local, renewable resource for providing reliable heat. Biomass is any biological material that can be used as fuel—including wood, grass, corn, biogas, and other forestry and agricultural residues. Today, woodchips and wood pellets are the most common biomass fuel, but switchgrass and other agricultural crops are likely fuel sources in the Midwest. Not only is biomass often less expensive than fossil fuels, its use keeps energy dollars circulating within the local economy and can improve overall forest health. Wisconsin has a very large, renewable supply of wood, wood residue, and other renewable sources available for use as biomass energy. Today, the state has more than 200 commercial and/or industrial-scale heating and/or combined heat and power (CHP) biomass projects (i.e., restaurants, cheese plants, paper mills) including 11 schools.

To help highlight the learning opportunities provided through biomass projects, KEEP is partnering with the Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program called LEAF ([www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf)) to pilot a graduate credit course for teachers. This course will provide background information, activities, and additional resources to help teachers use woody biomass as a relevant learning opportunity for their students. The course is tentatively scheduled to take place in the Crandon area on Friday, April 16, 2010 after school (two hours) and all day Saturday April 17, 2010. For information about the course, please contact Sarah Gilbert at [sgilbert@uwsp.edu](mailto:sgilbert@uwsp.edu).

Another purpose of the course is to help teachers become aware of the Wisconsin Fuels for Schools and Communities initiative. Fuels for Schools ([www.focusonenergy.com/renewable/biomass/fuels.aspx](http://www.focusonenergy.com/renewable/biomass/fuels.aspx)) is a program aimed at helping convert schools or community buildings from the use of fossil fuels to biomass energy. Its mission is to promote and encourage the use of a renewable, local natural resource to provide reliable heat for Wisconsin schools and communities. Fuels for Schools is a program through Focus on Energy, and is managed by the Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC), a national nonprofit organization, that develops the use of sustainable biomass resources for economic and environmental benefit. The program provides schools and communities with the information and support needed to evaluate and successfully implement woodchip and other biomass heating systems that replace expensive fossil fuels with locally produced biomass fuels.

If you or your school wants to learn more about the Wisconsin Fuels for Schools and Community program, please have your administrator or facility manager contact Pamela A. Porter, Midwest Office Director, Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC), Madison, Wisconsin, 608.241.8640; [paporter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paporter@sbcglobal.net). Schools can apply for a free pre-feasibility study and there are cost-sharing options for eligible schools.



## Wisconsin No Child Left Inside and Energy Literacy

The Wisconsin No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Coalition is working to develop an Environmental Literacy Plan for Wisconsin that will address the environmental education needs of Wisconsin's pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools and will pay special attention to creating more opportunities to get kids outside. The Plan will recommend a comprehensive strategy to ensure every child graduates with the environmental skills and knowledge needed to contribute to a sustainable future. Please visit this link to learn more about Wisconsin's progress on this initiative or to sign up for the [EEinWisconsin](#) newsletter to receive regular updates.

Currently, the Wisconsin NCLI Coalition is made up of representatives from: the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE), Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Milwaukee Public Schools, and the Wisconsin Environmental Science Teachers Network. State Superintendent Evers has formally asked the Coalition to develop the Environmental Literacy Plan for Wisconsin. KEEP director, Jennie Lane, is a representative from the WCEE on the coalition and will ensure energy-related concepts and skills are included in the plan.

Wisconsin's Environmental Literacy Plan will be compliant with the pending national NCLI legislation. The No Child Left Inside Act requires States to develop, implement, and evaluate a State Environmental Literacy Plan in order to be eligible to receive funding associated with the Act. Currently, the bill suggests an appropriation of \$100 million to support the State Environmental Literacy Plans. You can learn more about the national NCLI Act and its various provisions and requirements here: [www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=948](http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=948).

## Spring Fundraisers - Sign up Today!

KEEP collaborates with the ENERGY STAR® Program at Focus on Energy to help support our *Bright Idea* Fundraiser. Students sell thousands of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to friends, family, and community members. Their customers save energy and money by installing compact fluorescent light bulbs in their homes and students earn \$2 for every CFL they sell. Energy efficient bulbs help reduce air pollution emissions from power plants; therefore, the fundraiser also helps the environment.

For the 2009/2010 school year KEEP is excited to be offering four products for students to sell this year: 13 watt (60 watt equivalent), 20 watt (75 watt equivalent), and 23 watt (100 watt equivalent) bulbs are all sold for \$3.25, students earn \$2 per bulb sold; a 3-way CFL is sold for \$6.25 and students earn \$2 per bulb sold.

Visit the [Bright Idea Fundraiser](#) Web site. Read through the guidelines to learn more about how to run this fundraiser. Be advised that if you would like to participate in the spring, you must turn in your order by April 1, 2010 in order to have your CFLs before the end of the school year.

# Pedal Power Host - Application Process



Become a Pedal Power Host and help others in your community gain “legs-on” experiences in energy efficiency! KEEP has Pedal Power units to lend to three lucky schools/organizations. Our goal is to improve access to and use of Pedal Power units throughout Wisconsin.

In this program, KEEP lends a Pedal Power unit to your school or education site for two academic years. During those two years, you use the Pedal Power unit in your classroom or educational setting and also agree to sublet the unit out to other educators.

Pedal Power is a tool you can use in your classroom to teach about energy production, use, and conservation. Students ride a stationary bike to power a generator, which in turn powers incandescent, compact fluorescent (CFLs), and light emitting diode (LED) light bulbs, a hair dryer, radio, and a fan. This experience will teach students how much energy it takes to power these common electrical conveniences we use every day and how important it is to turn them off when not in use. There is also a photovoltaic (PV) panel that can be used instead of the generator to demonstrate renewable energy capabilities.

## Eligibility:

- Educators who work with K-12 students and/or community members in Wisconsin. Schools, nature centers, and museums are encouraged to apply.
- Only one entry per school or organization allowed. Educators may work in teams and submit a single entry.

## Pedal Power Host Receives:

- 1) One Pedal Power unit, which consists of the following items valued at over \$4,000:
  - a. bike stand with generator (host will need to provide the bike)
  - b. free-standing display board with carrying case
  - c. bag with light bulbs, hair dryer, radio, and fan
  - d. binder full of lessons and activities
- 2) One free workshop on Pedal Power training and implementation
- 3) Recognition on KEEP's Web site as a Pedal Power Host

## Application Guidelines & Criteria:

If you are interested in hosting Pedal Power, submit your contact information, the site where the unit will be located, and a “Pedal Power Implementation and Outreach Plan” (3 page limit) to KEEP. The plan should highlight your strategy to accomplish the following:

- Integrate Pedal Power unit into learning programs during the 2010-11 & 2011-12 academic years
- Use the unit to raise student and community awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency during the 2010-11 & 2011-12 academic years
- Ability and willingness to lend the unit out to at least six other educators over the next two years (at least three per year)
- Assess the effectiveness of your efforts and report outcomes to KEEP

## Additional Requirements:

- Hosts will be required to attend a 6-hour training session in Stevens Point in mid-late August 2010.
- Hosts will write a one-page 12-month progress report (due in September 2011) and a one-page 22-month final report (due in July 2012).

## Application Deadline:

May 7, 2010 (applications must be postmarked by this date). Please send applications to: KEEP Pedal Power Host Project, 403 LRC, UWSP, 900 Reserve St., Stevens Point, WI 54481.

## Selection Process:

KEEP will select three Pedal Power Hosts based on the thoroughness of the “Pedal Power Implementation and Outreach Plan.” Pedal Power Hosts will be notified by May 21, 2010.

## Questions:

Contact Carrie Ziolkowski at 715.346.4651 or [czioolkow@uwsp.edu](mailto:czioolkow@uwsp.edu)

## WEEB Grants Call for Proposals

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is seeking proposals for the 2010-2011 grant cycle. The Board anticipates awarding \$115,000 for general environmental education grants, \$190,000 for forestry grants, and \$190,000 for school forest grants.

Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents (any age) and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, nonstock) are eligible for WEEB grants.

Initiated in 1990, WEEB's mission is to "provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, work places, and communities."

Proposals are due February 13, 2010. For an application packet or more information about the program see the Board's website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb) or contact Ginny Carlton, Administrative Specialist, at 715.346.3805, email: [weeb@uwsp.edu](mailto:weeb@uwsp.edu)



## Calendar of Events

Look for **KEEP** at some of the following events.

### January

- 11 - 13:** New Wisconsin Promise Conference in Madison
- 20 - 22:** State Education Convention in Milwaukee
- 25 - 27:** Careers Conference in Madison
- 29 - 31:** WAEE Winter Workshop in Stevens Point
- 25, 27, Feb 1, 3:** KEEP NRES 732 course in Fennimore
- 29 - 31:** WAEE Winter Workshop in Stevens Point

### February

- 12:** Green & Healthy School Program Workshop in Madison
- 13:** WEEB grant applications due
- 22:** Energy Educator of the Year Award nominations due to the KEEP office

### March

- 3 - 5:** Better Buildings: Better Business Conference in Wisconsin Dells
- 4 & 5:** Wisconsin Technology Education Association Conference in Wisconsin Dells
- 5:** Central Wisconsin Education Association Convention in Schofield
- 12:** Northeastern Wisconsin Education Association Convention in Green Bay
- 15 & 16:** WI Council for the Social Studies Conference in Madison
- 24 - 27:** Green Energy Summit in Milwaukee

### April

- 15 - 17:** WI Society for Science Teachers Conference in Milwaukee
- 23:** KEEP Energy Awards Ceremony in Madison
- 30:** Energy Resource grant applications due to the KEEP office (coming soon)
- 30:** School Energy Policy and Education Plan grant applications due to the KEEP office (coming soon)

### May

- 25 - 29:** WASBO Spring Conference in Wisconsin Dells

### June

- 18 - 20:** Energy Fair in Custer
- 28 - July 1:** Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Conference in Middleton