

Energy Fair

Scrapbook '02

Richard Perez

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People's energy fairs really began in the summer of 1990 with two fairs—the Solar Energy Expo & Rally (SEER) in Willits, California, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair (MREF) in Amherst, Wisconsin. This year, just twelve years later, dozens of renewable energy fairs were happening nationwide.

There were so many energy fairs that *Home Power* was hard put to send a crew to even a small fraction of them.

The simple concept of energy fairs for regular people, instead of just industry insiders, has really caught on. Folks everywhere are attending with a hunger for knowledge, networking, and equipment. If you're organizing an RE fair for 2003, please send complete information to happs@homepower.com so we can publicize your event in our Happenings section and on our Web site.

Here's our scrapbook of some of this year's fairs. If you didn't attend at least one energy fair this summer, you missed out on something very special. These events are well worth planning your summer around. Please see the end of this article for a list of energy fairs, their features, dates, and access information.



Our energy future—nuclear or solar?
The IREA fair is changing the world, one mind at a time.



Kids playing in front of a PV trailer.
There's lots of activities for kids at the Illinois fair.

Iowa State University's solar challenger drew a lot of curious onlookers at this year's fair.



Knowledge is power! The I-RENEW fair offered 66 free workshops—like this one on home energy efficiency.



The Brooks Solar display at the NW RE Festival on the campus of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington.



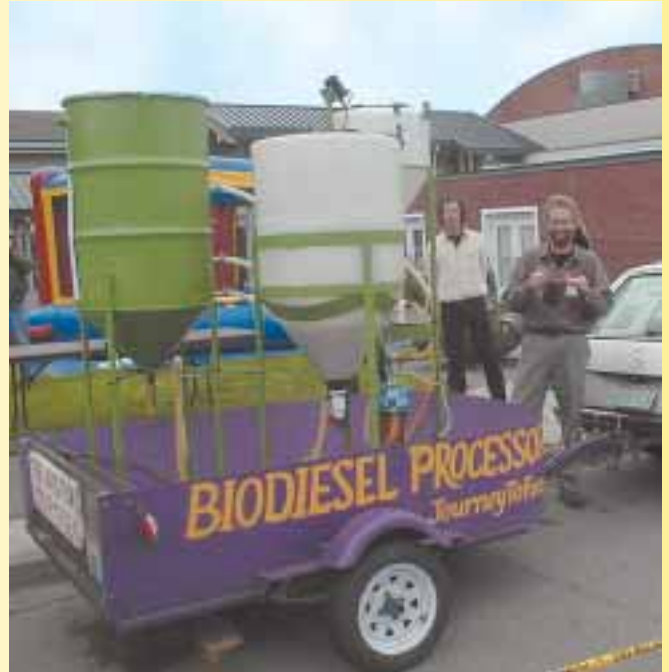
Thirty exhibitors shared information and featured renewable energy equipment at the fair.

Shown here are four of Outback Power's FX inverters, their AC and DC boxes, and their MX-60 charge controller.





Saving energy saves everything—
like money, resources, and our environment.



Teaching another way—Scott Durkee and Mike Pelley with Mike's mobile biodiesel processor. Their biodiesel workshop in Washington state focused on how to make this veggie fuel from waste oil.

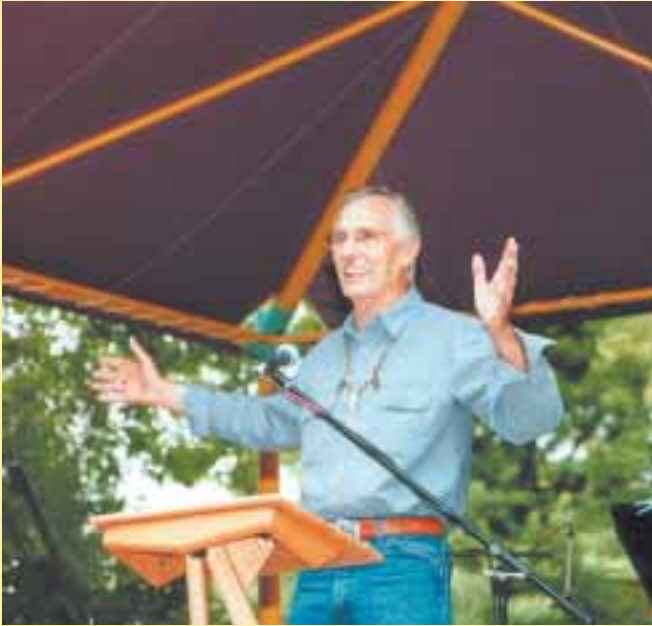
Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair



Left: Nature exhibited its awesome force at this year's fair in Custer, Wisconsin. Workshops continued under the tents despite the rain, thunder, and lightning. The MREA's rain gauge crested over the 12 inch mark. Then the sun returned for a sunny Saturday and Sunday.

Below: A bird's eye view from the top of the MREA's wind generator tower on Thursday before the fair. This year's fair hosted 100 workshops and 150 exhibitors, live music, and activities for the kids.





Top: Guest speaker Dennis Weaver addresses the crowd at the 3rd annual Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair.

Right: Carol Weis (left) from Solar Energy International educates a group of fairgoers on how a photovoltaic module of digital multimeter work.



Solar Fiesta!



Above: Smitty from AAA Solar putts through the crowd at this year's New Mexico Solar Fiesta fair.

Right: Daniel Love from Advanced Communications schooled the crowd on using cell phones in the outback.





Leading by example—New England's SolarFest fair is an off-grid event



While the solar powered stages rocked, kinetic sculptures like this one rocked to the beat.



Author Paul Hawken inspires a lively, northern California crowd.



The Kidlandia solar stage featured kid's workshops and entertainment.



Kids at the SolWest energy fair in John Day, Oregon had the opportunity to build their own pizza box solar cooker.



The Grass Car—promoting a more sustainable future by spreading the greasy word about biodiesel.




Scott Carlson—selling solar in southern California.



Rick Cullen of RV Power Products scopes an EV.



**Southern California
Renewable Energy Expo**


The Southwest Renewable Energy Fair

Solar Energy International—turning people in Arizona onto renewable energy through hands-on education.



Chris Worcester of Solar Wind Works explaining the fundamentals of downwind, wind generators.



Electric vehicles, big and small, were really popular at the Texas RoundUp.



Over 90 exhibitors, including Meridian Solar, were at the fair

2003 Renewable Energy Fair Info*

<i>Fair</i>	<i>Area Served</i>	<i>Dates '03</i>	<i>Fair Site</i>	<i>Fair Features</i>	<i>Cost / Day (US\$)</i>
Illinois Renewable Energy Fair	Illinois	Aug. 9–10	Ogle County Fairgrounds, Oregon, IL	80 workshops, 100 exhibitors, keynote speakers, music, electric vehicles	\$5 Ages 13–16, \$3 Under 12, free
Iowa Renewable Energy Expo	Iowa	Sep. 6–7	Prairiewoods Franciscan Ctr., Hiawatha, IA	66 workshops, 60 exhibitors, Electrathon, tours, camping, keynote speakers	Free Donations welcome
Northwest Renewable Energy Festival	Northwest	Sep. 19–21	Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA	25 workshops, 30 exhibitors, tours, keynote speakers, student activities, kids' zone	Can of food (for local food bank)
Olympic Energy Expo	Northwest WA	Oct. 12–13 (tentative)	Vern Burton Comm. Center, Port Angeles, WA	21 workshops, 35 exhibitors, speakers, kids' activities, EVs, building technologies	\$3 Under 15, free
Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair	International	Jun. 20–22	MREA grounds, Custer, WI	100 workshops, 150 exhibitors, keynote speaker, headliner & local music, kids' activities	\$8, \$20 all days, Jr. & Sr., \$5 Children, free
Rocky Mountains Sustainable Living Fair	Colorado	Sep. 13–14	Lincoln Center, Fort Collins, CO	25 workshops, 100 exhibitors, live music, kids' stuff, beer garden	\$8, \$12 weekend Students & Sr., \$5 Under 7, free
Solar Fiesta	New Mexico	Sep. 27–28 (tentative)	Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM	31 workshops, 41 exhibitors, kids activities, solar cooking, entertainment, alternative vehicles	\$20, \$35 weekend Exhibits only, \$2
SolarFest	New England	Jul. dates TBA	New site, TBA	25 workshops, 75 exhibitors, music (solar powered stage)	\$40 both days, \$30 in advance
SolFest	Northwest California	Aug. 23–24	Hopland, CA	55 workshops, 115 exhibitors, tours, keynote speakers, music, kids' activities	\$20, \$15 adv. Sr. prices TBA Under 12 free (tentative)
SolWest Renewable Energy Fair	Pacific Northwest & Inland West	Jul. 25–27	Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, OR	40 workshops, 50 exhibitors, minstrels, camping, Brookside Lunartics	\$5, \$10 two days, Jr., \$2; Sr., \$4 Under 12 free
Southern California RE Expo	Southern California	Aug. 16–17 (2nd day tentative)	LA County Fairgrounds, Pomona, CA	25 workshops, 100 exhibitors, solar powered music, EVs	\$6 Under 14, free
Southwest Renewable Energy Fair	Southwest	Aug. 8–10 (tentative)	Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ	36 workshops, 60 exhibitors, keynote speaker, kids' energy fair, SW RE Conf.	Free Parking fees only
Texas Renewable Energy Roundup	Texas	Sep. 26–28	Market Plaza, Fredericksburg, TX	80 workshops, 90 exhibitors, intensive workshops, tours, music	\$5 Under 12 free (tentative)

*Covers fairs mentioned in this article only.

Access

Illinois Renewable Energy Fair, Bob Vogl, 1230 E. Honey Creek Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 • 815-732-7332
sonia@essex1.com • www.illinoisrenew.org

Iowa Renewable Energy Expo, IRENEW, PO Box 355, Muscatine, IA 52761 • 563-875-8772
irenew@irenew.org • www.irenew.org

Northwest Renewable Energy Festival, PO Box 1501, Walla Walla, WA 99362 • 509-525-8479
Fax: 509-525-4163 • info@nwrefest.org
www.nwrefest.org

Olympic Energy Expo, Alternative Technologies Seminars, 1327 Caroline, Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-457-4047 • Fax: 360-417-2880
vangies@olympen.com • www.olympicenergyexpo.com

Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair, Midwest Renewable Energy Assoc., 7558 Deer Rd., Custer, WI 54423 • 715-592-6595 • mreainfo@wi-net.com
www.the-mrea.org

Rocky Mountains Sustainable Living Assoc., 349 N. Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80521 • 970-310-9079
info@sustainablelivingfair.org
www.sustainablelivingfair.org

Solar Fiesta, NMSEA, 1009 Bradbury SE, #28, Albuquerque, NM • 87106 • 888-886-6765 or

505-246-0400 • Fax: 505-246-2251 • info@nmsea.org
www.nmsea.org/Solar_Fiesta

SolarFest, PO Box 1052 Middletown Springs, VT 05757
802-235-2866 • info@solarfest.com
www.SolarFest.com

SolFest, Institute for Solar Living, PO Box 836, Hopland, CA 95449 • 707-744-2017 • karen@rgisl.org
www.solarliving.org

SolWest Renewable Energy Fair, EORenew, PO Box 485, Canyon City, OR 97820 • 541-575-3633
info@solwest.org • www.solwest.org

Southern California RE Expo, Ray Boggs, 888-647-6527 • Fax: 909-877-8982
www.socalenergyexpo.com

Southwest Renewable Energy Fair, Greater Flagstaff Economic Council, 1300 South Milton Road #125, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 • 800-595-7658 • 520-779-7658
Fax: 520-556-0940 • swref@gfec.org
www.gfec.org/swref/

Texas Renewable Energy Roundup, Texas Solar Energy Society, PO Box 16469 Austin, TX 78761
512-345-5446 • Fax: 512-345-6831 • R1346@aol.com
www.renewableenergyroundup.com

