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Renewable Energies Called 'Wave Of Future'

FEBRUARY 01ST 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Renewable Energies Called 'Wave Of Future'

Renewable energy sources are the wave of the future, and now is the time to jump on the bandwagon, according to experts at a conference in Dexter.

The conference, held Tuesday at the Dexter Chamber of Commerce building, was co-hosted by university of Missouri Extension, Stoddard County Industrial Development Authority, and Three Rivers College Center in Dexter.

Speakers for the morning covered a variety of topics that included funding sources and tax credits for purchase and installation of alternative energy sources, and photovoltaics (solar electric panels).

Dr. Van Ayers of UM Extension told the group that renewable energy is “the wave of the future.”

“There are government moneys available,” Ayers stressed, focused on projects that are good for the whole – not for an individual. Ayers told those gathered about government projects and incentives that help to attract business and individuals begin to utilize alternative energy.

Ayers also explained other pathways to funding, including Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) for individuals and rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) for businesses. The latter is for feasibility studies and training for larger businesses. Ayers discussed a number of energy options, including wind turbines and photo panels (known as photovolataics).

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Ayers explained the difference between using renewable energy "on or off the grid." In Missouri, Ameren is required to buy excess power from those that produce electricity from an alternate source.

Both Dr. Wes Payne of Three Rivers College and Julian Steiner of the Stoddard County IDA talked of training opportunities to prepare workers to enter this emerging field. Payne stressed that the college can work to develop a training program to fit a need, as long as there is a need and a network can support such a program.

(Pictured is guest speaker Tyson Vineyard of Stargate Energy of Paducah Kentucky)

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