

Regional producers can make clean energy a profitable new crop

(HELENA, Mont.) - People from Montana and the Pacific Northwest can make energy a profitable new crop by learning about using renewable sources like wind, biofuels and solar at a conference January 20-21, 2005, in Great Falls, Montana, at the Heritage Inn.

Harvesting Clean Energy is a regional event bringing the agriculture and energy industries together to share how to make and profit from clean energy sources. Now in its fifth year, the Harvesting Clean Energy conference will feature experts and farmers with direct experience in successful clean energy projects. Speakers will walk through renewable energy feasibility and economic assessments, technical and financial resources, and finding markets.

The conference is being held in conjunction with the Montana Agricultural & Industrial Exposition (MAGIE), an annual draw for Montana producers for the past two decades.

Registration for farmers, ranchers and other private individuals is \$50 before January 9 and \$95 for professionals and organizations. Registration fees increase after the Jan. 9 deadline. Register online at www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference, or call (360) 943-4241.

Harvesting Clean Energy is organized by the Montana's Office of the Governor and Office of the Secretary of State, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Farmers Union, Montana Grain Growers Association, Montana Farm Bureau, U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, Alternative Energy Resources Organization, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Climate Solutions, the Montana and the Northwest Co-operative Development Centers, and others.

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