



2009 WISCONSIN

Renewable Energy Summit

Renewables, Sustainability, Energy Efficiency,
Social Responsibility, and Green Energy Practices

Solar Electric Energy

Session 14-1

DATE:
Breakout Session 14-1:

Time:
Presenters:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

1:30pm - 3:15pm

Current and projected market demand for solar electric systems – manufacturers and installers

Niels Wolter, Focus on Energy

Wisconsin's solar electric market has been growing at a rate of 80% per year since 2002. Forecasts of falling solar electric system prices and increasing cost of electric suggest that solar power will achieve cost parity with conventional power by 2015 in Wisconsin. Learn where the Wisconsin solar electric market is today and where it maybe in six years and what it means for installers, manufacturers and other solar electric supply chain members.

Solar Electric 101

Clay Sterling, Midwest Renewable Energy Association

Learn about the components that make up a solar electric system, how they work, and the most common applications. Includes the basics of system sizing and siting.

Presenter Biographies:

Niels Wolter

Since 2002, Niels Wolter has been the Solar Electric Program Manger for Wisconsin's Focus on Energy solar electric program. He is also on the board of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and a member of the We Energies Renewable Energy Collaborative. Niels had been active in the energy sector since 1988 working in the oil and gas, energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. He lives and works in solar powered buildings.

Clay Sterling, Education Director, Midwest Renewable Energy Association

Clay has been working for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association since 1999. During that time, he has worked closely with the stakeholders in the organization to develop and market a training program that has grown from just under 200 students per year to serving over 1,900 students each year. The program has experienced a 30-50% growth each year.

Clay has a construction background gained from working in his families plumbing shop and also working 9 years as a commercial electrician on large construction projects. He has a B.S. degree from University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in Resource Management with an emphasis on Environmental Education.

While working for the MREA, he has been involved with several renewable energy installations; in particular, 4 wind installations for the MREA. Clay maintains three of the MREA's wind turbines and one at home.

Clay has lived in an off-grid PV powered home for 8 years.