



## **Colorado Renewable Energy Conference 2004**

America's first-ever statewide clean energy ballot initiative &  
Senator Tim Wirth speech "Why Energy Matters" featured at CRES' premier event

DENVER, Colo., June 2, 2004

The Colorado Renewable Energy Initiative, the first statewide ballot measure of its kind in the United States, calls for the state's largest utilities to generate 10% of their electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar power by 2015. Clean energy advocates throughout Colorado are poised to gather 100,000 signatures to place the issue on November's ballot and take the question directly to voters.

The initiative and speech by Senator Timothy E. Wirth, President of the United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund, are major elements of the Colorado Renewable Energy Conference, (CREC) to be held June 25-27, 2004 at the University of Denver. CREC brings together citizens, students, community leaders, and energy experts for three days of seminars, workshops, exhibits, and social events.

Renewable energy has undisputed public support. In a recent statewide poll conducted by Environment Colorado, 75% of voters surveyed supported the 10% generation standard by 2015. Yet, Colorado's legislature has failed four times to enact similar laws, despite the best efforts of a diverse, bipartisan coalition that includes major utilities, business interests, rural advocates and environmentalists to find a political solution.

Marking its seventh year, the conference will be the state's leading source of education and debate on the new ballot initiative. CREC 2004's theme, "Renewable Energy: It Makes \$ense", offers many opportunities to explore how renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies can create a central role in fostering our state's economic, social, and environmental vitality. Sessions and workshops include topics such as bioenergy, passive solar heating and cooling, photovoltaic systems, wind power, light pollution, sustainable landscaping, water conservation, and policy issues like the initiative.

"Colorado has great potential to implement clean energy technologies", says Dave Bowden, CRES President, "but they are currently underdeveloped and considered 'alternative sources.' Sustainability advocates need to educate our fellow citizens on the long-term importance of moving away from our heavy reliance on polluting fossil fuels."

This year, the Conference is combined with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Consumer Energy Expo, featuring exhibits to assist homeowners in making wise choices for home energy use and conservation. All conference events are open to the public, most have modest fees and some are free, including NREL's Expo and Wirth's speech on Saturday, June 26 at 4:00 PM.

CREC also recognizes the finest in sustainable building design with the CRES Building Awards, given to architects and builders. Rounding out the event, parties with live bands on Friday and Saturday evenings offer networking and social opportunities for participants. Event information and registration forms are available on-line at <http://cres-energy.org>. Questions can be directed to [info@cres-energy.org](mailto:info@cres-energy.org), or by calling 303-806-5317. Media contact: Dave Bowden, CRES President, 303-715-0200, or [davepic@earthlink.net](mailto:davepic@earthlink.net).