



CASCADE COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE

Small Wind Workshop Features Practical Advice

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“Using small wind turbines to offset all or part of your electrical load,” is the topic of an evening workshop sponsored by the Cascade County wind marketing program and North Central Montana RC&D. “This nuts and bolts workshop will give the homeowner or rancher who has been thinking about buying a wind turbine the information to make that decision,” Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone said.

Presenters from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the National Center for Appropriate Technology will review wind resource assessment, turbine selection, wind economics and practical considerations for selecting a small wind turbine. Participants will gain a better understanding of net metering policies at Northwestern energy and rural electric cooperatives that make small wind turbines affordable.

Presenters include:

Tony Jimenez is a Staff Mechanical Engineer with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s (NREL) Wind Powering America (WPA) program. Tony’s activities include administering an anemometer loan program and the development of wind energy project economic analysis tools.

Dave Ryan is a professional engineer and energy specialist at the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) in Butte.

The workshop is part of a continuing community outreach on large and small wind energy and energy efficiency. It will be held Wednesday, August 13th at 6:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall at MSU-College of Technology Great Falls. It is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Wind Powering America is DOE's commitment to dramatically increase the use of wind energy in the United States. Through its state Wind Working Groups, programs at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and partnerships, this initiative is establishing new sources of income for American farmers, Native Americans, and other rural landowners while meeting the growing demand for clean sources of electricity.

For more than 30 years the National Center for Appropriate Technology has been helping people and communities adopt technologies that save energy and resources. The Center helps family farmers, government agencies, small businesses, other non-profits and low-income organizations learn about sustainable energy, agriculture and community development opportunities.

Cascade County has been promoting wind energy development since 2002. Its award winning marketing program includes commercial scale wind developer outreach, assistance to landowners in determining their wind resource, installation of a 50kw wind turbine at the new County shop complex and community education.

North Central Montana RC&D is a non-profit corporation formed in 1998 to work toward improving the economic and social conditions for the people of North Central Montana (10 Counties and 3 Indian reservations) Over the past few years NC RC&D has been sponsoring or co-sponsoring meetings on alternative energy production in rural areas. Bio-fuels and wind development have huge potential for North Central Montana's future and the RC&D is proud to promote information that can be useful to the citizens of this area.