

# **BLUE SKYWAYS AG SUBCOMMITTEE CALL**

Wednesday, Sept. 26 – 9:30-10:30 am Central Time

Call-In #: (866) 299-3188

Conf. Code #: 9135517039

## **Agenda**

- Intro / Roll Call
- Wisconsin Focus on Energy State Program
- Blue Skyways
- Other topics / future topics

## **MEETING NOTES**

Thank you everyone for being on the call. I hope it was informational and beneficial for each of you. Feel free to contact me if you have ideas to improve the call or would like to visit about a specific topic.

1) **Roll Call** - if you joined after the call started let me know

### **Attendees:**

- Amelia Gulkis (EnSave)
- Craig Metz (EnSave)
- Dale Lambley (KS DOAg)
- Dennis Harding (IA Farm Bureau)
- Amy Scott (IA DNR)
- Ethan Taylor (MO Corn)
- Bill Cassidy (MU)
- Shannon Chase (IA Rural Dev.)
- Kenlon Johannes (KS Soybeans)
- Paul Duffner (MO NRCS)
- Lyn Kirschner (USDA NRCS)
- Mike Zimovan (Donaldson)
- Van Kozak (EPA R6)
- Wayne Graf (MO DNR)
- Rich Hackner (WI Focus on Energy Prog.)
- Alan Banwart, (EPA R7)

2) **Wisconsin Focus on Energy State Program** (ppt. attached to email)

- Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses (including agriculture) to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
- WI has a strong history in energy efficiency program, but in 1999 they started a state program
- Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) were required to participate, but municipal and cooperative utilities had options – most cooperatives used to run their own programs, until recently

- Program was changed, via an Act enacted this year, due partly to Focus on Energy's budget being susceptible to funding diversions – 40% or so was used on non-program purposes
- Focus's major help to the eligible residents/businesses comes by providing information, assessments, audits, incentives, and rebates
  - Lyn K. mentioned that the USDA Conservation and Innovation Grant (CIG) is putting together a self assessment tool for small farms to help w/ better serving the smaller market - - online in October - <http://ahat.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

### **Lessons Learned**

- Stakeholders don't go by utility boundaries, so a state program is good
- Utility programs can be less efficient and change rapidly/significantly in comparison to state programs – contractors are less likely to participate without assurance of stability
- Important to have utility buy support and collaboration from the beginning
- State needs to have commitment to energy efficiency
- Independent evaluation needed, but their role should be set up before starting – will they be policeman/enforcement or program changes as needed
- Set up all rules and roles ahead of program operation
- Determine the goal of the program – different options
  - Market transformations - - permanent positive change
  - Resource acquisition - - immediate energy savings
  - Hybrid approach
- Sustainability is key – must provide savings and plant seeds for future opportunities and for more innovations, inventions, & ideas

### 3) **Blue Skyways St. Louis Mtg.**

- Oct. 2-4
- Ag Subcommittee to have speakers from the IA Biodiesel Board / IA Soybean Assoc., National Biodiesel Board, and the National Soybean Assoc. talk about the many aspects of biodiesel

### 4) **Other**

- Future topic of small/mid sized wind projects

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- For calls in the future we plan to bring in different speakers to talk about the projects that they are working on to inform the whole group about the options that are out there. Please let me know if you have an idea or an interest.
  - Blue Skyways is looking for you to apply to be a partner by filling out an application that describes your project that gets emission reductions – Blue Skyways in return will follow-up with your emission reduction numbers and any recognition desires that you may have
    - If you need assistance with this contact Alan... he may contact you too

○ Alan Banwart – banwart.alan@epa.gov or 913 551-7819

**\*\*\* Agriculture Calls will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every other month from 9:30 to 10:30 am. The next meeting will be held on November 28, 2007. The call-in number will be (866) 299-3188 and the code will be 9135517039 unless otherwise noticed.**

**THANK YOU!!!**