

Renewable Energy Forum planned Feb. 2

A public forum on renewable energy will be held Thursday, Feb. 2, in the Heritage Room.

As energy prices rise and the need for reliable electricity increases, Minnesota is turning to renewable resources to power the future.

A public forum on renewable energy will be held on Thursday, February 2, from 7-8:30 p.m. in The Heritage Room of Centennial Student Union. The energy forum, coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, will be co-hosted by Jack Geller, president of the Center for Rural Policy & Development, and State Rep. Tony Cornish, a member of the Center's Board of Directors.

Mike Bull, assistant commissioner for renewable energy at the Department of Commerce, will give a presentation on Minnesota's renewable energy programs and successes. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

"This forum will provide an opportunity to talk about Minnesota's leadership in renewable energy now and in the future," said Bull. "Minnesota's energy security and economic health demand that we develop more of Minnesota's renewable resources as homegrown energy."

Currently, 11% of Minnesota's electricity is generated using renewable sources and the state is on track to increase that amount to 20% by 2015.

"For Minnesota to remain America's clean energy capitol, we must develop more low-cost, reliable, and environmentally superior energy in the state," said Bull. "We can accomplish this, in part, through community-based energy development - or C-BED. We'll discuss this concept at the Mankato public forum and talk about how it can work for consumers and our rural economies."

The Center for Rural Policy and Development, based in St. Peter, Minn., is a non-partisan, not-for-profit policy research organization dedicated to benefiting Minnesota by providing its policy makers with an unbiased evaluation of issues from a rural perspective.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce develops state energy policy, serves as the public advocate before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and provides energy information for energy consumers. For more, go to www.commerce.state.mn.us

For MSU events: individuals with a disability, who need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, are asked to contact the [Office of Accessibility Resources](#) at 507-389-2825 (V/TTD), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTD) at least five days prior to the event.