



for immediate release

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Focus on Energy Announces FY08 Environmental and Economic Research Grants

- Forest energy resources, farm bioenergy and climate change are the primary subjects of this year's research -

MADISON, Wis. (July 2, 2008) – Focus on Energy's Environmental and Economic Research and Development Program, part of Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, announced the allocation of grants totaling nearly \$1.5 million for 13 research projects that will help assess impacts of electricity and natural gas use on Wisconsin's environment and economy. These projects were selected for funding in the 2007-08 contract period from proposals submitted in May of 2008.

Grant recipients were chosen by the Environmental and Economic Research Forum, a ten-member group chaired by Ken Rineer of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Other forum members represent the Department of Commerce, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Governor's Office of Energy Independence, the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, the University of Wisconsin, Clean Wisconsin, WE Energies and Alliant Energy.

The Forum is charged with identifying critical research gaps regarding the environmental and economic impacts of energy use in Wisconsin and then recommending funding for new projects to fill those gaps. Forum members individually evaluated submitted proposals and then met to discuss and draft the final list of proposals to be recommended for funding.

The following projects have been approved for funding in 2008:

1. Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.

Contact: Noel Cutright

(262) 268-3617

Award: \$18,480

Research Topic: *Development of a Research Proposal to Evaluate Impacts to Birds of Wind Development in Offshore Areas of Lake Michigan*

2. U.S. Forest Service, Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies, Northern Research Station

Contact: Deahn Donner

(715) 362-1146

Award: \$144,155

Research Topic: *Impacts of Harvesting Forest Residues for Bioenergy on Nutrient Cycling and Community Assemblages in Northern Hardwood Forests*

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3. **University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment**
Contact: Tracey Holloway
(608) 262-5356
Award: \$91,803
Research Topic: *Coordinated Energy Strategies for Climate and Air Quality*

4. **University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Solar Energy Laboratory**
Contact: S. A. Klein
(608) 263-5626
Award: \$50,788
Research Topic: *Assessment of Photovoltaics at High Penetration on Peak Demand and Annual Energy Use*

5. **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**
Contact: Karl Martin
(715) 771-9753
Award: \$123,480
Research Topic: *Quantifying the Economic and Ecological Aspects of Forest Biomass Harvesting in Wisconsin*

6. **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Science Services**
Contact: Michael Meyer
(715) 265-8858
Award: \$99,911
Research Topic: *Potential Effects of Climate Change on Inland Glacial Lakes and Implications for Lake Dependent Biota in Wisconsin*

7. **University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology**
Contact: David J. Mladenoff
(608) 262-1992
Award: \$110,934
Research Topic: *Impacts of Biomass Removal on Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling in Wisconsin Northern Hardwood Forests*

8. **University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences**
Contact: Douglas Reinemann
(608) 262-0223
Award: \$175,181
Research Topic: *Energy Intensity and Environmental Impact of Integrated Dairy/Bioenergy Systems in Wisconsin*

9. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Agronomy Department

Contact: Mark Renz

(608) 263-7437

Award: \$245,741

Research Topic: *Assessing Sustainability of Switchgrass Production in Southwestern Wisconsin*

10. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Electrical Engineering

Contact: Giri Venkataramanan

(608) 262-4479

Award: \$66,077

Research Topic: *Consumer Adoption & Grid Impact Models for Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles in Wisconsin*

11. University of Wisconsin-Madison, The Nelson Institute, Center for Climatic Research

Contact: Daniel J. Vimont

(608) 263-3420

Award: \$87,633

Research Topic: *Climate Change in Wisconsin*

12. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources

Contact: Carl Watras

(715) 356-9494

Award: \$56,729

Research Topic: *Monitoring the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources in Northern Highland American Legion State Forest in Wisconsin (NHAL): Phase II*

13. Michigan Technological University, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science

Contact: Christopher Webster

(906) 487-3618

Award: \$130,678

Research Topic: *Identifying Trade-offs Between Biomass Production and Biological Diversity in Wisconsin's Forests and Grasslands to Meet Tomorrow's Bioenergy and Biofuel Needs*

For more information about the Focus on Energy Environmental and Economic Research and Development Program, call (800) 762-7077, or visit focusonenergy.com.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.