



## **Utah Wind Working Group Honored for Advances in Wind Energy**

*Collaborative group spearheads wind development in Utah through innovative partnerships, education, policy and regulatory intervention*

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Utah's Wind Working Group, a collaborative effort to promote wind power development in Utah, was recently honored by the Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Wind Powering America program with the Outstanding *Wind Working Group Award* for 2010 in recognition of the group's successful efforts to expand wind development in Utah. Utah's Wind Working group is led by the Utah State Energy Program in partnership with Utah Clean Energy.

"The Utah Wind Working Group, through a collaborative process with government officials, wind industry, and interested citizens, is helping communities throughout Utah make informed decisions on wind energy development," says Elise Brown, Renewable Energy Coordinator for the Utah State Energy Program Utah Geological Survey.

Since its beginning in 2003, the working group has paved the way for wind development across Utah. Amongst the group's many achievements, the Wind Working Group was acknowledged specifically for their success in developing and implementing the Utah Wind Outreach Training, creating the Utah Model Wind Ordinance as well as the group's ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to formulate win-win solutions for wind development.

Several counties and cities have taken advantage of or expressed interest in Utah's new model wind ordinance, which draws from established national practices for wind zoning and responsible development. The first-of-its-kind Utah Wind Outreach Training Course, developed by Utah Clean Energy with support from the State Energy Program, trained over 30 everyday citizens and professionals to be wind advocates in their communities. From stay-at-home moms and lawyers, to teachers and wildlife biologists, the newly trained 'Utah Wind Pioneers' are part of the Utah Wind Working Group and are supporting ongoing wind for schools and wind ordinance efforts.

Bonnie Christiansen, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator for Utah Clean Energy has seen the

group's growth over the years, "We are honored to be a part of the Utah Wind Working Group and witness the successes year after year – this group is helping Utah tap into a tremendous source of clean, reliable energy, economic development, and new opportunities for rural Utah."

The award was given during the Wind Powering America All-State Summit, which followed the annual American Wind Energy Association WINDPOWER Conference and Exhibition in Dallas, TX. Accepting the award were representatives from the Utah State Energy Program, Utah Clean Energy and Utah State University, all of whom play a central role in Utah's Wind Working Group successes.

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**The Utah Wind Working Group** is an organization comprised of representatives from federal, state and local governments, utilities, renewable energy advocates, wind power industry, environmental organizations, landowners, and other entities interested in the development of wind energy facilities in Utah.

**The Utah State Energy Program** in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy works to reduce America's energy dependence and to develop affordable, energy-efficient technologies to run our homes, businesses, schools, and vehicles. Managed by the Utah Geological Survey, the Utah State Energy Program supports partnerships that promote and improve energy efficiency and turn renewable energy resources into viable alternatives to fossil fuels.

**Utah Clean Energy** is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest organization partnering to build the new clean energy economy through policy, regulatory, and educational initiatives. Utah Clean Energy advances renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean energy technologies in Utah and the West.

**Wind Powering America's** goal is to dramatically increase the use of wind energy in the United States. Through Wind Powering America, the United States will achieve targeted regional economic development, enhance our power generation options, protect the local environment, and increase our energy and national security.