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Hands-on gasification workshops offered

Summary: Three-day capstone workshops will explore gasification and related biomass energy technologies

(October 8, 2010)-The University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) and West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) are presenting gasification workshops to inform and educate energy professionals, architects, engineers, businesses, planners, and citizens about new renewable energy technologies. Presented classroom/lab style, the workshops are conceived as an organized exploration of gasification and related biomass energy technologies. Workshop participants will learn about gasification and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Instructors Joel Tallaksen, WCROC biomass project coordinator, and James Barbour, UMM gasification system emissions scientist, will conduct each workshop over three days. Industry expert guest instructors will also teach portions of the course. Sessions begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. with one hour for lunch. The first workshop is scheduled for Oct. 18–20. See below for additional dates and registration information. Each three-day workshop participant fee is \$60. The student fee is \$30. Housing and transportation are not included.

“Before renewable energy systems use becomes widespread, people need to understand them,” notes Tallaksen. “Our hope is that we can provide our workshop participants with a good sense of how gasification systems work and the advantages and disadvantages of using biomass for energy.” The discussions will start with the gasification process and converting biomass to energy and move through feasibility factors such as proper facility design, sustainable feedstocks and a manageable logistics chain. Regional gasification facilities will be discussed, concluding with an in-depth tour of the UMM gasification plant during the workshops held in Morris. Participants will get the chance, weather permitting, to operate lab scale gasifiers.

Workshops are scheduled in Morris on October 18–20, 2010, November 1–3, 2010, December 1–3, 2010, and December 13–15, 2010, and tentatively on January 10–12, 2011. A St. Paul workshop is tentatively planned for January 3–5, 2011. Industry professionals are eligible to receive 1.8 units (18 hours) of continuing education credits upon completion of a workshop.

For more information or to register, please contact Tallaksen or Jean Spohr at 320-589-1711, or [e-mail](#). So that organizers can best manage lab capacity for each workshop, please indicate both your preferred and alternate dates.

Learn more about this workshop and other renewable UMM and WCROC energy initiatives, [online](#).

Funding for the workshops is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture under a grant to the University of Minnesota, Morris and the West Central Research and Outreach Center.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow

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