

## For Immediate Release

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**CONTACTS:** Brian Cottam, Associate Director  
Government Relations & Regional Services  
435.865.8023  
cottamb@suu.edu

Dana L. Miller, President  
Southwest Applied Technology College  
435.586.2899  
dmiller@swatc.edu

## Milford High School hosts 2nd annual Renewable Energy Fair

MILFORD, Utah —Dianne R. Nielson, Gov. Herbert’s energy adviser, and Sen. Dennis Stowell, R-District 28, will join other visiting dignitaries in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that will dedicate Milford High School’s \$125,000 solar array and tracker and kick off the 2nd annual Renewable Energy Fair on Thursday, April 29.

Sponsored by the Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Center, the fair will include an electric-vehicle race between teams from seven Utah schools, a Renewable Energy Summit highlighting the Utah Renewable Energy Zone program, and exhibits featuring some 30 energy-industry, education and government partners.

Andy Swapp, an engineering and technology instructor at Milford High School, organized the fair to help students connect with major players in the growing field of renewable energy.

“It’s meant to be a lot of fun, but it’s also a look at the future of energy,” he said.

The Renewable Energy Fair and summit are free and open to the public. Most events will take place at the Milford High School gym and football field. Exhibits and food booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The school is located at 62 N. 300 West in Milford.

As home of the \$376-million Milford Wind Project, Swapp said, Milford is a logical choice as host of the energy fair.

Completed in October 2009, the 97-turbine wind project generates clean energy to the tune of 203.5 megawatts — enough to power 44,000 homes. It is one of the largest renewable energy facilities in Utah, as well as the state’s largest wind-energy project.

Nielson will open the fair at 9 a.m. with the keynote address, titled “Energy, Education and the Economy,” before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

She and Stowell will then join Swapp, Milford High School Principal John Nielson, Beaver County School Superintendent Ray Terry, Beaver County Commission Chairman Don Willden, and others to dedicate the new solar panel and tracker.

Swapp and his students secured funding from Rocky Mountain Power’s Blue Sky Grant program. The 10-kw solar array and its accompanying tracker were installed in a highly visible location on the roof of the Milford High School vocational building.

Swapp said the tracker does just what its name indicates; it tracks the sun from season to season and from morning to night, and keeps the solar panel pointed at the sun for maximum energy collection.

“We estimate we will get 37 percent more power from the tracked array than we would have gotten from a fixed array,” he said.

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A digital readout for the inverters that convert the solar power for use as electricity are mounted on the wall of Swapp's vocational classroom.

"Our students can look at the readout and see the power going to work," Swapp said. "It is fantastic to have such a visual display of renewable energy, where we can actually see how much power we're producing at any given time."

Swapp said he estimates the school district will save about \$5,000 annually on electricity costs, but added, "I'm hoping my estimate is low. The district has been very supportive of this project, and I hope we're able to save more than that."

After the ribbon-cutting, students will gather on the high school track for the second running of the Milford Electric Vehicle Engineering Challenge, set to begin at 10 a.m. Teams from Beaver, Hurricane, Milford, Pine View and San Juan high schools will compete, along with teams from American Fork Junior High and Willow Creek Middle School.

The Renewable Energy Summit will kick off with a general session at 12:45 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The general session will include updates on Phases I and II of work completed by the Utah Renewable Energy Zone task force, tasked by Gov. Huntsman in 2008 to provide 20 percent of Utah's electricity through renewable energy by 2025.

It will also feature a progress report from Rocky Mountain Power about the high-voltage transmission project carrying electricity from the Sigurd substation near Richfield to the expanded Red Butte substation near Central in Washington County.

A screening of the film "Wind Uprising" will highlight the summit's afternoon breakout sessions. Written and produced by Utah State University professors Cathy Hartman and Ed Stafford, the film depicts common barriers to developing wind energy and demonstrates solutions discovered during the four-year effort to create the Spanish Fork Wind Project.

Narrated by former U.S. Sen. Jake Garn, the 30-minute documentary won the Seven Summits Award in the environmental film category at the Mountain Film Festival in Mammoth, Calif., earlier this spring.

In addition, the Utah Department of Workforce Services will sponsor a session titled, "Is There a Future in Turning Green?" to help students discover career possibilities in renewable energy.

The fair's sponsor, the Southwest Utah Renewable Energy Center, is a cooperative consisting of seven partners: Beaver County Economic Development, the Beaver County School District, Milford High School, Southern Utah University's Office of Government Relations & Regional Services, the Southern Utah University Business Resource Center, Southwest Applied Technology College, and the Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative.

SUTREC showcases and promotes renewable energy in resource-rich Beaver County and Southwest Utah. Its partners cooperate to advance renewable energy education, training, research, technology and production leading to high-skill, high-wage employment, career and entrepreneurial opportunities.