

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Eskridge, Representatives Anderson(1), Hartgen, Vander Woude, DeMordaunt, Nielsen, Thompson, Anderson(31), Anderst, Mendive, Monks, Morse, Trujillo, Smith, Rusche, Woodings

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Chairman Raybould, Rep. Vander Woude, Rep. DeMordaunt, Rep. Monks

GUESTS: Ken Miller, Snake River Alliance; John J. Williams, Bonneville Power Administration

Vice Chairman Eskridge called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Carl Simpson, Renewable Energy Northwest LLC., gave a presentation to the Committee on Solar Thermal. He stated Renewable Energy NW, is a locally owned and operated company focused on helping people achieve balance and sustainability while improving their cost of energy. Mr. Simpson said installing a solar powered hot water system would save money on utility bills, and reduce our environmental footprint.

Mr. Simpson explained how the tube collectors work to heat a fluid, usually water, which is then stored in a tank. One Mystic unit consists of a header, connectors, twenty tubes, and a frame, and is designed to supply about 60 gallons per day of 120 degree water. He said this should be enough hot water for an average family of four. Mr. Simpson added they have a Lava model which has an extra fifty gallon tank for additional insulated water storage. These systems are being used in car washes, hotels, hospitals, dairies, in addition to hot tubs, swimming pools, greenhouses, and radiant heat floors and driveways.

In answer to questions, **Mr. Simpson** explained that the tubes absorb radiation, not heat from the sun, so they will work even when it is cloudy. He said the radiation is limited when it is snowing but this can be remedied by installing the panels vertically. He stated that unless you have hard water, the only maintenance is to hose the tubes with water about once a year. Applications with hard water, which builds up in the copper header, can be cleaned with Clear Wave solution.

Mr. Simpson reviewed costs of installation, energy saving metrics, and return on investment. In response to what factors have held back growth of Solar Thermal, Mr. Simpson said mainly because no one has heard of it, and there are no incentives to have it installed. He said he would like to have the Utilities Commission work with the power companies to come up with incentives.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Representative Eskridge
Vice Chairman

Lynn Walker
Secretary