



COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER
CCHRC



bp



For Immediate Release

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August 17th, 2007 - Fairbanks, Alaska – The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) announced today that it is moving forward with its Hybrid Micro Energy Project (HMEP) – a project designed to demonstrate how a variety of renewable energy sources can work together to power small scale energy demands in Alaska on a year round basis. The solar array component of the HMEP is scheduled for installation this fall.

“The CCHRC is expressing its sincere thanks and recognition to the collaborators who have provided the means to make this important project possible. Their help is vital to advancing the HMEP and the mission of the CCHRC,” said Jack Hébert, President and CEO of CCHRC.

Key to CCHRC’s announcement today is recognition of BP and the BP Foundation for its contribution of \$500,000 toward the advancement of the HMEP and CCHRC’s mission to improve energy efficiency in Alaska.

“This is a natural partnership. CCHRC and BP are leaders in new sustainable energy solutions and Fairbanks is an ideal location for this work. By working together, we will help foster energy solution not only for Alaska’s communities, but communities around the world,” said Phil Cochrane, Vice President of External Affairs, BP Alaska.

CCHRC’s recognition extends to the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), Senator Joe Thomas, Representative Mike Kelly, and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

FNSB Mayor Jim Whitaker announced that he will forward to the FNSB Assembly a request to partially fund CCHRC Hybrid Micro Energy Project. “Pending Assembly approval the use of federal funds for this purpose makes a great deal of sense,” said Mayor Jim Whitaker. The source of funds the FNSB will transfer is federal grant money the FNSB received to mitigate wildfire threats, which includes promoting projects which can use biomass as a feedstock.

Senator Joe Thomas, District D, and Representative Mike Kelly, District 7, secured \$100,000 for the HMEP during the past legislative session.

“It is important for Alaska to work to develop solutions to its challenges, and this project is a step in the right direction. Renewable energy holds the potential to provide sustainable and affordable energy for Alaska’s communities,” said Joe Thomas.

“I was happy to work with the CCHRC to make sure funding was included in the final budget coming out of House Finance. In our Arctic climate with 14,000 degree days, this center provides vital research and application guidelines for public and private sector design and construction of innovative and energy efficient homes and buildings. This is especially important as our state faces higher energy costs,” said Mike Kelly.

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) is a steadfast and important part of the success of the CCHRC. “AHFC is excited about the success CCHRC has had and is looking forward to continuing support of their mission,” said Dan Fauske, CEO/Executive Director, AHFC.

The FNSB and BP will join the list of HMEP collaborators which includes the State of Alaska, Siemens, GW Scientific, Remote Power Incorporated, University of Alaska Fairbanks, EEInternet, the Cooperative Extension Service and Golden Valley Electric Association.

The hybrid system is being designed for the high-latitude challenge of minimal solar energy during the long winter when energy demand is greatest and bountiful solar energy in the summer when demand is minimal.

“Overcoming Alaska’s challenges can provide solutions the whole world can use. At CCHRC we think that Alaska’s energy solutions can come from Alaska - we think that energy solutions for the world can come from Alaskan’s creative talent,” said Jack Hébert.

The HMEP will consist of 10 to 15 kilowatts of solar photovoltaic tracking solar arrays, two different types of solar hot water collectors, wind generation, and at least one biomass fired combined heat and power (CHP) unit, all of which will work together to provide heat and power to the Research Test Facility on a year round basis. With the HMEP, the building should produce all of its electrical needs from renewable energy by the spring of 2008.

The HMEP system operations data will be available through the internet to enable the monitoring of its performance in real time.

CCHRC will host a community event once the entire system is operational.

More information about the HMEP and other activities at CCHRC can be found at www.cchrc.org or by calling (907) 457-3454. The CCHRC offers regularly scheduled tours of the Research and Test Facility at 2 p.m. every Thursday. The CCHRC Research and Test Facility is located at 1000 Fairbanks St., Fairbanks Alaska.

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