



ECO FORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA RESOURCES COALITION

Volume XXXVII Issue 4

Fall 2010

SDRC Undergoes Changes

The South Dakota Resources Coalition has undergone changes since this summer.

Office Move: The SDRC office has moved out of its location in the basement of Old Sanctuary in Brookings to the basement of SDRC's secretary-treasurer Lawrence Novotny's home. Dennis Bielfeldt, owner of Old Sanctuary and a Lutheran pastor, has established an Institute of Lutheran Theology. Since space was needed for the Institute, SDRC was asked to vacate. An alternate location was offered for the office but commuting distance was a problem for Novotny. After the retirement of SDRC's administrative assistant Sue Grant in 2009, Novotny has been the only person using the office. With the technology of electronic communications, other SDRC board members have been working out of their homes. Novotny offered the use of his basement for free for the SDRC office. The move was made in mid-July. This location is temporary until SDRC hires an executive director. Then the board will look for office space.

In This Issue:

Annual Meeting.....	2
Big Stone Coal Ash	3
Gulf Spill & SD	3
Keystone Pipe Defects?	4
Keystone XL Study Inadequate....	5
Amendment E Archive	5
Trautman, Hohn Remembered ...	6
Organic Farm Conference	7
Mercury in Flu Shots	7
Small-Town Conservation.....	8
<i>...plus SDRC raffle winner, and more!</i>	

Distributed Wind in South Dakota

By Jeanne Koster, recent SDRC board member, Watertown, SD

During the recent election period, Scott Heidepriem's campaign issued the following statement:

We could explore the possibility of eliminating the need for long-transmission lines and utilize wind energy closer to the source (Minnesota and Iowa are two states that have done this successfully).

At last, some common sense on wind.

I live in the Watertown area. Before the Big Stone II coal-fired power plant scheme so deservedly bit the dust, Watertown's municipal utility bought into a notion peddled at the time by Big Stone II promoters. Watertown, it was said, needed to invest in coal power from Big Stone II to pave the way for wind power development in our state. That wind power development was being held up by lack of long distance transmission lines capable of carrying wind electricity from centralized mega wind farms in SD to lucrative out-of-state markets.

Big Stone II partners oh-SO-generously promised to build more transmission than the new coal plant would need. The coal plant's leftover transmission capacity could get power to market from big wind farms in our state. (*continued on p. 2*)

Board Retreat: The SDRC board gathered for a day-long retreat on September 18 at The Depot in Madison. Sharon Chontos of Sage Project Consultants of Sioux Falls facilitated the retreat, which was funded by a grant from the SD Conservation Fund.

The goal of the retreat was to determine a future direction for SDRC. Each board member listed SDRC strengths, SDRC shortcomings, and the challenges facing SDRC. The strengths of SDRC were the Eco Forum newsletter, the Esther Edie environmental scholarship, an attractive webpage, the hosting of informative conferences dealing with environmental issues (the last one was the small scale local energy development conference held in Brookings in October 2009), a long history of environmental victories in the past, and 501(c)3 non-profit status. (*continued on p. 2*)

Changes (cont. from p. 1): The board discussed the pros and cons of four different options of restructuring. The vote split between expanding and downsizing SDRC. The final decision was to do further planning and “retrench” in the interim. The board decided to focus on these issues:

- **Esther Edie environmental scholarship:** Besides honoring the legacy of SDRC’s founder, the scholarship provides support for our future environmental leaders.
- **SD Resource Award banquet** which not only recognizes the dedicated work of concerned South Dakotans but also serves as a fundraising mechanism for the Edie scholarship
- **Organize a fundraising campaign** for the scholarship endowment
- **Eco Forum:** move from a bimonthly newsletter to a quarterly newsletter (due to loss of paid staff and current dependence on volunteers to do the writing and editing).
- **Communicate more with our membership** through e-mail and the website. A brief telephone survey will be conducted with every membership renewal.
- **Continue our lobbying presence** during the legislative session.
- **Continue the planning process** resulting from the retreat mainly to explore different operating structures and to obtain funding to hire staff.

SDRC Annual Meeting Notes

SDRC held its annual business meeting on October 16 at The Depot in Madison. The terms of directors Jeanne Koster of Watertown and Lois Haertel of Bruce expired. Both directors decided not to renew their 2-year terms. Koster volunteered to research and write articles for Eco Forum. Jim Thompson of Colman was elected as a new board member (see separate bio).

Lawrence Novotny of Brookings was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Distributed Wind (cont. from p. 1): The coal plant’s leftover transmission capacity could get power to market from big wind farms in our state.

In other words, Watertown would get to eat expensive coal so out-of-state metros could power up with wind, made more expensive by its long trip on high lines. Shareholders in out-of-state and foreign power development companies could prosper, meanwhile blessing our state with some wind industry jobs and lucrative tower site leases. But wind power was definitely held hostage, pending development of a dirty coal plant and the long-distance transmission lines destined primarily for coal plant use.

New highlines cost megabucks just for construction, not to mention the inevitable court battles. And how many megawatts would be wasted due to line losses on the long trip from centralized wind farms to market destinations? All this winds up on the consumer's electric bill.

Watertown, like many South Dakota towns, is surrounded by pretty good wind sites, maybe not suitable for mega-wind farms but with potential for smaller clusters of turbines that could use

existing local distribution networks. Potential, in other words, for distributed wind power, used close to the point of generation, without expensive and wasteful transmission over long distances.

South Dakota consumers would benefit directly in their monthly bills over the long haul; local economies and employment totals would benefit more; grids would be strengthened—all if we invested in more efficient use of already existing (smartened and beefed up) local distributive infrastructure, supported by existing long-distance highlines as intertie for balancing purposes.

BONUS: Electric vehicles can use off-peak windpower generation, substantially lessening our state's dependence on oil and eventually providing smart-grid-mediated local vehicle-to-grid peaking capability.

Let the FPL's and Iberdrolas do their expensive, outmoded, centralized thing on their own dime and foist the expensive results on folks in other states who are not as smart and resourceful as South Dakotans can be with proper leadership.

Big Stone Coal Ash Polluting Water with Heavy Metals

A new report from the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), in cooperation with Earthjustice and the Sierra Club, identifies the Big Stone power plant among 39 sites nationwide where coal ash is leaching arsenic and other heavy metals into drinking water and surface water. These 39 sites are in addition to 31 sites EIP identified in a February 2010 report and 67 identified by the EPA.

What does EIP's report say specifically about Otter Tail's Big Stone facility in northeast South Dakota?

1. There is "Demonstrated damage to groundwater moving off-site (at northern and eastern property boundaries and south toward the Whetstone River)."
2. "21 of 25 monitoring wells report exceedances of groundwater standards downgradient of coal combustion waste disposal units in two aquifers. Arsenic has been up to 13 times and lead up to 7 times the maximum containment level, boron up to 34 times the lifetime health advisory and sulfate up to 224 times the secondary maximum containment level at 56,000 milligrams per liter (or parts per million). Despite mounding of groundwater at the property lines, no monitoring of nearby ponds or private wells has occurred."
3. There are 119 wells within 5 miles of the plant, as are the Whetstone River and Big Stone Lake.

South Dakota's Department of Environment and Natural Resources doesn't think the pollution comes from Big Stone's coal ash. According to EIP, DENR says the contamination comes from "water softener brine wastes."

A rebuttal posted at the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources' website links the groundwater readings to a leaking brine pond that is used to store waste from water-softening treatment. One brine pond leaked before the problem was discovered in 1998, the agency said. "The Environmental Integrity Project is taking the ground water quality data gathered from a brine pond release that occurred more than 20 years ago," the agency's statement says. "The water treatment process used by Big Stone Power has nothing to do with its coal ash disposal practices, and in no way should be used to support any new regulations for coal ash disposal." The agency said the soils around Big Stone also have naturally high levels of sulfate and metals.

Read the full report: "In Harm's Way: Lack of Federal Coal Ash Regulations Endangers Americans and Their Environment," Jeff Stant, project director & editor, Environmental Integrity Project, Earthjustice, Sierra Club, 2010.08.26.
www.environmentalintegrity.org

The Gulf Spill and South Dakota

by Chuck Berry, SDRS member, Brookings

Tired of hearing about gulf oil? Me too! There don't seem to be any direct connections to South Dakota, but there are probably a lot of indirect connections – perhaps in the cost of gasoline or seafood, or perhaps tax dollars diverted to clean up and pay out-of-work shrimpers. And then you might fret about the hypocrisy of Louisiana politicians who want the Feds out of their life one day and in the next day cry for assistance, who give up their marshes for oil and then ask us to restore the marshes for hurricane protection, yadda, yadda, yadda. But I need to get to the point. (*continued on p.4*)

The report was released just as public hearings across the country began on proposed new rules on coal ash disposal by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA held seven public hearings around the country in September. The closest hearing to South Dakota was in Denver, on September 2 "We believe that at all these hearings, there are going to be concerned citizens wondering what impact the coal ash landfills or ponds near their house is having on their drinking water." said Lisa Evans, senior administrative counsel for Earthjustice and a co-author of the report.

sources: SD Public News Service, August 30, 2010; Associated Press, August 26, 2010

Gulf Spill & South Dakota (*cont. from p. 3*) The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is asking us to write to our Congresspersons to pass HR 3534. This bill reorganizes the Department of Interior and includes more about offshore drilling regulations and administrivia than you really want to know, right down to a trivial section of the bill that allows use the US Post Office for communication – I think that covers all the bases (I am not making this up).

Buried in the 200+ page bill is one sentence that does affect South Dakota greatly because we are supposed to get offshore oil money to help create outdoor recreational opportunities in South Dakota. The payments come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The South Dakota Wildlife Federation has spoken up for this fund in the past. It is a way to spread some of the \$900 million annual coastal oil money to interior states for wildlife benefits. However, our legislators have always robbed the LWCF for other purposes. There is one sentence in this big legislation that is supposed to stop the robbery:

SEC. 403. PERMANENT FUNDING. (a) IN GENERAL.—The text of section 3 (16 U.S.C.10 4601–6) is amended to read as follows: “Of the moneys covered into the fund, \$900,000,000 shall be available each fiscal year for expenditure for the purposes of this Act **without further appropriation**. Moneys made available for obligation or expenditure from the fund or from the special account established under section 4(i)(1) **may be obligated or expended only as provided in this Act.**”.

We're online!
Log in:
sdrcworks.org

So here is what I think. There is a lot in this bill including reorganizing government, so asking Rep. Herseth Sandlin to support the bill because of one sentence that helps us here in South Dakota might be expecting too much. [See the back page for contact info.]

I do recommend that you go to the U.S. House website and look at this bill: http://rules.house.gov/bills_details.aspx?NewsID=4732.

Keystone Pipeline May Contain Defective Steel

This summer Plains Justice, a public interest law and policy center, released a report showing that defective steel might have been used in TransCanada's Keystone pipeline, which crosses eleven counties in eastern South Dakota. Plains Justice called on the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to reduce the pipeline's operating pressure until the entire pipeline can be investigated and fully tested with better testing equipment.

Plain Justice based its report on nearly 4000 pages of government documents, showing that Welspun, a pipe manufacturer in India, produced hundreds of substandard pipeline segments in 2007 and 2008. The report finds almost half of the Keystone pipeline was constructed with Welspun pipe around the same time that Welspun produced pipe for five other pipelines.

After several pipelines burst during safety tests, PHMSA investigated seven other pipes using Welspun steel and found many had used the defective steel. PHMSA then required the pipeline companies to remove hundreds of defective pipeline segments. However, none of the documents sent to Plains Justice indicate that PHMSA investigated TransCanada's Keystone pipeline.

The worries raised in Plains Justice's report are compounded by multiple leaks already reported from the Keystone I pipeline which have been noticeably absent from practically all of South Dakota media. The leaks were reported in the *Madville Times* blog, and information was obtained from documents submitted to the South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources.

TransCanada reported the first Keystone leak on May 21 at Pump Station 21, near Carpenter in Beadle County. Five gallons of oil spread around a 47x29 foot area, requiring removal of 185 cubic yards of contaminated dirt and 9356 gallons of contaminated water. (*continued on p. 5*)

Keystone Defects? (cont. from p.4) The second leak occurred on June 23 at Pump Station 22, three miles south of Roswell in Miner County. Luckily a crew was on site at the time, and was able to shut off the flow in only three seconds. However, in those three seconds, 100 gallons of tar sands oil shot out and covered a 60x100 foot area. The clean-up efforts recovered 80 gallons of oil, removed 2500 gallons of contaminated water and 2000 cubic yards of polluted soil.

A third leak took place August 10 at Pump Station 23 near Freeman, in Hutchinson County. Another five gallons of tar sands oil leaked.

A Plains Justice press release stated, "The Keystone pipeline is one of the largest pipelines in existence and will operate at very high pressure and high temperatures, so it must not break."

source: Dakota Rural Action, *Action Review*, July/August 2010

Amendment E Files Donated to SDSU Archives

With the move of the SDRC office, five file boxes of documents on SDRC's attempt to enact Amendment E were donated to the South Dakota State University Archives Collection in Briggs Library. The Amendment E files join other files of SDRC's beginning years that were previously donated to the Archives. The SDSU Archives are open to the public for research purposes.

Amendment E was the public response to the onset of corporately owned confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in South Dakota. By the time this technology reached our state, it was well known that CAFOs created environmental disasters such as the deluge of liquid hog manure that killed thousands of fish in the Neuse River when a lagoon berm was breached. A flood left the rotting carcasses of thousands of hogs that had drowned in their pens in CAFOs. The noxious odors from CAFOs sickened people downwind, and the huge quantities of manure brought plagues of flies. In addition to the environmental and human health problems that CAFOs cause, the contracts land owners were compelled to sign were written so that most of the expense and legal responsibility fell to the land owner, while most of the profit and management authority went to the corporate owners of the hogs.

Having seen and read about the results of CAFOs, the people of South Dakota were concerned about their presence in our state. South Dakota Resources Coalition, in partnership with several other environmental and farm organizations, hired an attorney and wrote a Constitutional Amendment banning corporate farming in South Dakota. The organizations collected the required number of valid signatures and took them to the Secretary of State. Our Constitutional Amendment became Amendment E and the voters overwhelmingly approved it in November 1998. (*continued on p. 6*)

EPA: Keystone XL Environmental Impact Study Inadequate

The US Environmental Protection Agency said the draft environmental impact study for TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline is inadequate and should be revised.

The Keystone XL pipeline would move oil from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and would transverse through western SD. TransCanada already has constructed the Keystone I pipeline which transverses 11 counties in eastern SD.

Environmental groups have raised concerns that the Keystone XL pipeline could pollute air and water supplies and harm migratory birds and other wildlife. Environmentalists have speculated about what they consider inadequate pipeline safety and emergency spill response.

In a letter to the US State Department, EPA raises concerns that air emissions from refineries and the potential contamination of drinking water supplies from an oil spill have not been fully evaluated.

The EPA also finds the draft EIS does not evaluate the environmental justice issues associated with potential impacts to communities in Port Arthur, Texas, where numerous industrial facilities, including chemical plants and a hazardous waste incinerator, are contributing to the residents' overall exposure to contaminants.

The EPA said the State Department should revise the study and open it up to more public comment. The State Dept. has to approve the pipeline since it crosses an international border.

Amendment E Papers (cont. from p. 5): Several farm organizations that opposed Amendment E immediately sued. South Dakota Resources Coalition and our partner groups, along with the Attorney General's office, worked to save the Amendment, but the Circuit Court ruled against us. It was known early in the suit that the losing side would appeal. Unfortunately, we also lost in the Appellate Court. After discussion with our attorneys (by that time we had several top notch attorneys who were working for us pro bono) it was determined that an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court would not be effective. The people of South Dakota thus lost in their effort to protect our state from CAFOs. Fortunately, by that time, most of the CAFOs had located in other states and, to date, we have had no major environmental disasters here.

The Amendment E issue started in 1997 with organizing to circulate petitions and ended in 2006 with the decision not to appeal to the Supreme Court. The documents in the five file boxes are probably the most complete record of that historic battle. SDRC hopes future historians will find them useful.

Obituary: Silva Trautman

Silva Trautman, a longtime SDRC member died on Sept 4. Silva, age 91, was a longtime Brookings resident. Silva taught biology and zoology at South Dakota State University from 1964 to 1986. She was a wonderful teacher and had a positive impact on many students.

During the 1960s and 70s, Silva served on the Oak Lake Girl Scout Camp Board and spent many hours at the camp developing and improving it as well as instructing campers on conservation. Silva participated in the creation and establishment of Girl Scout Day Camp. The Girl Scouts honored her with one of their highest awards in the late 1970s.

Silva had a love of music and also was an avid reader. She volunteered with the Brookings Public Library along with other organizations.

Silva's husband, Carl, preceded her in death. She is survived by 5 children.

Rapid City Woman Attends World Conference on Nuclear War

The 19th World Conference of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) was recently held in Basel, Switzerland. The IPPNW is a worldwide Nobel Prize-winning organization of doctors and medical students. More than 800 people attended the conference at the University of Basel.

This year Charmaine White Face of Rapid City became IPPNW's first Indigenous presenter. She spoke on the Northern Great Plains' more than 1,000

Obituary: Mike Hohn

Mike Hohn, who served as a SDRC board member, died on March 14., 2010 at age 61. Mike served on the board from 1991 – 2004.

Hohn became involved in environmental issues starting in 1987. He actively participated in the SD Recycling Coalition and SDRC. Mike was appointed to the Hazardous Waste Task Force by Governor George Mickelson and to the Committee of Abandoned Mines by Governor Walter Dale Miller. During that involvement, Mike testified before the US House of Representatives Interior Committee on Mining Reform. Mike was president of the SD Solid Waste Management Association and the Recycling Coalition.

Hohn was born in Rapid City and graduated from the School of Mines & Technology with a degree in geology.

In 1978, he started a management consulting firm, Spectrum Management Services. As the first computers emerged in the workplace, his firm entered the computer industry as an OEM and program developer. Hohn worked in this capacity until 1989 when he retired due to onset of multiple sclerosis.

abandoned Cold War-era uranium mines and prospects. She presented information on the higher-than-average cancer rates among Native American people in the region. She also met with a Swiss environmental organization. Switzerland receives uranium for their nuclear power plants from the United States.

Extension Service Offers Conference for Organic Farmers

The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service will host the Western Corn Belt Conference for Organic Farmers on Dec. 6-7 at the Best Western Ramkota in Sioux Falls. The conference is for organic producers and for traditional agriculture producers considering an organic transition.

Partners in the event include the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA's Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education programs, and the South Dakota State University IPM Program.

On Dec. 6, Fred Kirschenmann of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University will present the keynote address. During the first day of the conference, morning speakers will discuss transitioning to organic crop production systems, and then in the afternoon, themes will include organic weed control. The afternoon session also includes a presentation on biology and management of soybean aphids.

Speakers include Extension specialists, educators, and researchers from South Dakota, Minnesota, and Illinois. In addition, organic producers and other experts will share their experience and expertise with attendees on both days.

Themes on the second day include the governing rules of organic production. Sessions on government programs for transitioning to organic production and on organic livestock production will be parts of the second day's program.

SDSU Plant Science professor Peter Sexton is among the organizers of the conference, and he said it should be a great opportunity for agricultural producers, people who work in agricultural service businesses, and the public. "We're including a top-notch lineup of speakers and guests, and along with organic producers we encourage anyone who is transitioning to organic production, or who is considering a transition, to register for the conference," Sexton said. "The conference will include research-based information on weed control and beef production, as well as opportunities for people to hear first-hand from organic farmers regarding their own experience with transitioning, with weed control, and with beef production."

Sexton also said that organic production in the U.S. has expanded greatly over the last 10 years and that this trend is projected to continue.

Mercury in Flu Shots

by Jim Thompson, SDRC board member, Colman

The Sept. 28 *Argus Leader* article headlined "New flu fear" quotes Lon Kightlinger, the state epidemiologist at the South Dakota Department of Health, as saying, "It's to protect the larger society. The more people protected, the better."

However, a mercury-based preservative called thimerosal has been widely used for vaccines. Mercury is one of the most toxic of the heavy metals. In view of that fact, United States drug regulators agreed thimerosal should be phased out of vaccines more than 10 years ago – especially out of vaccines for children. (*continued on p. 8*)

Western Corn Belt Conference for Organic Farmers

Date: Mon. Dec. 6–Tues. Dec. 7

Place: Best Western Ramkota,
3200 W. Maple St., Sioux Falls.

Registration: \$40.

One-day options: \$30 for Monday,
\$15 for Tuesday

Contact: Peter Sexton

Box 2207A

Plant Science Department

South Dakota State University

Brookings, SD 57007

605-688-6179

Or contact your local Extension office!

Conference Agenda:

www.sdstate.edu/ps/news/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=887385

Flu Shots (cont. from p. 7): Nevertheless, it appears that tens of thousands of free seasonal flu shots that contain mercury will be offered to South Dakota school children this year. Although mercury-free flu shots are available, the shots routinely used in mass flu vaccination campaigns still contain thimerosal.

How much thimerosal? Each individual shot typically contains more than 200 times the hazardous waste threshold set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Code D009 for mercury hazardous waste. Because of its toxicity, the EPA bans even a single flu shot with thimerosal preservative from being flushed down a sanitary sewer system.

To make sure the flu shots for your children are without mercury, you must insist on flu vaccines without thimerosal.

Minnesota Town Takes on Energy Conservation Challenge

by Dan Gunderson, Minnesota Public Radio, November 12, 2010

Residents of the small western Minnesota town of Rothsay are part of a unique energy conservation experiment that could cut their energy consumption by 15 percent.

Otter Tail Power company officials say it's the only effort they know of in the nation that challenges an entire community to use less energy—including students at local schools.

That's what brought students together in the band room at Rothsay High School for a business meeting over lunch. The first item on the agenda: bill analyzer training. The 14 students are leaders in the effort to reduce energy consumption in Rothsay, a community of 510 about 40 minutes southeast of Moorhead. The students are preparing to help neighbors learn how to use an online program to better understand their utility bills.

Seventh grader Grant Stramer has a simple reason for getting involved. "I wanted to help the school save the energy, because then that means the school saves more money and we can use it on sports equipment and other stuff," he said.

The school is the largest energy user in town, so it's getting a lot of attention. Nearly \$500,000 spent on improvements like a new heating system

Thompson Joins SDRS Board

Jim Allen Thompson of Colman, a longtime SDRS member, was elected to a 2-year term on the SDRS board at the annual meeting on October 16.

Thompson is the manager of T & R Service Company in Colman, South Dakota, and is a registered professional engineer. He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the South Dakota Engineering Society.

He and his wife Susan live near Flandreau, South Dakota. Their first granddaughter was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, epilepsy, verbal apraxia, motor disorder, and sensory integration disorder. Her loving memory has influenced his family's decision to help protect children from vaccine injuries.

and energy-efficient lighting will cut energy use. Rebates of about \$90,000 will offset part of the cost. School officials expect savings of about \$30,000 a year.

Since some of those savings will come from students turning out lights and shutting down computers, students will get to help decide how some of the savings are spent.

In fact the students here are so enthusiastic about saving energy, they're preparing to take their message on the road to other area schools. The students have already gone door to door in Rothsay, asking residents to sign a pledge to reduce energy use. Otter Tail Power project coordinator Brenda Sandahl says 66 percent of residents agreed. "People signed up to turn off their lights when they left a room, or unplug their computers and wash full loads, and that should make a difference for the town," Sandahl said.

Jeanette Geer expects much lower energy costs. The Rothsay homeowner won a home makeover as part of the energy challenge project. Her home has new insulation and new energy-efficient appliances. "I got my first water bill and my water bill is down," she said. "These new washers take less water. It's fun to see the difference." It will take a few months to know how much these home improvements will save Geer. *(continued on p. 9)*

Minnesota Conservation (cont. from p. 8): Utilities are required by the state to promote energy conservation. Otter Tail Power decided to see what could be done with a high-profile effort in one town. The utility plans to spend \$282,000 on this energy challenge. Measuring an entire town's energy use is proving to be a challenge. People are always changing their homes in ways that affect energy use. The utility will track electrical use for at least four years, and try to factor in the efforts residents make to upgrade appliances or add insulation.

Otter Tail Power Communication Specialist Stephanie Hoff said everyone can change habits like turning off lights. But many people can't afford to spend thousands of dollars to update all of their appliances. Still, Hoff said what people are learning from this project will create energy savings for years to come. "When you're going out and making these purchases, it's just a matter of the thought process and making sure you're making the most energy-efficient decisions," she said. "The learning opportunity in Rothsay has been tremendous, and people

will be more aware when they make choices down the road."

At the end of this year the utility expects to have the first measure of how much Rothsay has reduced its energy use.

**Election 2010:
The Green Bright Side!**

Congress wimped out on environmental legislation this session. **Not so these states in the 2010 election!**

- 🌐 Californians rejected Proposition 23, protecting their tough clean energy rules from a big-money campaign by the oil barons at Koch Industries.
- 🌐 Maine voters approved nearly \$10M for parks and land and waterfront conservation.
- 🌐 Iowans created a new trust fund for water quality, wildlife habitat, soil erosion mitigation, and parks and trails.
- 🌐 Oregon voters extended funding from state lottery revenue for parks, beaches, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.
- 🌐 Rhode Islanders approved protection for coastal areas on Narragansett Bay.

source: <http://www.grist.org/article/2010-11-02-2010-state-ballot-measure-initiative-energy-environment>

will be more aware when they make choices down the road." At the end of this year the utility expects to have the first measure of how much Rothsay has reduced its energy use.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**Congratulations to Raffle
Winner Williams!**

Jackie Williams of Madison SD was the winner of the SDRC raffle.

She received a quarter of organic beef that was raised by SDRC vice-president Charlie Johnson of Madison. The raffle was held at the SDRC annual business meeting on October 16. The raffle is used as a fundraiser to support the Esther Edie environmental scholarship.



New Building Codes Boost Green Construction

The International Code Council has released new green construction codes to local governments across the country. The suggested codes outline how new buildings can be built to save energy.

International Code Council CEO Rick Weiland, formerly of Sioux Falls, says the codes represent commonsense approaches. "They're really focused on building safe and smart—and now, sustainable—buildings. I feel like we're making a difference. We're saving lives, to some extent, maybe helping save our planet."

Some builders and city planners say the codes would add considerable cost to new buildings, but Weiland says green codes make economic sense. "There has to be a return on that investment, and if you look at the metrics within the code itself, you will see it. You may incur some upfront costs, but over the life of the building, you are actually saving money."

Weiland hopes towns and cities across the nation will become interested in adopting the codes. In fact, he says, a few communities are already taking initial steps toward adopting green building codes. "This isn't something that is all-of-a-sudden going to be everywhere, but for communities that are really interested in greening their built environment, we've now produced a code to do it with."

The green codes are available at www.iccsafe.org.

—Source: SD Public News Service August 23, 2010



South Dakota Resources Coalition
928 8th Street
Brookings, SD 57006

Nonprofit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 35
 Brookings, SD
 57006

Yes, I want to help. Please enroll me in membership category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Bison \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Meadowlark \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eagle \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Owl \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Student / limited income \$15
<input type="checkbox"/> ECO FORUM subscription only \$15	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address Service Requested.
Dated Material. Please Expedite!

printed on recycled paper

ECO FORUM

Newsletter of the SOUTH DAKOTA RESOURCES COALITION

ECO FORUM is the monthly newsletter of the South Dakota Resources Coalition: a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals concerned with the enhancement of South Dakota's environment and the wise use of its resources. The opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of SDRC or its member organizations. Articles and letters may be submitted for publication to ECO FORUM Editor, 928 8th St., Brookings, SD, 57006. We reserve the right to edit submissions and to delay their publication until there is space for them, if necessary.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESOURCES COALITION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....KAYE HUNT (Wentworth)
 VICE PRESIDENT.....CHARLIE JOHNSON (Madison)
 SECRETARY/TREASURER.....LAWRENCE NOVOTNY
 (Brookings)

ECO FORUM EDITOR,
 PHOTOGRAPHER,
 and ADMIN ASSISTANT.....C.A.HEIDELBERGER (Madison)

How to Reach Them!

Senator Tim Johnson:
 136 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510-4103
 (202) 224-5842 (Washington) or (800) 537-0025 (SD field office)
 Washington fax: (202) 228-5765
 Web: johnson.senate.gov/contact

Senator John Thune
 United States Senate SR-493, Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-2321 or (866) 850-3855 (both Washington)
 Washington fax: (202) 228-5429
 Web: thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Email

Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
 331 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-2801 (Washington) or (866) 371-8747 (SD field office)
 Washington fax: (202) 225-5823
 Web: hersethsandlin.house.gov/contact2.htm

President Barack Obama
 The White House, 1600 Penn. Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500
 Comments: (202) 456-1111 or Switchboard: (202) 456-1414
 Web: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

How to Reach Us... (605) 692-6026
South Dakota Resources Coalition
 928 8th Street, Brookings, SD 57006
 E-mail: sdrc@brookings.net
 Website: www.sdrcworks.org