



1000 Islands Energy Research Forum 2009

Alexandria Bay, New York

October 23-25, 2009

"Bright people getting together to work on hard problems about sustainable energy"

In the fall of 2010, a group of universities and industry representatives gathered together on the shores of the St. Lawrence River for the inaugural **1000 Island Energy Research Forum (TIERF)** to discuss the possibilities and present research on sustainable energy strategies for Canada and the USA. The TIERF meeting is to be an annual activity of the Great Lakes Sustainable Energy Consortium (GLSEC), a Canadian-US collaboration of academic and industry partners serving to foster technical research, public policy options, and commercial developments in sustainable energy strategies on both sides of the border.

In a very informal setting, with no parallel sessions, and talks of either 8 or 15 minutes in length, graduate students were given the opportunity to present their research results to their peers and seasoned academic researchers. Thanks to the generous support of the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo, through Daniel Kolundzic, Political and Economic Relations Officer, the conference spanned 3 days, from Friday night to Sunday morning, enabling attendees time to really interact about these issues, especially after the presentations were over.

The conference kicked off Friday evening with a dinner followed by industry presentations by C. Gorman and L. Durante of National Grid, D. Hyndman of Performance Plants, and R. Cummings of Lafarge North America. Four sessions of talks were presented on Saturday: Biomass 1 and 2, Wind, And Solar Certification and CO₂, followed by a poster session, reception and dinner. Sunday morning the researchers reconvened for a session on Energy Assessment and Usage followed by a lengthy discussion up until a closing lunch.

Approximately 40 faculty, researchers and graduate students took part from 6 universities and organizations. Topics ranged from *Engineering Bacteria for Improved Solvent Tolerance for Biofuel Production* and *Bioenergy in Ontario's Emerging Creative Economy* to *The Smart Grid – Solving the Kitchen Sink Problem and Implications for the Seaway Border Area* and *Disruptive Policy Decisions and Impact on Conversion from Coal to Biomass - An Ontario Perspective*. A complete list of sessions and posters can be found at current website <http://www.clarkson.edu/~visser/TIERF>.

All the participants felt the conference was not only successful, but long overdue. The need to discuss policy in conjunction with technology without the constraint of politically mandated borders, is vital to the advancement of a renewable energy strategy. The support of the Canadian government clearly indicates that this need has been recognized at the highest levels of the political system. It is hoped that this small start will grow into an effort that spans political, academic and industrial borders of both our countries.