

GREAT LAKES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONSORTIUM

The Syracuse Center of Excellence, along with its academic and industry partners (Cornell, Syracuse, SUNY ESF, Clarkson) have joined in partnership with their Canadian academic colleagues (Queens, Royal Military College, University of Ottawa) and industry, under the auspices of Great Lakes Sustainable Energy Consortium [GLSEC], to pursue collaborations that will benefit technical research, public policy options and implementation, and commercial developments on both sides of the border, along the I-81 Corridor through Central NY and Eastern Ontario.

The objectives of the GLSEC are: (i) the establishment of a world-class Canada-US research and public policy consortia focussing on renewable energy research and policy implementation; (ii) graduate research student, faculty, and industry technical collaboration, policy implementation and economic development; (iii) increased understanding of Canada and US renewable energy research and public policy options; (iv) stimulate coordinated renewable energy policy between Ontario and NYS; (v) the establishment of an annual technical and policy briefing on the state of renewable energy research, policy implications and commercial implementation for both Ontario and NYS.

The GLSEC emerged as an initiative from the Transborder Research University Network (TRUN). An initial meeting was held in February 2008, where Canadian and American academic and industry researchers affiliated with the GLSEC met to discuss and advance research innovations and public policy regulatory/legislative challenges related to sustainable energy resources across a range of areas including wind, solar, biomass, and smart grid technologies. During the Fall 2009 the Thousand Islands Energy Research Forum was established, where faculty, graduate students and industry representatives gather annually to review on-going research on both technical and policy challenges related to sustainable energy development in the NYS-Eastern Ontario regions.

The expected results of the GLSEC are: (i) an increase in cross-border research collaboration between and amongst engineering and public policy faculty and graduate students; (ii) cross-border collaborative research funding proposals directed toward USDOE, USDA, USDOD, NRCan, NRC, AAFC; (iii) the establishment of an ongoing annual cross-border renewable energy workshop focused on technical and policy issues and challenges; (iv) a coordinated NYS response to Ontario Power Generation's Request for Expressions of Interest regarding Biomass Fuel and Transportation; (v) development of collaborative Canada-US policy research between Queen's School of Public Policy and the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, allowing for binational energy and environmental policy discussion venue for policy decision-makers in Ottawa and Washington, DC.

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