#### **Innovation for Our Energy Future**

#### NREL VISITORS CENTER COMMUNITY NEWS

July/August 2004

### **NREL Neighbors Invited to Community Open House**

Your Family is Invited to attend the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Community Open House

Friday, July 16 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. NREL Visitors Center 15013 Denver West Parkway Golden, Colorado 303-384-6565

NREL Community Open House Features -

Science & Technology Facility Construction Plans
Renewable Energy Exhibits
Energy Saving Tips
Fuel Cell Powered Vehicle
Children's Activities
Village Power Hut
RnE<sup>2</sup>EW
Refreshments

### National Renewable Energy Laboratory Contact:

If you have any questions about NREL's programs or activities, please contact Janice Rooney in the Office of Outreach and Public Affairs at (303) 275-3859. ■

National Renewable Energy Laboratory 1617 Cole Boulevard Golden, CO 80401-3393 (303) 275-3000 • www.nrel.gov

Printed with biodegradable ink on paper containing at least 50% wastepaper, including 20% post consumer waste.

NREL's neighbors are invited to attend a special Community Open House at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory Visitors Center Friday, July 16, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The NREL Open House offers an opportunity for you to learn more about the construction plans for the new Science and Technology Facility. A special exhibit will be on display and a staff representative will be on hand to answer questions.

An exhibition – *Innovation for Our Energy Future* – will feature renewable energy and energy

efficiency exhibits, including "Renewable Energy and Efficiency Education on Wheels" (RnE²EW) a mobile educational vehicle that provides information for homeowners, teachers and students.

Children's activities include learning about renewable energy around the world in a *Renewable Energy Expedition* and activities to earn a special solar badge.

The NREL Visitors Center is located at 15013 Denver West Parkway. For more information call 303-384-6565. ■

#### Solar Tracker Expands Research Capabilities

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is upgrading equipment on the Solar Industrial Mesa Top, which houses Laboratory facilities on the southwest side of South Table Mountain. A new solar tracker will soon replace the 50-foot-high Dish Stirling system that was removed recently because it was no longer being used.

The solar tracker will be installed inside the wind fence on the mesa top and have a maximum height of 25 feet. The new equipment will enhance the Laboratory's calibration capabilities, provide improved testing and validation of solar technology components and create opportunities for collaboration among different research areas.

#### Affordable Cooling Workshop Saturday, July 24 NREL Visitors Center

For information and to register call Colorado Energy Science Center, 303-216-2026



# NREL Visitors Center to Host July Family Fair

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory Visitors Center will hold the NREL Family Fair—*Innovation for Our Energy Future*—Saturday, July 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free educational event offers the public a chance to investigate renewable energy and energy efficiency at home and around the world.

The fair will feature activities for the whole family including technology exhibits, product demonstrations, consumer education sessions and RnE<sup>2</sup>EW. Children can participate in a *Renewable Ranger Energy Expedition* and visit hands-on project stations. The Energy Hog

Continued on Page Two



## NREL Launches Site Wildlife Study

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), located on the side of South Table Mountain, is home to a diverse wildlife community. Local residents include migratory birds, raptors, coyotes, foxes, mule deer and possibly an occasional mountain lion.

As an outcome of NREL's sitewide environmental assessment and as a good stewardship practice, the Laboratory has initiated a yearlong wildlife study to update information on the numbers and distribution of wildlife species on the NREL site. Laboratory staff will evaluate small and large mammals, and predator, raptor and migratory bird populations. Limited reptile-amphibian assessments will be conducted.

NREL staff will complete a shortterm, intense analysis of migratory bird and raptor populations in the area before construction of the Science and Technology Facility begins. The data will be used to minimize the impacts on birds and their habitat



Mule deer graze on the grasses of South Table Mountain.

Construction of the Science and Technology Facility could begin as early as fall 2004. More information about the new facility will be available at the NREL Community Open House, scheduled Friday, July 16, 1–6 p.m. at the NREL Visitors Center.■

NREL Family Fair Continued

will show kids how to save energy in "Just for Kids" programs.

Children and adults will enjoy a vehicle showcase: *Past, Present & Future Autos – from Classical Gas to Corn Ethanol*. Cars on display will range from a 1918 Model T Ford to the 1960s and 1970s muscle and sports cars to a fuel cell-hybrid powered vehicle.

The NREL Visitors Center is located at 15013 Denver West Parkway in Golden. Event parking will be available in the lot west of the Denver Marriott. Look for parking signs along Denver West Parkway. Shuttle service will be provided.

For more information, call 303-384-6565 or visit http://www.nrel.gov/visitors\_center/

### NREL Family Fair Presentations Saturday, July 17, NREL Visitors Center Auditorium

10 - 11 a.m. -- Just for Kids -- "Saving Energy in Your Home"

The Energy Hog and Friends, Energy Outreach Colorado

11 a.m.- Noon -- "Affordable Cooling"

Paul Kriescher, Lightly Treading

Noon - 1 p.m. -- "Solar Electricity for Your Home"

Joe Burdick, Burdick Technologies and Jeff Scott, Altair Energy

1 - 2 p.m. -- Just for Kids -- "Saving Energy in Your Home" The Energy Hog and Friends, Energy Outreach Colorado

U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory 1617 Cole Blvd. Golden, CO 80401 PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID GOLDEN CO PERMIT NO. 258

**Community News** 

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER