



LOCAL ENERGY NEWS

An Update on Locally Owned Energy in Santa Fe

November 2004

Local Energy Has a New Office!

Local Energy has moved its offices to 1442 South Saint Francis Drive, affectionately known as “the Clock Tower Complex”. The move gives us nearly one thousand square-foot of office space, and consolidates all of our engineering and management efforts under one roof. Local Energy will furthermore provide office space to BIOS BIOENERGIESYSTEME GmbH when they return from Austria after Thanksgiving to continue work on the Santa Fe Biomass-Fired District Energy Project.



Sardella Appointed Chairman of the Santa Fe Energy Task Force. Mark Sardella, Founder and Executive Director of Local Energy, has been appointed Chairman of the Santa Fe Joint City/County Energy Task Force. The Task Force is charged with reviewing Santa Fe’s 10-year plan for electricity transmission and distribution, and making recommendations for alternatives to power-line upgrades. Joining Mark on the Task Force are Susan Turner, Gail Ryba, Richard Carpenter, Patricio Larragoite, Kim Shanahan, Neva van Peski, and Ken Hughes. A ninth member will be selected by the committee.



Left to Right: Alfred Hammerschmid MS, Dr. Ingwald Oberberger, and Klaus Supancic MS, from BIOS BIOENERGIESYSTEME in Austria

Biomass District Energy Could Benefit Santa Fe!

Progress continues on our study of the benefits of localizing Santa Fe’s heating supply, and a preliminary economic analysis shows excellent potential for economic development with a biomass system. The system being designed is capable of heating all of downtown Santa Fe, and would cost about \$20 million to build. In addition to the revenue the system would create from heating sales, the system could generate local economic benefits worth up to thirty times its cost. The current focus of the project is on developing small “micro-grid” systems at the Santa Fe Community College and other locations, which will help build the local biomass fuel industry needed for the system. Our engineering team from **BIOS BIOENERGIESYSTEME GmbH** returns in late November to continue working on the project.

Outreach Events: Local Energy will host an open house on Friday, November 12 to update the community on our progress and to celebrate our new office space. In addition to the food provided by **Arthur Padilla** of the **Route 66 Sandwich Shop**, attendees will receive educational materials and be able to view presentations on community-based energy solutions.

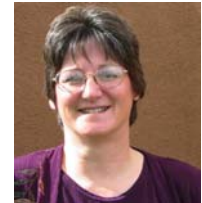
Local Energy Research: We continue to monitor the ongoing decline of oil and gas resources, and report the status through articles, reports, and educational materials. A meta-analysis of the current state-of-knowledge of the energy/economic relationship is underway, with a goal of using the best available data to help us design programs that lessen the hardships of rising energy costs. The lack of widespread understanding of the energy/economic relationship, most notably the failure to understand that energy creates money (and not the other way around), is a primary reason for inaction on the energy resource degradation issue. The failure to grasp the economic implications of the energy problem is limiting our ability to create viable solutions involving renewable energy sources.

Staff Profiles



Mark Sardella, Executive Director is a licensed professional engineer and holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He designed space-flight instruments before joining the energy industry in 1993, and since that time he has designed and installed numerous renewable energy systems for stand-alone and grid-interactive applications. In 1998 he co-founded the Southwest Energy Institute, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit working to foster the transition to sustainable energy. As a director of SEI, Mark advised many governmental and private organizations on energy policy matters. Before joining Local Energy, Mark was Technical Director for *Rebuild New Mexico*, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the New Mexico Energy Office, where he assessed the performance of 5-million square feet of buildings and identified \$3.2 million in annual energy savings.

Pattie Ravenheart, Operations Manager, began with Local Energy in 2003, shortly after the incorporation of Local Energy. With more than 20 years experience in accounting and business management, Pattie oversees the daily operations, ensuring compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations as well as the specific requirements of our funders. She recently earned her B.A. Degree in Conservation Studies – Policy and Planning from the College of Santa Fe.



Christian Casillas, Project Engineer is a Santa Fe native with an environmental engineering degree from Harvard University and a masters degree in applied mathematics from Johns Hopkins University. Christian researched ocean physics with the Harvard Physical Oceanography Research Group before spending three years doing ocean and atmospheric research at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland. He recently returned from two years teaching math and science in a rural village school in southern Africa with the US Peace Corps. He now provides research and other technical support to Local Energy's program efforts.

Charles Lamson, Project Manager, joined the Local Energy team in October, to provide direct oversight of LE projects and managerial support for the Local Energy mission. Charles, with an undergraduate degree from Yale and a Masters in Teaching from Seattle University brings more than 25-years of entrepreneurial experience as well as valuable technical, educational and teambuilding skills to the organization. Before making a career change into public education in 1995, he owned and managed Lamson Products Company, a large contract manufacturer in Redmond, Washington for 22 years.

