

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT



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RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE HELD

Last April the Uinta Headwaters RC&D sponsored a renewable energy conference in Heber. The purpose of the conference was to expose farmers, ranchers, and citizens to the renewable energy opportunities in their communities and farming operations. Highlights included Byron Stafford and Jim Green with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, who discussed "Renewable Energy Options for the Farm and Ranch;" Conly Hansen with Utah State University presented information on his aerobic digester that turns waste into electricity; Richard Carrig with Rural Development provided an overview of funding opportunities from USDA; the Utah Energy Office discussed their projects and available assistance; Scott Truman from the Utah Rural Development Council discussed biomass opportunities for rural communities; and Rod Hyatt, a private contractor, provided practical applications for the home and farm.

The conference presenters displayed an actual wind turbine, several solar panels and a micro-hydro unit so participants could see the different designs and adaptations (see attached photo).



Headwaters RC&D Council President Dave Bates felt that the workshop brought a lot of information to people in rural communities. "When I was looking for power needs in a remote area of my farm, I had to do a lot of research to get solutions. We designed this conference to bring experts with sustainable answers to energy problems on the farm and in the community," said Bates.

The Renewable Energy conference is an annual project for the local RC&D Council.

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