



Mission Statement

The Arkansas Advanced Energy Association (AAEA) is dedicated to growing Arkansas's economy by expanding our energy workforce and manufacturing base through the increased development, manufacture, and utilization of advanced energy technologies.

Profile:

The AAEA is a unique blend of manufacturers, entrepreneurs, small business owners, educators, researchers, consultants and public officials whose common interest and expertise focuses on advanced energy development and economic expansion in Arkansas.

Together, we bring experience, knowledge and field data that conclusively demonstrates Arkansas's dynamic potential as both a major producer and a consumer of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Originally established in 2009 as the Arkansas Business Leaders for a Clean Energy Economy, the AAEA will recruit its membership from among more than 80 advanced energy companies that represent thousands of Arkansas jobs. In addition, dozens of educators, economic development and workforce planners and researchers will be active members of the AAEA network. We also seek collaborations with public and private partners that can help achieve our mission. These partners currently include Energy Foundation, Southern Growth Policies Board, Histecon Associates of Little Rock, Pew Charitable Trusts and the University of Arkansas Applied Sustainability Center.

Advanced energy as an economic development opportunity is a relatively new concept. Until recently, this sector has focused almost entirely on regulatory and environmental issues and was not thought of as a job creator. However, it is now hard to ignore that it is the fastest growing economic sector in the U.S and in Arkansas. To more fully explore the opportunities that exist, AAEA formed a Steering Committee in June, 2011. These key state business leaders and economic experts are guiding our next steps in the organization's transition from an information network to a self-governing association with economic development and public policy objectives that help expand Arkansas's economy. Formal launch of the AAEA is now set for November 8, 2011.

AAEA STEERING COMMITTEE

- Douglas Hutchings, CEO, Silicon Solar Solutions
- Dr. Elizabeth Hood, CEO, Infinite Enzymes
- Gary McChesney, Vice President Product Development, FutureFuel, Inc.
- Keaton Smith, Executive, Iberia Bank
- Michele Halsell, Managing Director, University of Arkansas Applied Sustainability Center
- John Ahlen, President, Arkansas Science & Technology Authority
- Ralf Sigrist, CEO American Operations, Nordex USA
- Ron Hughes, CEO, HERS, Inc.
- Jerry McCormick, Director of Administration, NextGen Illumination
- Mary Ann Shope, Vice President for Economic Development, Pulaski Technical College
- Mark Robertson, CEO, MESA Landscape Architects
- James Lillie, Plant Manager, Mitsubishi Power Systems America
- Ron Bell, Executive Director, Ozark Foothills Resource Conservation & Development District.
- Ken Smith, Policy Director, AAEA
- Steve Patterson, Executive Director, AAEA