

June 18, 2008 Chanute Tribune, Local & State
Solar fabrication and training center proposed in Yates Center

The Kansas Solar Electric Co~operatives or K-SEC was officially incorporated April 16, 2008 and authorized one million shares of stock at \$10 per unit to cover development of the organization infrastructure for K-SEC's Phase I Demonstration. K-SEC's Phase I Demonstration has a goal of producing and installing 10.5 MWp Building-Integrated Photovoltaics [BI-PV] Solar Architecture in Kansas by 2010.

"This is a \$45 M program including a \$7 million fabrication and training center we would like to locate in Yates Center," said Eileen M. Smith, founder and director of the Kansas Solar Electric Co~operatives [K-SEC].

K-SEC's Phase II Foundation plans to install 1,000 MWp BI-PV Solar Architecture in Kansas by 2020, Smith said. *"It will require installation of 2,000 SF BI-PV in 100 counties a week for 10 years."* [The program will provide 1,000 local jobs in Kansas for fifty years.]

"Consumers do not have to pay for the solar system, installation, monitoring or management except they will need to pay for structural modifications to their home or office building if needed to accommodate a fully integrated BI-PV solar system," Smith said.

It is important to understand the many benefits of BI-PV solar, Smith said. The K-SEC Model will increase Homeland Security, emergency preparedness, Environmental Integrity and BI-PV Solar Technology Expertise.

It may not be easy to be a BI-PV Manufacturer, but it is a lot easier than being a child with fetal damage, mental retardation, ADD or autism due to coal-fired mercury toxins, Smith said. She said one of the things she noticed when she moved back to Kansas in 2004 was the high number of people suffering from and often dying from cancer in Kansas.

According to a report done by the American Lung Association, 10,000 children within 20 miles of the Lawrence coal plant have active asthma requiring emergency room care at least once a year. At \$500 a visit that translates to \$5 million a year and quality time regarding only one of the many unhealthy conditions being perpetuated by coal plants.

"I have always loved Yates Center with a beautiful historic town square and the many trees around the community." Smith said. *"I am sad to see the town square windows left in disarray when I know that a display in each window would cost very little. The many signs of apathy and resignation are more*

dangerous than coal emissions. Like those many people who are doing their part to decorate their windows and keep their buildings repaired, I want to stimulate new and progressive jobs for Yates Center this year."

She said she would like to locate K-SEC's Phase I fabrication and training center in Yates Center by December 2008.

"Mayor Burkhart and I first explored the possibility of a solar energy manufacturing plant in Yates Center on Memorial Day 1998."

Residents are invited to and encouraged to show interest in solar energy to Woodson County Commissioners on June 26, at 10:00 am.

"I want everyone to see the PowerPoint Presentation I will make," Smith said.

The three primary goals of the Solar Energy Fairs are:

- Public outreach to educate the public and decision-makers.
- Compile a database of 50,000 SF BI-PV Solar Potential in each county of Kansas by August 31, 2008.
- Incorporate 21 renewable cooperatives under Kansas Statutes Annotated K.S.A. Chapter 17-4651 to 4681 written by Kansas Representative Tom Sloan.