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### Using the carbon cycle to inhibit global warming

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## Posterboard

# WHY RENEWABLE ENERGY MATTERS

Primary author: Gary Oram. Coauthors: Dr. Bradley Layton, Program Director, Applied Computing and Electronics Energy Technology, University of Montana.

### **Abstract:**

Data on the consumption of oil, natural gas and coal world-wide indicates that fossil fuels cannot provide a finite source of energy. Translating that data in a way that the public can easily understand is a challenge that must be met if the public is to become informed about the issue. Visual displays are a powerful tool to show viewers the basic concepts related to the issues of “Why Renewable Energy Matters.” In this poster, we use systems in Idaho, western Wyoming, South Dakota and Alaska to explain this issue. Exploratory and illustrative rather than fully qualitative and quantitative analyses were used as methods to develop the poster and to summarize the reasons renewable energy is important in the west. It was developed as part of the Energy Technology program, and the masters curriculum in Journalism at the University of Montana, whose goal is to bridge the gap between scientific information and public understanding of complex issues. This posterboard was first displayed in a different form at The University of Montana Alumni Relations Convention, September 21, 2012, in Missoula, MT. In another variation it was accepted at the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, OR, and viewed in a third variation during the 13th Annual Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment, January 15-17, 2013, in Washington, DC.

### **Bio: Oram, Gary**

A staff reporter with the Dillon Tribune Gary Oram is an accredited member of the Montana Newspaper Association. In 2012 he won top honors for best Montana sports column. He works closely with The National Council for Science and the Environment. A Masters candidate at the University of Montana Gary Oram studies journalism, wildland fire, alternate sources of energy, and forest, systems, ecology. A Firefighter Type I, he has performed initial and extended attack via helicopter and ground transport on over 70 Size Class A and B fires.

### **CURRICULUM VITAE (excerpt)**

Conference Posterboard Presentation

Oram, G.A. 2012. “Why renewable energy matters,” University of Montana Alumni Relations, Holiday Inn, Missoula, MT., September 21, 2012.

Oram, G.A., Layton, B.E. 2012. “Using the carbon cycle to inhibit global warming: the economic and environmental benefits to burning biomass,” 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, Portland Convention Center, Portland, OR., December 03-07, 2012.

Oram, G.A., Layton, B.E., 2013. “Why renewable energy matters,” 13th Annual Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment, Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Washington, DC., January 15-17, 2013.