



Kidwind Project

475 Cleveland Ave. N., Ste. 220 | St. Paul MN 55104

(877) 917-0079 (phone) | (208) 485-9419 (fax)

www.kidwind.org

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Michael Arquin

KidWind Project

(877)-917-0079

Marion Trieste

GEOS Global, LLC

(518)-226-0260

KidWind Challenge Readies Next Generation for a Future Powered by Renewable Energy

Spring 2009 events will bring together students throughout New York to compete for best wind turbine design

Albany, NY – The *KidWind Project* today announced the first of its kind *KidWind Challenge* in the United States, created for students to put their green ideas to work. Students throughout New York state will be challenged to engineer small wind turbines intended to transform the energy of the wind into electricity. The winning designs will be determined during regional events to be held in Buffalo, Albany, and the Lower Hudson Valley region during the month of May 2009.

“The *Challenge* brings together middle and high school students throughout New York to compete for the best designed and constructed mini wind turbine,” stated Michael Arquin, Director of the *KidWind Project*. “If we are to fundamentally change the way we produce and consume energy in this country, we need to start challenging the next generation of innovators,” added Arquin.

All New York state middle and high school students are eligible to enter regional competitions. The top three teams at each event will receive monetary and other prizes. Once teams are registered for the competition, *KidWind* will provide them with a basic generator measurement equipment and competition guidelines. The rest of the design work is up to the students. Competitors will bring their self-constructed turbines to *KidWind's* portable wind tunnel at regional events to test their performance. The portable wind tunnel was a student project in itself, designed and built by high school students at the Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES. In addition to performance, team designs will also be evaluated by a panel of teachers and wind engineers for innovation and engineering.

The project is funded through a \$25,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). “NYSERDA is pleased to help support and promote educational efforts such as the *KidWind Challenge* to inspire tomorrow’s clean energy engineers,” said Judy Jarnfeld, NYSERDA. In addition to NYSERDA, *Challenge* partners include the Children’s Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST) in Troy; the State University of New York at Buffalo; Harbec Plastics, Ontario, NY; the Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation; and Somers Central School District, Somers, NY, Buffalo Museum of Science. “The *KidWind Challenge* is a way to stimulate young minds and get students involved in really making a difference in our energy future,” said John Smith, Director CMOST.

The *KidWind Challenge* is modeled after the University of Guelph’s (Ontario, Canada) *WindEng* design challenge. This event attracts hundreds of high school students to the engineering college each year. “*WindEng* is excited to help the *KidWind Project* adapt and learn from our successful wind turbine challenge and bring it to students in the US,” said Andrea Woon-Fat at the University of Guelph.

“We’ve all heard a lot recently about how our nation’s economic future depends on training a workforce that is competent in science, math and energy concepts,” said Arquin. “The *KidWind Challenge* is a fun and hands-on way to inspire students to pursue further learning in these crucial academic areas. If we are successful in New York, we hope to bring similar competitions to a number of regions of the United States,” added Arquin.

More information on the event and registration rules visit *KidWind's* website, www.kidwind.org, or www.windturbinechallenge.org

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The KidWind Project is a team of teachers, engineers and scientists committed to innovative energy education. Our goal is to promote the elegance of wind power through affordable tools and training programs that challenge, engage and inspire students of all ages.