



January 2012

Dear Educator,

We invite all Minnesota schools to enter the Solar Boat Regatta hosted by the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society May 19, 2012 at Phalen Lake in St. Paul. The purpose of the Regatta is to teach students about solar electricity by designing a solar powered boat and then experiencing the fun and pride of competing with it at the 20th Annual Solar Boat Regatta.

As a competition with **science, technology, engineering and math** educational opportunities, it provides students:

Experiential learning in:

- solar electricity
- wiring
- motors
- fluid dynamics

To enhance:

- practical knowledge of electricity
- creative uses of renewable energy
- confidence inherent in hands-on applied learning

Participating can be as simple or complicated as you choose. Retrofit an existing boat or build from scratch. We have basic starter kits (solar panel and motor) available for loan on a first-come, first-serve basis and solar experts who will lend advice as needed.

We hope that your school will participate and encourage other schools to join you for friendly competition. Please visit our website for an overview, rules, registration and comments from students that created their own web page about their experience. <http://mnrenewables.org/solar-boat-regatta>

Please feel free to contact MRES Solar Boat Regatta Co-Chairs Doug Shoemaker (612-308-4757) dougs@MNRenewables.org or Jennifer Birkholz (651-503-7790) jennifer.birkholz@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the Regatta. Also, please let us know as soon as possible if you intend to register a team.

We hope to see you as a participant or a spectator at the Regatta on May 19th!

Sincerely,
Doug Shoemaker
Jennifer Birkholz
Solar Boat Regatta Co-Chairs
Minnesota Renewable Energy Society

The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) is a member-run, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in Minneapolis in 1978 and incorporated in Minnesota in 1979 to promote the use of, and to engage in advocacy for, renewable energies in Minnesota through education and through the demonstration of practical applications. MRES is involved in education, awareness, and advocacy efforts for all forms of renewable energy, with a particular emphasis on solar technologies.