

Solar Conference has Toledo flavor

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The use of renewable energy as a tool for economic development will be the primary focus of Solar 2007, the National Solar Energy Conference scheduled for July 7-12 at the Cleveland Convention Center.

Although the conference is taking place more than 100 miles away in Cleveland, Toledo will have numerous connections through the participation of local companies, individuals and UT.

"Toledo is the center of excellence for photovoltaic (solar energy) research," said Norm Johnston, president and chief executive officer of Solar Fields, LLC in Perrysburg. "It will be well-represented at the solar conference."

A group of attendees at the conference will travel by bus to tour several Northwest Ohio technology sites on Sunday, July 8. They will visit the Bowling Green wind farm, First Solar manufacturing plant in Perrysburg, Photovoltaic Innovation and Commercialization (PVIC) Center at UT, and a model home in Monclova Township built by Decker Homes of Temperance, Mich.



UT will have a significant presence at the solar conference in Cleveland.

Robert Collins, professor of physics and astronomy at UT and lead investigator of photovoltaic research at the PVIC center, and Bill Decker of Decker Homes will make presentations about integrating photovoltaic products in residential construction at a forum on July 9.

Collins is a leading researcher in the photovoltaic field that is aimed at improving materials and ways to lower production costs and improve the efficiency of solar technologies. Decker is a leading authority on building energy efficient homes using the Energy Star guidelines established by the U.S. Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency.



The PVIC Center will have an exhibit at the solar conference in conjunction with the Ohio Dept. of Development. It will provide educational material about photovoltaic research being conducted at UT in collaboration with BGSU and The Ohio State University.

