



# Statement

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## **WIREC Shows the Potential – and Support for – Hydropower and Other Renewables**

The National Hydropower Association is pleased to welcome delegates from around the globe to the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC). As the trade association that represents America's largest and longest-serving renewable energy resource, NHA supports international efforts to bring new renewable energy technologies to market that can provide reliable, affordable electricity, while also offering environmental and economic benefits.

"With world demand for new clean-energy resources growing, hydropower – both conventional and new waterpower technologies – is ready to expand," said NHA executive director Linda Church Ciocci. "WIREC will help highlight how hydropower technologies can serve consumers."

Here in the United States, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) reports that hydropower has the potential to more than double its capacity through the use of new technologies that improve efficiency at existing facilities, add energy generation applications at existing non-powered dams, and harness the power of waves, tides, and other sources of moving water.

"We have more than 95,000 megawatts of potential hydropower capacity in the United States," Church Ciocci said. "That's enough to power 76 million homes, avoiding 647 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually."

One of the keys to putting this resource into use is ensuring a stable investment environment for hydropower developers. NHA members report that having the production tax credit in place for the last two years has helped expand business, particularly in manufacturing, by as much as 20 percent.

"We've been pleased to see Congress respond to the country's future energy needs by enacting tax provisions that support hydropower and other renewable energy resources," Church Ciocci said. "And now, we encourage Congressional leaders to take the next step and extend these incentives for the long-term."

Church Ciocci added that having WIREC here in Washington will offer policymakers an opportunity to see the interest and support hydropower and other renewable energy technologies are prompting internationally, as well as in the United States.

“The United States led the way on renewable energy more than 100 years ago, when the first hydroelectric plant opened in 1882 at Fox River in Wisconsin,” she said. “Today, we urge Congress to keep this momentum going by supporting new hydropower technologies and other renewable energy applications. “

NHA is a partnering organization of the WIREC conference and a sponsor of the tradeshow. Come visit us at booth 523 to learn more about hydropower and ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic technologies.

Church Ciocci will also moderate a panel on U.S. markets and policy drivers during the WIREC business conference on Mar. 5, 10:30am-12:00p.m in Room 152B. The session will look at the current state of the art in hydropower and ocean technologies, the policy drivers that influence development, and the realistic potential for hydropower growth in the United States.

For more information visit: [http://www.americanrenewables.org/full\\_program.cfm](http://www.americanrenewables.org/full_program.cfm).

NHA is also an official partner in the Defining Sustainable Hydropower WIREC side event, which will take place Mar. 4, 5:00pm-6:30 p.m. in Room 159A. This event, also sponsored by the International Hydropower Association (IHA), Canadian Hydropower Association (CHA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), will look at the issues involving a sustainability assessment tool developed by the IHA to measure and guide activities within the international hydropower sector.

Participants include representatives from both developed and developing countries and experts on the social, financial, and environmental implications of the sustainability assessment.

For more information visit:  
[http://www.americanrenewables.org/side\\_event\\_schedule.cfm](http://www.americanrenewables.org/side_event_schedule.cfm).

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*NHA is a non-profit national association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the U.S. hydropower industry, including the new waterpower technologies – ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic technologies. The association represents 61 percent of domestic, non-federal conventional hydroelectric capacity in the U.S. Its membership consists of more than 150 organizations including public utilities, investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, developers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and engineering consultants, and attorneys.*