



## **Conference Attendee Favorite to Return as Keynote Speaker *Lauren Thirer of GE to Speak at Luncheon on Wednesday***

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Lincoln, NE- This year's eighth annual *Nebraska Wind and Solar Conference and Exhibition* being held at the Omaha Hilton in Omaha, NE, November 4-5, will feature some exciting new speakers, and the return of a conference attendee favorite, Lauren Thirer with GE Renewables. A Consumer Energy Showcase, open to the public, will be held the evening of Tuesday, November 3.

Thirer will be the keynote speaker during lunch on the first day of the conference, Wednesday November 4.

"Lauren's session was one of the top presentations at last year's conference and she is an incredible presenter," said Dean Mueller, Division Manager of Sustainable Energy & Environmental Stewardship for Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). "Several people asked for a copy of the presentation and had follow-up questions."

Thirer is the Director of Customer Analytics at GE Renewables and joined GE in 2009 as part of the Renewable Energy Leadership Program a two-year rotational program where she held high-impact roles in parts remanufacturing, the commercial team and the offshore product line. Thirer is responsible for the development of all new wind turbine models, including competitive assessment, analysis of global market trends and drivers, and specification of key product requirements.

"New technology and new wind turbine models, together with well-sited projects in high resource locations are a key factor for utilities in their future renewable energy choices," said Dan McGuire, conference co-chairman. "Lauren has good insight into these important subjects, and she has a very engaging presentation style that relates the material to attendees in an easy to understand manner."

Early standard Registration is \$140 by close of business September 30, and \$160 until October 25<sup>th</sup>. Student Registration is \$65. Rooms at the Hilton Omaha are \$122 per night until October 4, which includes free parking. Those not staying at the hotel will receive a reduced daily parking rate of \$5. Standard and student registration includes the Consumer Energy Showcase, which is open to the general public for a \$5 admission fee and includes parking. Registration information is available at the conference website <http://nebraskawindandsolarconference.com/>. For hotel reservations, contact Hilton Omaha, 1001 Cass Street, Omaha, NE at (402) 998-3400 or <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/nebraska/hilton-omaha-OMACVHH/index.html>.

To view last year's presentations, go to <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/2014conference/2014conference.htm>.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Paula Steenson at [ppresents@aol.com](mailto:ppresents@aol.com) or 402-346-3950.