

Teacher LEADERS Tour Renewable Energy Sites in NW Ohio

Six members of our teacher LEADERS group met on Saturday October 6th as a group of 23 family and friends to tour four renewable energy site locations in NW Ohio.

The five hour tour began and ended at Owens CC where they provide training and certification for both wind and solar installations.

Solterra was one of the first stops which is a residential home located in Curtice, Ohio. It features a wide array of renewable and alternative energy systems working in tandem effectively creating a 0 energy home. The home has been a lifelong passion of Ralph and Lea Semrock who designed and built much of the facility themselves.

The next stop was the home of UT professor Al Compaan. His Sylvania home features a solar array sized slightly under the 0 energy threshold. The home's solar panels also charge his S-10 pickup. And of course, during those times when the sun does not shine, his vehicle can be used as a battery backup to the home. Interestingly, the Chevy truck can travel about 40 miles between charges which equates to an amazing 4 days of home energy supply capabilities.

Xunlight was a real treat. Rarely can non-employees tour a PV manufacturing facility. Many thanks to tour guide Al Compaan for also hosting this opportunity. Flexible thin-film designs offer a wide array of commercial applications. The group was excited just imagining all the opportunities. We wish home grown and university born Xunlight the very best as they transition their business from product concept to commercialization.

Many thanks to Joe and Jim Peschel for providing Owens CC sponsored transportation for the day's event.

Joe Perlaky, LEADERS Scientist /Business Liaison