

BEST FEST '12 – Call for Proposals – Educational Sessions and Posters

<http://oregonbestfest.org> | September 12, 2012, Portland, OR

Event Summary and Theme

The Pacific Northwest's premier expo and networking event for renewable energy and sustainable built environment research, development, and commercialization, Oregon BEST FEST '11 brought together university researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders for an all-day, hands-on conference in downtown Portland.

Oregon BEST FEST '12 will be our fourth annual event, with the theme "Rising to the Challenge." We will continue the tradition of featuring a range of regional and national speakers, research presentations, poster presentations, and interactive workshops focused on creating jobs through informed innovation and filling the gaps in developing new products and services.

This year, we are opening up the process for developing breakout sessions to a call, because we recognize that there are emerging research topics that we might not be aware of, or discussions that we might not think to bring to this venue. In an effort to continually grow the relevance and value of our signature event, Oregon BEST invites proposals from anyone engaged in innovation, research, or commercialization that is relevant to Oregon's building and renewable energy sectors.

You will find several opportunities within this call for proposals, each with their own guidelines and criteria:

1. **Poster Presentations** – posters presenting research findings will be displayed the full day of Oregon BEST FEST, and poster authors will have a 2-minute presentation slot to introduce the main thrust of their project to attendees.
2. **Research Panels (60 minutes)** – group of up to 3 presenters on a research subject matter, technology, or case study.
3. **Research Presentations (15 minutes)** – individual presenter on a research subject matter, technology, or case study, to be combined into a relevant panel by Oregon BEST staff
4. **Concurrent Sessions (60 minutes)** – a group of up to 3 presenters on a thematically relevant subject matter. The subject will not be specific to a given technology or area of study, but should be informative to our conference audience. Ideas include financing, research funding, the innovation process, etc. In this area, we are particularly open to creative ideas and presentation approaches.
5. **Student Innovators (15 minutes)** – individual presentations from student innovation competitions, internships, capstone projects, etc.

Oregon BEST FEST will have nine (9) total breakout sessions, and we will not be able to accept all proposals to present. Our conference committee's charge is to consider the proposed sessions, and build the program from those selected for their quality and relevance. The committee will not be performing a scoring or formal review and comment. As noted in the timeline near the end of this document, the committee will be notifying proposing teams of their decision at the end of April. We reserve the right to select all or part of a proposed session.

Topics of Interest

This is a list of suggested topics. It is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all possible topics

- Innovations in Occupant Engagement toward building performance improvements
- Advancements in Building Materials
- Building Energy and Water Performance – emerging technologies, M&V and financing innovations
- Existing Building Retrofits – innovative technologies or illustrative case studies
- Integrated Design Process innovations
- Renewable Energy generation and processing technologies
- Distributed Energy - grid integration
- Energy Storage technologies and integration with generation, transmission and distribution
- Successes and stresses of the commercialization pipeline
- Funding/Financing of research and innovation
- The process of Innovation

Submittal Requirements

See full requirements for submittal contents, as well as criteria for review, within each of the sections below:

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Poster Presentations

Posters presenting research findings will be displayed the full day of Oregon BEST FEST, and poster authors will have a 2-minute presentation slot to introduce the main thrust of their project to attendees.

Faculty, students, industry scientists, and entrepreneurs who are engaged in research related to the sustainable built environment and/or renewable energy are invited to submit abstracts for a poster presentation. Due to limited space, only 45 posters will be selected.

Abstracts topics should be in one or more of the following areas:

- Renewable Energy (including solar, biomass/biofuels, wind, wave, geothermal, and others)
- Sustainable Built Environment (including building materials, performance assessment, energy systems & efficiency, transit/transportation, and building & community design).

Poster topics presenting industry-academic collaborations are strongly encouraged.

In our online submission form, submitters will be asked to provide the following:

- Poster title
- Presenter's full name
- Complete contact information
- Co-author names
- An abstract of no more than 200 words

Review Criteria – Oregon BEST will use these as a means for evaluating proposals

- Represents an innovative contribution to a timely and important topic of interest.
- Includes a quality research abstract (200 words) that describes innovative research in advancing green building or renewable energy understanding and practice.
- Places emphasis on the collection of new empirical data; development and application of practical solutions; and/or critical evaluation of practices.
- Fits within and contributes to identified conference topics and theme.

Accepted poster presenters will be allowed an opportunity to give a brief 2-minute summary of their research subject in one of the breakout sessions that is related to their area of research.

Research Panels

A group of up to 3 presenters on a research subject matter, technology, or case study. (60 minutes)

In our online submission form, submitters will be asked to provide the following:

Title (100 characters maximum)

Abstract (500 words maximum)

Submitter's Contact information: The "Submitter" is the individual completing the online form, and who will be available to answer any logistical questions about the submission, regardless of whether they are the proposed speaker/presenter.

Relevant Audience(s) – content should be targeted at some or more of the audiences that we expect at BEST FEST:

- Companies – Sustainable Built Environment
- Companies – Renewable Energy
- Small Business/Entrepreneurs
- Researchers – Sustainable Built Environment
- Researchers – Renewable Energy
- Investors
- Government
- Entrepreneur Support Organizations
- Advocacy organizations – Sustainable Built Environment
- Advocacy organizations – Renewable Energy
- University Commercialization & Technology Transfer

Oregon BEST program connection [select as many as are relevant to the subject]

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Built Environment
- Commercialization (related to one or both of the above sectors)

Learning objectives (please list 3-4 lessons/insights the audience will take away from this session and be able to utilize in their work)

Speaker Details (Name, Affiliation, Professional Title, Email address, bio of 100-250 words, Provide 1-3 recent examples of speaking experience: Event, Presentation Title, Length, Date, and Audience Size)

Review Criteria – Oregon BEST will use these as a means for evaluating proposals

- Represents an innovative contribution to a timely and important topic of interest.
- Includes a balanced mix of qualified presenters with topic-relevant experience, as demonstrated by presenter bios, and speaking experience.
- Includes a quality research abstract (500 words) that describes innovative research in advancing green building or renewable energy understanding and practice.
- Proposal places emphasis on the collection of new empirical data; development and application of practical solutions; and/or critical evaluation of practices.
- Fits within and contributes to identified session topics.

Individual Research Presentations

An individual presenter on a research subject matter, technology, or case study, to be combined into a relevant panel by Oregon BEST staff. (15 minutes)

In our online submission form, submitters will be asked to provide the following:

Title (100 characters maximum)

Abstract (200 words maximum)

Relevant Audience(s) – content should be targeted at some or more of the audiences that we expect at BEST FEST:

- Companies – Sustainable Built Environment
- Companies – Renewable Energy
- Small Business/Entrepreneurs
- Researchers – Sustainable Built Environment
- Researchers – Renewable Energy
- Investors
- Government
- Entrepreneur support
- Advocacy organizations – Sustainable Built Environment
- Advocacy organizations – Renewable Energy
- University Commercialization & Technology Transfer

Oregon BEST program connection [select as many as are relevant to the subject]

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Built Environment
- Commercialization (related to one or both of the above sectors)

Learning objectives (please list 3-4 lessons/insights the audience will take away from this session and be able to utilize in their work)

Speakers (Name, Affiliation, Professional Title, Email address, bio of 100-250 words, Provide 1-3 recent examples of speaking experience: Event, Presentation Title, Length, Date, and Audience Size)

Review Criteria – Oregon BEST will use these as a means for evaluating proposals

- Represents an innovative contribution to a timely and important topic of interest.
- Presenter is qualified, with topic-relevant experience, as demonstrated by bio and speaking experience.
- Includes a previously unpublished, journal quality research abstract (200 words) that describes innovative research in advancing green building or renewable energy understanding and practice.
- Proposal places emphasis on the collection of new empirical data; development and application of practical solutions; and/or critical evaluation of practices.

- Fits within and contributes to identified session topics.

Concurrent Sessions

A group of up to 3 presenters on a thematically relevant subject matter. The subject will not be specific to a given technology or area of study, but should be informative to our conference audience. Ideas include financing, research funding, the innovation process, etc. In this area, we are particularly open to creative ideas and presentation approaches. (60 minutes)

In our online submission form, submitters will be asked to provide the following:

Title (100 characters maximum)

Abstract (250 words maximum)

Relevant Audience(s) – content should be targeted at some or more of the audiences that we expect at BEST FEST:

Submitter's Contact information: The "Submitter" is the individual completing the online form, and who will be available to answer any logistical questions about the submission, regardless of whether they are the proposed speaker/presenter.

Companies – Sustainable Built Environment

- Companies – Renewable Energy
- Small Business/Entrepreneurs
- Researchers – Sustainable Built Environment
- Researchers – Renewable Energy
- Investors
- Government
- Entrepreneur Support Organizations
- Advocacy organizations – Sustainable Built Environment
- Advocacy organizations – Renewable Energy
- University Commercialization & Technology Transfer

Oregon BEST program connection [select as many as are relevant to the subject]

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Built Environment
- Commercialization (related to one or both of the above sectors)

Learning objectives (please list 3-4 lessons/insights the audience will take away from this session and be able to utilize in their work)

Speakers (Name, Affiliation, Title, Email address, bio of 100-250 words, Provide 1-3 recent examples of speaking experience: Event, Presentation Title, Length, Date, and Audience Size)

Review Criteria – Oregon BEST will use these as a means for evaluating proposals

- Represents an innovative contribution to a timely and important topic of interest.
- Includes a balanced mix of qualified presenters with topic-relevant experience, as demonstrated by presenter bios, and speaking experience.
- Includes a quality session abstract (250 words) that describes how this session will convey new insights to the Oregon BEST FEST audience about subjects relevant to innovation, but not specific to a given technology.
- Creativity of subject matter and content delivery approach.
- Fits within and contributes to identified session topics and/or conference theme.

Student Innovators

An individual presentation from student innovation competitions, internships, capstone projects, etc. (15 minutes)

In our online submission form, submitters will be asked to provide the following:

Title (100 characters maximum)

Abstract (200 words maximum)

Oregon BEST program connection [select as many as are relevant to the subject]

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Built Environment
- Commercialization (related to one or both of the above sectors)

Identify your faculty advisor or other university program contact, as well as company name if the project is an externship or capstone involving a company.

Review Criteria – Oregon BEST will use these as a means for evaluating proposals

- Represents an innovative contribution to a timely and important topic of interest.
- Research project includes a strong application or commercialization focus.
- Outlines a well-conceived student project with sufficient development and progress in time for the conference.*
- Fits within and contributes to identified session topics and/or conference theme.

** Oregon BEST reserves the right to issue a second round of requests for proposals at a later date, due to the nature and timing of student projects.*

Program Policies, Guidelines and Expectations

The proposal type descriptions on page 1 identify the number of speakers, and the time allotted for the given presentation or session.

As a conference that is intended to highlight the opportunities for collaboration between universities and industry in Oregon, we expect that successful proposals will include representatives of both – or in the case of individual presentations, will speak about the relevance to or participation by both.

We strive for diversity in Oregon BEST FEST's slate of presenters. Diversity of gender, race, discipline, and geographic representation is a priority for Oregon BEST FEST planning committee in developing the conference program, and will be given considerable weight when evaluating proposals.

Presentations are not meant to be a platform for business promotion. Oregon BEST requests that all proposals relate specifically to offering educational outcomes for attendees. If a presentation relates to a specific business, product, technology, or project, the emphasis must be on the underlying research or innovation process with the objective being to provide insight for attendees to be able to apply in their own work.

We have historically had participation from individuals throughout our region and beyond at Oregon BEST FEST. While we encourage presenters from out of state, we do so with the express request that the research project relate to work in Oregon, either through collaboration with an Oregon entity, or subject matter that relates directly to regional issues.

Session Presenters and Poster Presenters with accepted proposals will be expected to register for, and attend the conference. Oregon BEST FEST registration fees will be discounted for session presenters, but poster presenters will be expected to pay the full registration fee.

How to Submit

[Submit your proposal here in our online form.](#)

Review and Selection Process Timeline

February 22, 2012	Call for Proposals Issued
April 6, 2012	Deadline for Proposal Submission - the conference committee will review poster submissions
April 27, 2012	Selection Decisions announced to proposing authors/teams
May 4, 2012	Deadline for presenters to confirm participation
May 18, 2012	Deadline for speaker bios and photos for event website
September 7, 2012	Deadline for presentation files to be submitted to Oregon BEST FEST staff
September 12, 2012	Oregon BEST FEST

For additional information:

info@oregonbestfest.org

To view previous years' agendas and session descriptions, visit:

<http://oregonbest.org/bestfest/past-events>