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Preston County Economic Development Authority sponsors Energy Expo

Joseph Hauger 15 hrs ago



The Preston County Economic Development Authority makes information available at the recent Energy Expo in Morgantown.
 Submitted photo

KINGWOOD — The Preston County Economic Development Authority, a founding sponsor of the West Virginia Energy Expo, attended the event on Oct. 4 at Morgantown's Mylan Park.

A roundtable discussion opened that day with speakers from several energy resources participating. The forum emcee was John Deskins of the WVU Business & Economics department. Bill Raney of the West Virginia Coal Association, Charlie Burd of IOGA WV, Karan Ireland from West Virginia Sun and Xavier Walter of Energy Efficient West Virginia all participated in the discussion on the future of West Virginia energy. Next, Dr. Brian Anderson of the WVU Energy Institute presented West Virginia Forward. The final presentation in the afternoon was "Energy Efficiency in the Workplace" from Dr. Ashish D. Minbarte of the WVU Industrial Assessment Center.

Energy stands as one of the strengths of West Virginia's economy. The state is taking a lead in meeting the country's energy needs through traditional resources and advanced technology, expo officials said, and it is imperative that West Virginia create an energy blueprint that will secure energy independence by 2030. Policies will include all forms of feasible energy technologies, from clean coal and natural gas to biomass, hydrogen, hydro, wind and solar power.



Hosted by the state Department of Commerce, the West Virginia Economic Development Council and the Stick Co., the West Virginia Energy Expo is a one-day business event tailored toward growth and opportunity in the energy industry in West Virginia.

Anchored by the state's largest energy-focused trade show showcasing regional products, services and technologies, the event continues to provide value to exhibitors, attendees and sponsors. The Energy Expo is a business-driven trade show featuring local businesses and all the services provided in our state across all energy platforms helping educate each other on the business opportunities within each sector.

"On behalf of the West Virginia Department of Commerce, the West Virginia Economic Development Council and the Stick Co., we thank everyone who sponsored, exhibited and attended the first West Virginia Energy Expo," said Damian M. Ferek, founder of the expo and president of the Stick Co. "Formerly the WV Oil and Gas Expo, this year's event was the first to combine all energy formats in the state into a single day business to business trade show featuring nearly 200 exhibitors.



"As one of the country's top five energy producing states, West Virginia has enormous potential to be a huge part of the growth and development of domestic energy. This event will continue to help participants understand how best to prepare their business for the bright future ahead. We would like to thank our founding sponsors for their continued support. We would also like to acknowledge two individuals who were instrumental in the founding of this event from the start. The late Nicholas 'Corky' DeMarco of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association and the late Brian F. Thomas of Clear Mountain Bank. Sadly, the world lost two great individuals as both Corky and Brian passed away 2016. Our thoughts remain with their families and organizations.

"Thanks to their efforts, and the efforts of countless others, the 2017 Energy Expo was able to develop and transition to help reach a broader audience and more statewide audience. We look forward to continuing to enhance and grow the event moving forward. We have set the date for the 2018 West Virginia Energy Expo on Oct. 3, 2018. We hope you can join us," Ferek said.



Joseph Hauger