



## Valley businesses learn about renewable energy

Updated: Jan 21, 2009 08:00 PM CST

By Josh Ault - [Bio](#) | [Email](#)



FLORENCE, AL (WAFF) - As the country continues to struggle with the bad economy, more and more groups are trying to promote new ways to save money. Their focus is on renewable energy sources.

Wednesday the public was invited to a seminar at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce in Florence.

"We are trying to do a lot of education outreach activities, such as this seminar," Ruchi Singhal, Director of Renewable Energy Outreach, said.

Singhal oversees a government funded program called Renewable Energy Outreach or REO. She says there are many different ways to create energy.

Singhal described some of the energy sources, "Bio-fuels, under bio fuels come bio-diesel and ethanol, there is bio-mass that can be converted to electricity, there's solar, there's wind, and there's electric cars."

The city of Florence has already started using alternative energy sources, from solar panels at the water treatment facility to using bio-diesel.

Singhal says many people do not know much about these energy sources and her job is to educate and help new businesses save money.

Jeremy Rogers, of Florence, started looking at bio-diesel when he was 19-years-old. He said, "I thought this makes a lot of sense, why aren't we doing this?"

He is now the vice president of North Alabama Bio-Diesel in Florence. He hopes more entrepreneurs will see the positives of these new energy sources, especially the cost effectiveness in the long run.

If you are interested in learning more about the Renewable Energy Outreach, call 256-704-6000 or e-mail Ruchi Singhal at [ruchi@biztech.org](mailto:ruchi@biztech.org)