

Fulbright Scholars to meet with Vermont energy, food pioneers

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Free Press Staff Report

Forty-six foreign Fulbright Scholars will meet today and Friday with Vermonters who have pioneered energy and food production -- as part of an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Panelists at the three-day conference include regional leaders who have brought national and international prominence to local sustainability efforts. They include:

- Will Raap, Gardener's Supply Co.
- Gwendolyn Hallsmith, city of Montpelier
- Scott Johnstone, Vermont Energy Investment Corp.
- Chuck Ross, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- John Bramley, Windham Foundation
- Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

The foreign scholars will also tour food-based industries in Hardwick, cow-power methane digesters in Bridport, and energy innovations in Middlebury and Hinesburg. In Burlington, tours are planned for Chittenden Community Action, the Lund Family Center, ReSource (formerly ReCycle North) and the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.

The Fulbright Program was begun in 1946 to fund global study for scholars, researchers and educators. According to a news release from the Vermont Council on World Affairs, the program enables travel-based learning for about 2,000 American and overseas professionals every year.