

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Official Says Waste Heat Is Potential Energy Source

CHARLESTON — West Virginia is awash in an untapped energy source, and it doesn't come from the state's coal fields — at least not directly.

That energy source is waste heat generated from its many industrial and manufacturing operations. Right now, that energy simply dissipates into the atmosphere, but it doesn't have to be that way, according to **Dick Munson**, senior vice president for the Illinois-based **Recycled Energy Development**.

"If you capture that, you are going to save energy," he told the members of the state **Senate** Economic Development Committee Jan. 15.

RED specializes in the capture of waste heat that is the byproduct of industrial operations. It uses the heat to generate electricity and thermal power.

Capturing waste heat in the U.S. could generate 200,000 megawatts of power, roughly equal to 400 coal plants, Munson said.

RED is eager to invest in West Virginia, and it already has about \$200 million of clean projects under discussion, he said. The problem is the state's historically low energy prices have discouraged clean energy investment.

Munson said that is no longer the case. The state's average coal plant is 45 years old, and new plants cost \$2,500 per kilowatt to build, making alternatives such as recycled energy financially viable — with a little help.

He proposed the state adopt a Clean Energy Standard Offer Program to spur investment in energy recycling, as well as other forms of clean energy.

"What that means is do an honest calculation as to what it is going to cost the state to build and deliver a new power plant, and then agree to provide a contract to anybody who can provide clean energy but at 80 percent of the cost of that power plant," he said.

— *By Walt Williams*