

Solar Visionary

UofL's first renewable energy prize awarded to Swiss chemist Dr. Michael Graetzel

The University of Louisville and Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research at the J.B. Speed School of Engineering are pleased to congratulate Dr. Michael Graetzel for winning the first Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy. Noted for his discovery of a semi-flexible solar cell that's just as efficient but more affordable to produce than silicon-based cells, the "Graetzel cell" is an innovative dye-sensitized approach that merges nanoscience with photoconversion. The result is the ability to convert sunlight into electricity using earth-abundant materials – opening the door to low cost production and creative solar applications, which will significantly contribute to global renewable energy generation.

Photo: Adam Hertzog/EPFL

Dr. Graetzel is a professor and director of the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and the first Leigh Ann Conn Prize Laureate (2013).

Nominations for the 2017 Leigh Ann Conn Prize competition are accepted January 1 to December 31, 2016. Visit leighannconnprize.com for details.

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RE³ Workshop 2017
Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency



The RE3 Workshop features top researchers from national labs, universities, and industries to discuss the latest developments and challenges in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

The Workshop highlights specific themes in renewable energy and energy efficiency research and implementation, including:

**Solar Energy • Energy Materials Discovery • Membranes
Solar Fuels • Biofuels • Energy Storage • Entrepreneurship**

Each theme is organized by leading academic researchers and industry partners from Kentucky to feature eminent researchers and business people from across the US and the globe.

Acknowledging the ideas and achievements in research related to the science, engineering, technology, and commercialization of renewable energy

This biannual award is to acknowledge, publicize, and disseminate outstanding ideas and achievements in research related to the science, engineering, technology, and commercialization of renewable energy.

Nominations may address a wide range of topics involving renewable energy and energy efficiency with a demonstrated or clear potential global impact.

The award is designed to recognize and reward the impact of specific ideas or achievements, rather than a lifetime of achievements in the field.

The prize was established in 2012 by Hank and Rebecca Conn in memory of their daughter, Leigh Ann.

leighannconnprize.org

re3workshop.org



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CONN CENTER FOR RENEWABLE
ENERGY RESEARCH

conncenter.org

Local Innovation

Global Impact

The University of Louisville is answering Kentucky's call to lead research efforts in renewable energy research and sustainability issues. In collaboration with the state, UofL established the Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research at the J.B. Speed School of Engineering in 2009.

The Conn Center provides leadership, research, support, and policy development in renewable energy; advances the goal of renewable energy; and promotes technologies, practices, and programs that increase efficiency for energy utilization in homes, businesses, and public buildings.

To accomplish these objectives, the Conn Center conducts R&D on potentially commercializable renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

The center employs top-notch scientists and engineers as theme leaders for directing these research efforts and to enable collaborations with faculty researchers and industry partners across the state.



The center's main objective is to foster development of transformational concepts and accelerate the translation of technology concepts from the lab to pre-commercial scale via large-scale device prototyping.

Through innovative R&D at an accelerated pace and development of Kentucky's workforce and renewable resources, the center's ongoing goal is to seek outcomes that enhance global energy security, maintain US technological leadership, and improve high-tech manufacturing activity in Kentucky.

The Conn Center facilitates the exchange of expertise and interest for Kentucky institutions and industries interested in renewable energy and energy efficiency to develop clean, reliable, affordable energy sources that improve our energy security, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and provide economic prosperity.

The Conn Center labs currently occupy ~25,000 sq. ft space and are expected to expand to about 60,000 sq. ft in a new building.

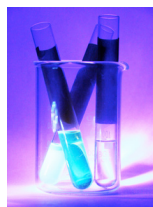
Named in honor of donors Hank and Rebecca Conn, the Conn Center undertakes major research initiatives in the following areas:

- Energy Storage
- Solar Fuels
- Advanced Energy Materials
- Solar Manufacturing
- Biofuels/Biomass Conversion
- Energy Efficiency

To support these themes, additional specialties in **Structural Materials Science** and **Spectroscopy** have been added.

The Conn Center maintains a **Materials Characterization Facility** with a comprehensive capability for characterizing both inorganic and soft materials using a variety of microscopy, spectroscopy, and diffraction tools.

This laboratory is a core facility for UofL researchers, extramural researchers from across the state, and regional industry users. It is a University-Industry Service Center, which was established to facilitate industry interactions with the Conn Center.



Conducting R&D on commercializable renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies