

**Vita of Dr. Ronal W. Larson; 21758 Mountsfield Drive, Golden CO 80401
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Dr. Ronal Larson (PhD from the University of Michigan) is a retired former Professor (E.E. at Georgia Tech) and former Branch Chief and Principal Scientist (the first) at SERI (now NREL). His U.S. solar energy activities began in 1973 as the first Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Congressional Fellow, working on the first two solar bills passing the House Science Committee (and then the full Congress). His fellowship continued for an extra year with the (now-disbanded Congressional) Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), where he managed OTA's first full scale assessment – on solar total energy systems. After SERI, he worked in 1982 and 1983 as Chief-of-Party for a USAID solar energy project in Sudan – helping establish for that country a multi-renewable-energy-technology center that is still operating successfully.

As a past Chair of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES), he was earlier responsible for its Membership and Strategic Planning Committee activities. He was co-editor of an ASES White paper on the economics of renewables, an MIT Book on Commercialization of a range of Solar Thermal systems, and chaired a 2003 ASES conference on renewable energy hydrogen with a resultant policy paper. For its first eight years of existence, he served as Secretary of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES - an ASES Chapter, which he helped co-found). He still works for CRES on state regulatory and legislative policy issues and renewable energy education. He has been active in several dockets at the Colorado Public Utility Commission – this past year mostly emphasizing energy efficiency – mostly for CRES, but recently also on behalf of an NGO, Ratepayers United of Colorado (RUC). Earlier, two of the regulatory successes he worked on were in a Commission-mandated implementation of Colorado's first wind farm and the detailed implementation of the citizen-initiated Amendment-37. He has built a solar “Zero energy” home (built around the University of Colorado’s 2002 national-winning Solar Decathlon house) and was active in organizing the July 2006 ASES Conference, held in Denver, which emphasized climate recovery – a continuing major interest.

In 2007, he was appointed by the Colorado Senate Majority leader (Joan Fitzgerald) to the Colorado Senate Bill 91 Task Force – a renewable energy, policy-oriented group. Dr. Larson currently serves on two Boards of Directors for Colorado renewable energy companies, on a “Colorado green jobs” steering committee, and the CRES Education steering committee. Through his renewable energy consulting firm, he has traveled extensively – mostly in developing countries – and often on charcoal-making stoves. In connection with the latter, he gave a talk at the 2007 ISES Conference in Beijing and consulted in Italy in 2009. For its first ten years, he was the principal coordinator of the still-active internet list called “stoves”.

His principal current activity is developing and promoting the concept of sequestering CO₂ and improving crop productivity through charcoal additions to the world’s soils (a technology called “biochar” or “terra preta”). Here he was a volunteer leader with a biochar-oriented group helping the new Colorado “Collaboratory”, which (through the University of Colorado's Center for Energy and Environmental Security [CEES]) hosted the first North American Regional Biochar in Boulder in August, 2009. He is the coordinator of the three-year old Internet Yahoo discussion group called “biochar-policy”, and regularly supports both the International Biochar Initiative (IBI) and its recently-formed American affiliate: USBI.