



Sign in | Register for free

Sign in with Facebook

Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more

Brought to you by:

HALF OFF DEALS

- Home
- News
- Business
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Interact
- Jobs
- Autos
- Real Estate
- Rentals
- Classified Ads
- Shopping

Top Stories



Investigation unit to police Cleveland, Toledo casinos...



St. Louis beats Texas in Game 1 of World Series



Enter the 2011 Halloween photo contest & win haunted...

Home > Business > Economy

NorTech convenes first ever advanced energy business forum and includes shale gas

Published: Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 6:55 PM Updated: Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:36 AM

By John Funk, The Plain Dealer

Recommend 4 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends. 5

25

1

Share Email Print

In less than a week, Gov. John Kasich will convene an **energy and economic summit** to help him develop Ohio's energy policy for the coming years.

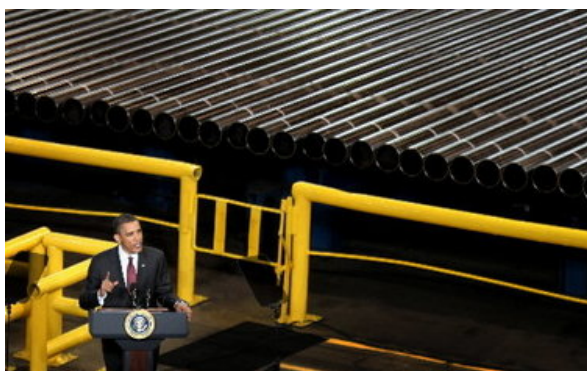
Though the summit includes **sessions on renewable energy technology**, the governor has made it clear that his administration is banking on the development of Ohio's vast shale gas deposits as an economic driver and a major part of his energy policy.

That policy would appear to be a departure from the green and **renewable energy initiatives of former Gov. Ted Strickland**.

But advanced energy ought to be included in whatever policy Gov. Kasich develops, said Rebecca Bagley, chief executive officer of NorTech, the Cleveland-based non-profit trying to hasten the development of new technology-based industries.

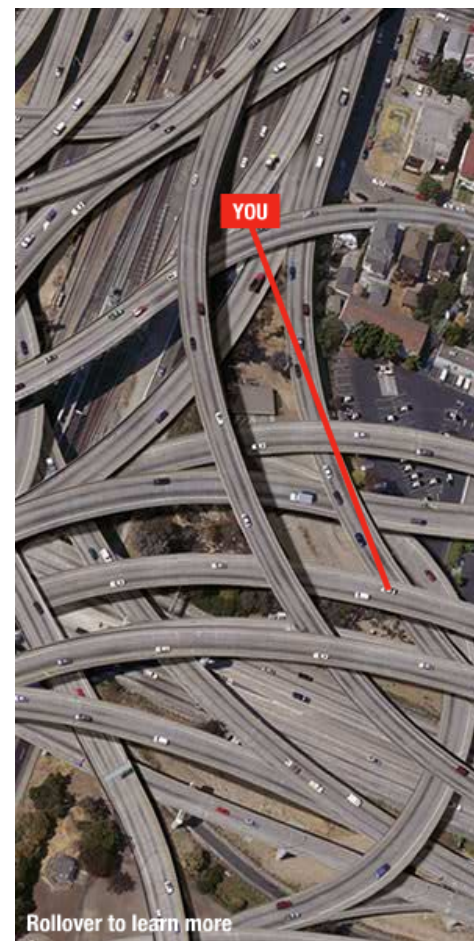
On Wednesday, NorTech convened the state's first **business-to-business advanced energy conference** in downtown Akron.

And today, NorTech plans to use Day Two of the Akron conference to announce the creation of a



Joshua Gunter, The Plain Dealer

Drilling for gas and oil in shale rock deep under Ohio will create an economic boom in the state, say supporters, one that will boost manufacturing for companies such as V&M Star of Youngstown, the nation's largest supplier of seamless pipe for the oil industry, visited by President Obama last year. But the gas boom could put a crimp in efforts to manufacture high-tech solar panels, wind turbines and fuel cells in Ohio, unless Gov. Kasich includes them in his energy policy.



Rollover to learn more

More Business

Most Comments Most Recent

Business stories with the most comments in the last 7 days.

125 Obama seeks jobs votes, piece by piece

121 United Auto Workers pass Ford contract in Brook Park; pact in jeopardy nationally

85 Occupy Wall Street protest cleanup postponed

statewide organization -- the Advanced Energy Economy Ohio -- to assist the governor in his policy deliberations.

Advanced Energy Ohio, the first to speak for all regions of the state, will comprise of eight groups, including NorTech.

The message: Ohio should use its manufacturing base and university-based engineering and scientific muscle to create new technology-driven industries.

"We have a very compelling story," Bagley said of NorTech's efforts over the last year to help Northeast Ohio manufacturers become aware of the region's strengths. "We are just making sure that story has a voice at the [governor's] table.

To highlight those concentrations, the Akron trade show included 10 separate seminars on manufacturing areas that NorTech believes are sufficiently developed to grow into competitive concentrations, or clusters, of companies.

And those seminars included everything from off-shore wind turbines to solar power, from nuclear parts manufacturing to fuel cells, and from bio-gas to shale gas.

In the 60-minuted shale gas discussion, Tom Stewart, executive vice president of the **Ohio Oil and Gas Association**, described horizontal drilling and fracturing shale some 7,000 feet below the surface as "a major technological triumph."

Stewart said Ohio's new regulations are tough and could be a model for other states.

He also pointed out that the technology that has become so controversial -- fracturing rock with hydraulic pressure in wells -- has been used for decades, including in the production of some 80,000 Ohio wells.

NorTech is part of a consortium of groups helping to finance a Cleveland State study of the economic benefits of shale gas development.

But even with NorTech's helping to finance the study and the inclusion of a shale gas seminar in the conference, NorTech's primary focus is technologies associated with advanced energy rather than fossil energy.

To drive home that point, the keynote speaker was Arun Majumdar, an engineer and the director of the federal Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, or ARPA-E.

Formed in 2009, ARPA-E is modeled on the 50-year-old Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

Formed in 1958 after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, DARPA develops new technology for the military.

ARPA-E's mission is to do the basic research into esoteric energy technologies. For example, the agency has already helped fund a technology that uses bacteria to make biofuels that is at least 10 times more efficient than current technology to generate ethanol from corn, Majumdar said.

The conference drew more than 500 people and 81 manufacturing and exhibits by **participating companies**.

Related topics: [advanced energy](#), [nortech](#), [shale gas](#)






Sponsored Links

- 81** [\\$435,000 could help 'Occupy Wall Street' protesters endure winter](#)
- 80** [Occupy Cleveland intends to break the law and remain on Public Square](#)


Most Active Users

[What's this?](#)

Users with the most **Business** comments in the last 30 days

- 275**  [macrobrew](#)
- 151**  [THE NEW BLACK P...](#)
- 132**  [GreenTea](#)
- 108**  [Arnold Ziffel](#)
- 78**  [firstcomm](#)

Users We Love



"mrsandmich" recognized as a featured cleveland.com user
 Learn more about "mrsandmich", cleveland.com's latest featured user.

[More Users We Love](#)

Connect with cleveland.com

[What's this?](#)

[All Facebook & Twitter accounts »](#)

Recommendations



Music rocks the Cleveland economy, according to a new study from