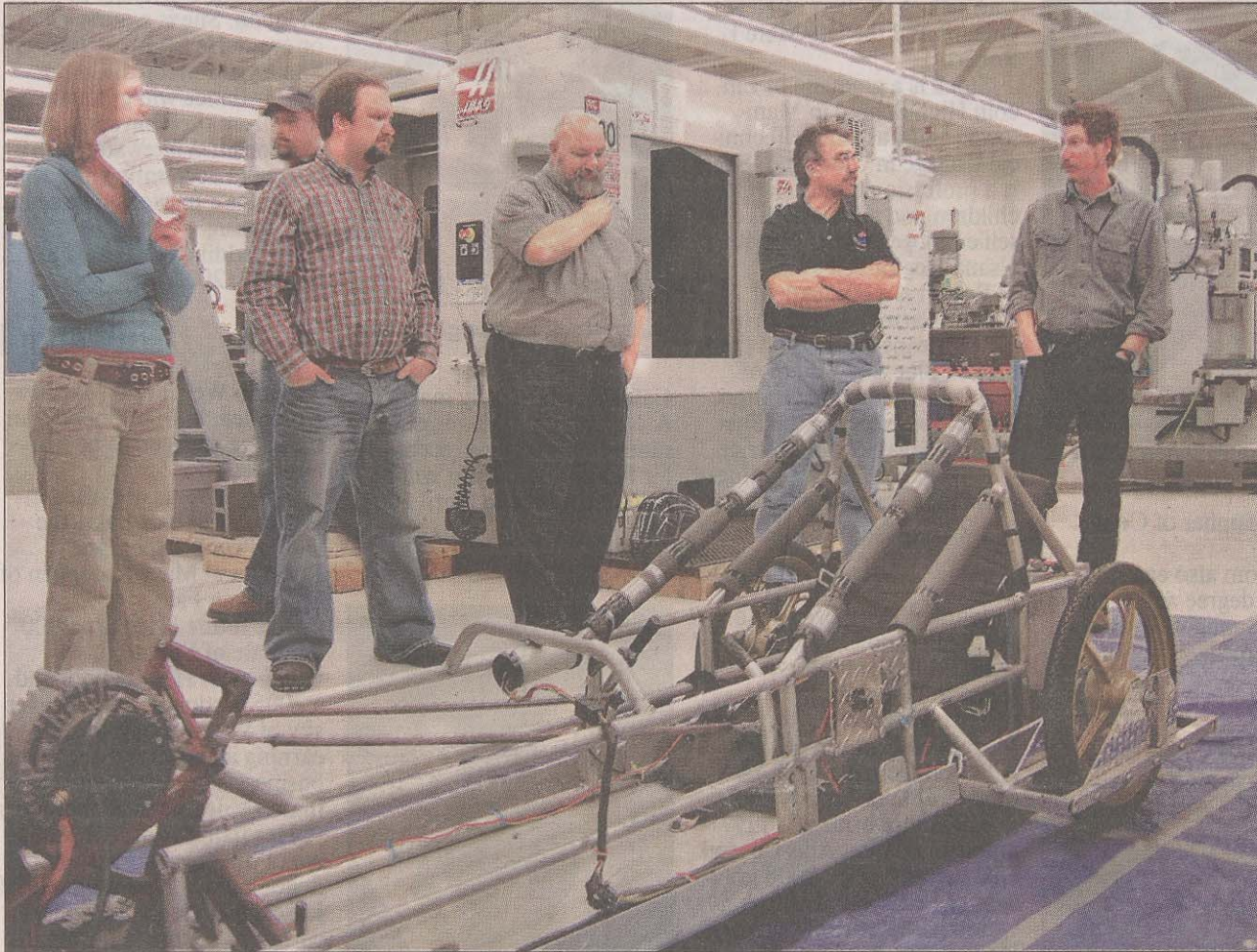




FEEL THE ENERGY



TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS from Wisconsin, including three from Sheboygan, recently attended a two-day course in Appleton on the construction of energy-efficient vehicles. The program focused on how to build one-person electric and gas-powered vehicles for two competitions in the spring. Submitted photos

Teachers prepare to fire up their engines

By Doug Carroll
Sheboygan Press staff

John Juckem recognizes the contradiction and forces a guilty smile: He just bought an SUV, yet he's going to be teaching students at North High School how to build an electric car.

"I want the kids to see that what we're building is the trend of the future," he said.

Juckem and fellow technology instructors Alan Rekowski of

North High and Joe Janicek of South High were among a dozen Wisconsin teachers to attend a recent two-day course in Appleton on the construction of energy-efficient vehicles.

The program, sponsored by the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, focused on how to build one-person electric and gas-powered vehicles for two competitions in the spring. The first of those will be in late April at Road

America in Elkhart Lake.

With gas prices inching toward \$4 per gallon, Juckem said he doesn't have much trouble getting the attention of his students.

"The kids feel it in the pocket-book when they drive around town," he said. "This shows them a viable alternative and what it takes to build one. It's going to be common in their lifetime."

Kelton Fick, 16, a junior at North, worked last year on the

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school's gas-powered car that got a whopping 133 miles per gallon in competition (some did as well as 400 mpg).

"We're going to be the ones running the country, and we need the mindset for this," Fick said. "It's going to have to go this way. I see myself driving a more gas-efficient car, if not one that is full-on electric."

Rekowski and Janicek plan to seek grant money and sponsorships to help with the cost involved. Teachers who participated in the Appleton course — for which they received in-service credit — took home an extensive manual covering

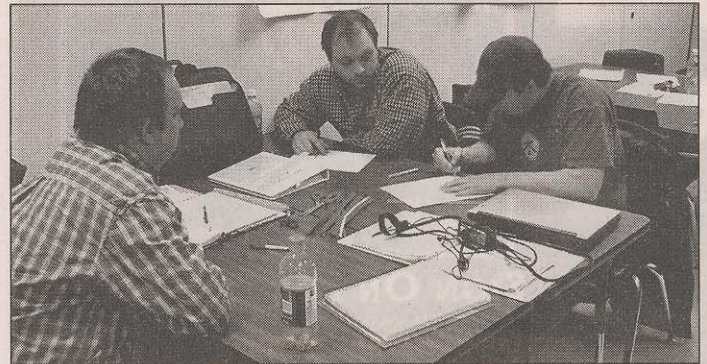
everything from competition rules to axle lengths.

The class was led by Dave Doering, a high school teacher from Bayfield who has helped students build electric cars for eight years.

"This really gets students interested in solving our society's transportation energy problems," Doering said. "It was great to see teachers at the workshop who are interested in starting these programs at their school."

Juckem and Rekowski estimated that more than 50 students will work on the parallel electric and gas-powered projects at North.

"We're creating an awareness," Rekowski said. "We



SHEBOYGAN TECHNOLOGY teachers who attended the energy conference were, from left, Alan Rekowski, Sheboygan North High School; Josef Janicek, South High; and John Juckem, North High. Submitted photo

need to conserve energy and find alternatives. It attracts them to design and custom-fabricate these cars themselves. It starts out as a blank

sheet of paper."

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