

## AP NEWS WIRE

This story ran in the Duluth News Turbine and the St. Paul Pioneer Press. It was on the AP wire and could have ran in several other newspapers around the country.

### **News from around Minnesota**

BEAVER CREEK, Minn. (AP) - On a tour through southwest Minnesota, polar explorer Will Steger spotlighted alternative energy sources and preached a doctrine of self-reliance.

He stopped at the Agri-Energy LLC ethanol plant in Luverne on Monday before visiting the Minwind Biodiesel Peaking Plant in Beaver Creek. Later stops were planned for Pipestone at the Jim Nichols wind farm and for the Northern Plains Dairy's methane digester in rural St. Peter.

At the Minwind Biodiesel Peaking Plant, Steger learned about the site's 120-day pilot project, which involves fueling a 2,700 horsepower diesel engine with 99.9 percent biodiesel to generate electricity. The project is being funded by the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, the University of Minnesota, Caterpillar and the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

Steger organized the visit in conjunction with the Minnesota Natural Legacy Campaign and The Minnesota Project to better educate himself on renewable energy issues. Steger works to educate the public about the affects of global warming and the need to foster sources of renewable energy.

"I do a lot of education in Minnesota on the need to be self-reliant," Steger said. "People are very concerned about global warming."

Steger will use what he's learned on the trip to develop a global warming lesson to teach students. He said the tour has given him ideas for expanding renewable energy in the state. For instance, he'd like to see wind turbines put up on the Iron Range.