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147357



# Hog wild and full of energy

By Heidi Rice  
CITIZEN TELEGRAM

At first glance, Melea Sheridan looked like a big, fat pig.

But the 15-year-old member of the Rifle Grazers 4-H Club was actually wearing a costume with lots of padding representing one of the "Energy Hogs" at the 7th annual Energy Expo sponsored by EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. at the Garfield County Fairgrounds on Wednesday

Sheridan was one of several 4-H members, along with energy company representatives and interested community members to attend the one-day event.

"I was asked to do this by my 4-H Club," Sheridan said, peering through the mouth of her large pig head.

Sheridan was also joined by fellow "pigs" — all members of 4-H and FFA including Tucker Schultz, 14, of New Castle; Taylor Gore, 13, of Rifle; and Randi Sheridan, 13, of Rifle. The "Energy Hogs" are part of a program sponsored by Energy Outreach Colorado based in Denver.

"It's an outreach program and we've had about 10,000 kids participate," said Pam Packer, director of long-term solutions for EOC. "The Energy Hog program teaches ways to save energy at home and save money for your family by doing things like turning off lights, TV's and radios and taking shorter showers. There are things kids can do."

Other attendees at the expo were just interested in learning about new energy alternatives.

"I'm interested in wind power," said Karen Hart of Grand Junction, who was visiting the Holy Cross Electric exhibit. "I think it's fascinating."

One of the big attractions was a Honda Civic that had been converted to running on natural gas.

"I wanted to find out about the natural gas vehicle, although I don't think we'll live to see it," Bert Frink of Battlement Mesa said with a smile as he inspected the car with his wife, Delores. "But it's very interesting."

Naturally, people were asking about jobs to many of the exhibitors, although the event was not a job fair.

"They're curious about the state of the industry and Williams level of activity," said Susan Avillar, community affairs representative for Williams Production. "People have expressed gratitude that we're still operating."

Overall, the turnout at the Energy Expo was comparable to last year, according to Kathy Friesen, education advisor for EnCana and Expo director.

"We're very pleased with the turnout," Friesen said. "Our purpose first and foremost is to provide an educational forum for the county. Energy is an important topic on the Western Slope and people get to ask questions and get answers."





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**KELLEY COX CITIZEN TELEGRAM**

Anyone who attended last week's Energy Expo, at the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Rifle, probably noticed a large pig wearing a black leather jacket walking around. Underneath that energy hog costume was a cute young lady named Melea Sheridan who is a 4-H Club volunteer representing the Energy Outreach Colorado programs.