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## **GEA Executive Director named Renewable Energy World Policy Leader of the Year**

**Washington, DC (March 8, 2011)** – Renewable Energy World today announced Karl Gawell, Executive Director of the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), has been named Policy Leader of the Year at the second annual Renewable Energy Awards. A longstanding proponent of renewable energy with years in the industry—including more than a decade at GEA, an organization working to promote the advancement and development of geothermal resources—Gawell was honored for making exceptional contributions to renewable energy policies. Most recently, Gawell accepted a Chairmanship position for the renewable export committee at the Department of Commerce.

"This is a monumental time for geothermal energy and there are many people who have dedicated years to shepherding its successful growth," said Gawell. "The talent within this industry is among the best of any sector, and I'm honored to be recognized out of this pioneering pool and to work alongside them to promote better clean energy options."

The Renewable Energy Awards celebrate major achievements and innovations in the North American renewable energy landscape by companies, people and projects. The award for Policy Leader of the Year recognizes a key industry individual. This year, more than 500 nominations were submitted across all categories.

Prior to joining GEA, Gawell was the Director of Government Affairs for the American Wind Energy Association. Most recently, Gawell served on the Renewable Energy Advisory Board of the US Export-Import Bank, and has been an advisor to the US EPA, Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and the United Nations.

### **About the Geothermal Energy Association:**

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is a trade association composed of U.S. companies who support the expanded use of geothermal energy and are developing geothermal resources worldwide for electrical power generation and direct-heat uses. GEA advocates for public policies that will promote the development and utilization of geothermal resources, provides a forum for the industry to discuss issues and problems, encourages research and development to improve geothermal technologies, presents industry views to governmental organizations, provides assistance for the export of geothermal goods and services, compiles statistical data about the geothermal industry, and conducts education and outreach projects.

For more information, please visit <http://www.geo-energy.org/>. Follow GEA on [Twitter](#). Become a fan on [Facebook](#).

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