

## **Independent Energy Producers Association Summer 2008**

The **Independent Energy Producers Association** (IEP) is an energy trade company that represents independent renewable energy producers (from wind to solar to biomass), keeps them informed of any and all energy legislation, and helps get their voices heard in the state government. Whenever there is a new topic out, like the implementation of Assembly Bill 32, then all of the members of the IEP come together and collaborate to write their position on the issue. The IEP basically monitors different governmental agencies (such as the Energy Commission, CA Air Resources Board, etc), attends workshops (like those at the Energy Commission), and meetings. They then write memos and email them out to all of the members of the IEP in order to keep them informed.

As an intern at the IEP, I helped the IEP form opinions on legislation by doing research and attending hearings at the Energy Commission. I was assigned to research energy policies in Europe, especially those in Germany and Spain since they are now world leaders in wind and solar, and then compare that to California's policy and see if the European policies could be implemented in California. This was a very interesting and exciting internship, for not only are the people who work here AMAZING, but the energy sector is up and coming. These issues are brand new and very important. With global warming getting worse, and with renewable energy becoming more and more popular, the work here at the IEP feels important and exciting!

If you're interested in "going green," I recommend this internship. It teaches you a lot about the energy sector, and you meet people who have been in this business for over 20 years. It's very rewarding and inspiring!