

LOCAL YOUTH QUESTION IOWA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ABOUT ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Energy and environmental policies topped the list of issues on which participants in the 2009 Iowa Electric Cooperatives' Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., questioned Iowa's congressional delegation last month.

Timothy Bierma of Sioux Center, Jeramy De Vos of Hull, Jessica Kass of Remsen and Adrienne Burk of Ida Grove represented North West REC and were four of 39 Iowa high school juniors- or seniors-to-be, or 2009 high school graduates who participated in the event June 13-18. The Iowa students were joined by nearly 1,500 students from around the country for the annual tour organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

All 39 Iowa students met as a group with Iowa Sens. Grassley and Harkin, in addition to breaking into groups to meet with the representative for each of their specific districts in the U.S. House of Representatives. Students asked the senators and representatives questions about taxes, Social Security, the economy, the environment, energy, legalization of controlled substances to raise revenue for the government and internships in Washington, D.C.



Jessica Kass & Adrienne Burk

Answers and solutions about the issues varied among the congressional delegation, but there was a common thread on energy and environmental policies of doing what's best for the environment without harming the economy.

In addition to meeting with the members of Congress that serve them, students also had time to explore the memorials, monuments and other attractions of the nation's capital during their visit paid for by electric co-ops that participate in the program. During the tour, the students saw and visited the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Iwo Jima Monument, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Museum of Art, the Museum of American History, the Museum of Natural History, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, the Washington National Cathedral, Mount Vernon, the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, Capitol Hill and the White House.



Tim Bierma & Jeramy De Vos

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OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

Contributions made by North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the second quarter of 2009 totaled \$4,550. This brings the total contributions made through Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$206,645.11.

\$3,350 Medical Emergencies – assist nine families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries or death

\$600 Home and business fires – assist two families with related expenses

\$200 O'Brien County Fair Board – to assist with construction of handicapped restrooms

\$100 Siouxland Youth for Christ (Hawarden & Le Mars) – program support

\$100 Safety Day Camp, Horn Memorial Hospital (Ida Grove) – assist with purchase of supplies for camp

\$100 The Living Center (Le Mars) – support fall benefit auction

\$100 "Helping Children" Benefit Golf Tournament, Floyd Valley Hospital (Le Mars) – help with purchase of fetal heart monitor



Operation Round Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, and dollars are used to assist worthy causes and organizations right in your local county area.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call any one of our local offices for information. To receive an application for assistance, please call one of the local offices.

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2009 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Rayna Claussen, Haley Hunt, James E. Vondrak and Mark Cronin have been selected as the \$1,000 scholarship recipients representing North West REC as dependents of consumers. Daniel Van Kalsbeek, Megan Hunt, Aaron Book and Anthony Volkert have been selected as the \$500 scholarship winners. These scholarships are funded by North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a consumer-owned and controlled regional cooperative based in Bismarck, N.D., responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to eight Midwestern states.

The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the region. It is also an investment in the economic future of rural areas.



Rayna Claussen is one of the scholarship recipients in District 1. She is the daughter of Mike and Judy Claussen of rural Rock Valley and graduated from Rock Valley Community High School. In the fall she will be attending Augustana College in Sioux Falls where she will major in nursing.



One of the scholarship recipients in District 3 is James E. Vondrak. He is the son of Robert and Lucille Vondrak of rural Merrill and a graduate of Hinton Community High School. He will be attending Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska where he will major in computer information systems.



The other scholarship recipient in District 1 is Daniel Van Kalsbeek. He is the son of Kelly and Rachel Van Kalsbeek of rural Sheldon and graduated from MOC-FV High School. He will be attending Northwestern College in Orange City where he will major in pre-medicine.



The other scholarship recipient in District 3 is Aaron Book. He is the son of Richard and Sherry Book of rural Sioux City and a graduate of Hinton Community High School. He will be attending Simpson College in Indianola where he will major in computer software engineering.



One of the scholarship recipients in District 2 is Haley Hunt. She is the daughter of Joe and Tami Hunt of rural Granville and graduated from Spalding Catholic High School. She will be attending Simpson College in Indianola where she will major in biomathematics and Spanish.



One of the scholarship recipients in District 4 is Mark Cronin. He is the son of Joe and Peg Cronin of rural Holstein and a graduate of Galva-Holstein High School. He will be attending Simpson College in Indianola where he will major in business (finance/banking).



The other scholarship recipient in District 2 is Megan Hunt. She is the daughter of Steve and Julie Hunt of rural Granville and graduated from Spalding Catholic High School. She will be attending Iowa State University in Ames where she will major in biological/premedical illustration.



The other scholarship recipient in District 4 is Anthony Volkert. He is the son of Brian and Trudie Volkert of rural Correctionville and a graduate of River Valley High School. He will be attending South Dakota State University where he will major in ag business.

STEVE KING HEARING ON CAP & TRADE

Iowa's 5th District Rep. Steve King summed up his feelings about the pending climate change legislation during a forum held in Sioux City: "It's bad for the country."

King hosted the July 6 public meeting on the legislation – sometimes called the "cap and trade" bill – for persons living in the four-state area of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota. More than 130 persons attended the event at Western Iowa Tech Community College.

The legislation proposes to "cap" the emissions of carbon dioxide by many industries, including electric generation, and create a speculative "trade" business buying and selling CO2 emission permits.

The representative, who lives at Kiron, said it will take competitive energy resources to reverse the negative developments in the country's economic landscape, such as businesses moving offshore. "If we go down this path (of the climate change legislation), this will not be reversible," King said.

Chuck Soderberg, one of four panelists who spoke at the forum, said, "The implications of this bill are staggering." He pointed out that the bill will penalize electric utilities as well as many types of manufacturers for emitting CO2 into the atmosphere even though there is currently no commercial technology that can capture the carbon.

Soderberg, vice president of legislative services for Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative in Le Mars, wholesale electric provider to North West REC and a representative in the Iowa State Legislature, said the bill could cause an estimated 40 to 50 percent increase in wholesale electric prices from one of NIPCO's electric suppliers.

"Most businesses that use electricity would have to pass that increased cost on to consumers," he said.

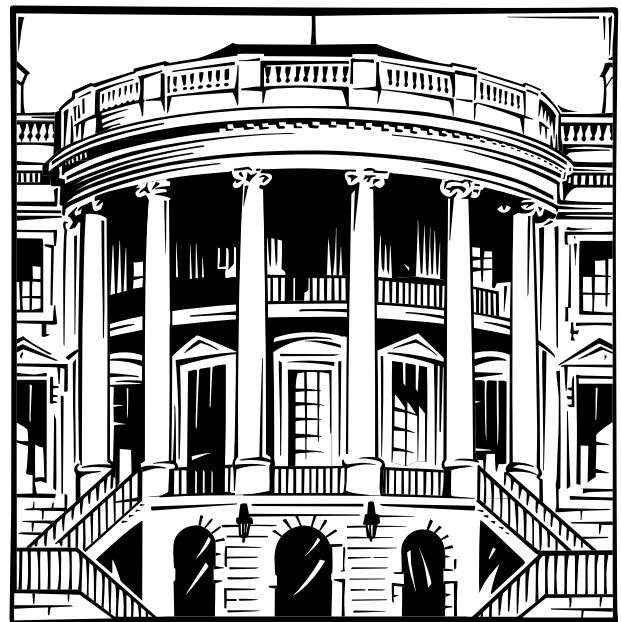
David Miller, a scientist with Farm Bureau, said he believes the legislation would leave the nation with an energy deficit. "Agriculture would feel that deficit more than most sectors of the economy," he added. "This is not a good thing for rural America."

Another panelist, Monte Shaw of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, said he thinks the legislation is a back-door way to shut down production agriculture. Congress should "have balance, have common sense and keep in mind other public policies," he said. "I don't believe carbon is the only important issue that needs to be worked on."

Bill Fehrman, president of MidAmerican Energy Co., an investor-owned utility with many Iowa customers, said his company supports capping carbon emissions. However, the "trade" portion of the bill is unacceptable. Not only does the allowance trading do nothing to reduce carbon emissions, it also transfers wealth from the nation's midsection to the coasts.

Midwestern utilities -- more coal-dependent than electric providers on the coasts -- would have to buy emission allowances, dramatically driving up the cost of electricity to the nation's center. MidAmerican estimates their customers would pay an extra \$1,300 a year for electricity under the bill, he said.

King called for citizens to unite to defeat the climate change bill. "It's imperative if we are going to maintain our way of life," he said.



COOPERATIVE JOINS FABs CAMPAIGN - FINDING A BALANCED SOLUTION

North West REC has joined other Iowa electric cooperatives in a statewide media campaign to draw attention to national climate change legislation.

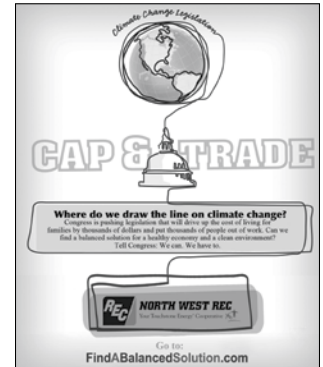
The radio, television and print ads encourage Iowans to engage in the debate about climate change and to push members of Congress toward finding a balanced solution.

“We all want both a clean environment and a healthy economy,” said Lyle Korver, Manager of North West REC. “Iowa’s electric cooperatives already have been doing that by investing in energy efficiency and adding renewable resources.”

He pointed out that North West REC receives one-quarter of its electricity from dams along the Missouri River, which is a renewable source of power. The remainder of the co-op’s power comes from Basin Electric Power Cooperative in North Dakota, which offers two types of renewable power – wind energy and power recovered from waste heat along an oil pipeline. Basin Electric plans to nearly triple its renewable resources within the next two years.

The media campaign urges Congress to deliberate carefully instead of rushing through a bill that could severely hurt the nation’s already damaged economy.

The climate change legislation, often called the “cap and trade bill,” gets its name from its effort to cap carbon dioxide emissions. It also creates permits, which CO2 emitters such as electric generating stations would have to purchase in order to operate. Speculators could purchase those permits and resell them. That would raise the permit price to all types of businesses that emit CO2. Those increased costs would drive up the price of all products – including electricity -- made where CO2 is emitted.



“Raising the price of electricity will hurt everyone,” said Korver. “Reliable, affordable energy is critical to our economic recovery. A balanced solution – one that gives us a clean environment and helps us recover our economic good health – makes sense for our businesses, our people, our environment and our economy.”

To learn more about the climate change legislation and to share your thoughts with your Congressional delegation, go to www.findabalancedsolution.com.

Notes from the billing department:

Many of our members call our office after office hours to leave a message. We ask that you please tell us the name of the member or account number, phone number or 911 address. Many members have multiple accounts, so it would be helpful if you gave an exact location.

Phone number updates: Our after-hours service uses your phone number as a means of verifying who is calling in, related to outage information and other reasons you may contact us.

If your home phone number has changed or you only use a cell phone, we ask you to complete the information shown below and send it back to our office with your bill statement.

If you no longer send us a payment by using the automatic bank drafting, please call in the corrected phone number information to your local REC office.

Name _____

Billing Account # _____

New Phone # _____



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NEWS Lines

OAHE/BASIN BUS TOUR WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The response was great again this year from our members who wanted to join the fun on the Oahe/Basin bus trips being sponsored by North West REC and NIPCO. We want to thank everyone for sending in their coupon. The following names were drawn for the trips:

Tom & Kathy Bortscheller – Granville
 Curt & Karen De Koning – Sioux Center
 Bill & Carol Freck – Primghar
 Don & Linda Friedrichsen – Holstein
 Marlin & Arlyce Oosterhuis – Sheldon
 George & Phyllis Brown Jr – Holstein
 Sylvan & Carol Byker – Ireton
 Jim & Carolyn Hilker – Ida Grove

Marc & Nora Van Peurseem – Orange City
 Duane & Julie Vander Plas – Hinton
 Stan & Judy Bogue – Hinton
 Harold & Florence Hoftyzer – Hartley
 Lynn Segerstrom – Ida Grove
 Tom & Paula Maassen – Rock Valley
 Bob & Lois Ernst – Le Mars
 Bruce & Cleo Spence – Sioux City

These tours will include stops at coal mines, power plants and hydro-electric dams producing the electricity used by us daily. Congratulations, and we hope you enjoy your trip!

ADD INSULATION TO ADD ENERGY EFFICIENCY

North West REC is pleased to announce it will be offering an INSULATION REBATE PROGRAM for our member-consumers.

- 30% of the installed cost - up to \$500 rebate (this is in addition to 30% of tax credit available)
- Program runs April 1 – December 31, 2009
- Insulation professionally installed – blown-in type
- Any electrically heated structure is eligible – includes new or existing homes, ag and commercial buildings
- One rebate per structure
- Need copy of invoice and rebate form completed and returned to North West REC.

REBATE FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name on Account _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Acct # _____

Rebate Payable to (if different than member info):

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____

- INSULATION -

	Estimated R Value	Material
___ Attic	_____	_____
___ Crawl Space	_____	_____
___ Side Walls	_____	_____
___ Foundation	_____	_____
___ Other	_____	_____

Building Insulated _____
 Total Cost _____
 Installer _____
 Date _____

This rebate form is also available at www.nwrec.coop

SAVE \$\$ AND ELECTRICITY WITH CFL BULBS

Lots of Options in Compact Bulbs

There's more good news about compact fluorescent bulbs. You can buy bulbs for many types of light fixtures with options for cool or warm light colors.

Look on the CFL bulb package for "warm white" or "soft white" bulbs with a color temperature of 2700K to 3000K for a warm, inviting light. If you prefer a cool, white light, select "cool white" or "daylight" with a color temperature of 3500K to 6500K.

Many of the CFL bulbs now come as incandescent bulb lookalikes, eliminating the spiral tube. Check the shelves at your local retailers to find these varieties of CFL bulbs: outdoor post lights, bug lights, mini spiral lights, reflector floodlights, ceiling fan lights, decorative candelabra lights, vanity globes, super mini-craft lights and more.



Have you resisted buying those funny looking, curlicue light bulbs because they're too expensive?

Yes, compact fluorescent bulbs cost more than incandescent bulbs. But you'll save money in two ways: They use only a fraction of the electricity and you won't have to buy replacement bulbs for some time.

A recent western Iowa shopping trip found 60-watt equivalent CFL bulbs priced from \$1.61 to \$5.22 each. Larger 100-watt equivalent bulbs ranged from \$1.86 to \$6.99. By comparison, traditional incandescent light bulbs – both 60- and 100-watt varieties – ranged from 28 cents to 97 cents each. The price check took place at three stores, including an Iowa-based farm store, a Midwestern home improvement chain and a national low-price retailer.

CFL bulbs save large amounts of electricity compared to traditional bulbs. If your electric rate is 8 cents per kilowatt-hour, it would cost you \$2 per year to burn that 100-watt equivalent bulb three hours per day. By contrast, an incandescent 100-watt bulb would burn \$9 worth of electricity. In other words, you're paying 4.5 times more for electricity to burn that incandescent bulb.

You'll also save with CFL bulbs because they last much longer than incandescent bulbs. CFL bulbs are rated to last from 8,000 hours to 12,000 hours. By contrast, incandescent bulbs range from 750 hours for the cheapest bulbs, to 1,500 and 2,000 hours for extended-life bulbs.



Iowa's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives make finding your way around the fair easy by sponsoring directional signage.

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We'll be looking for YOU at the fair!



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NOTICE TO ELECTRIC CONSUMERS OF NORTH WEST REC

As a customer of North West Rural Electric Cooperative, help is available to you in resolving possible complaints about your electric service. You can contact a cooperative representative at the following address and telephone number during regular office hours.

North West REC - 1505 Albany Place SE
Orange City, IA 51041-9678
712-707-4935 or 1-800-383-0476

If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or renewable energy and the North West REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Department of Commerce, Lucas State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50319, (515) 281-5979.

If your complaint is related to the North West REC service rather than its rates, and North West REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 281-3839, or toll-free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, or by e-mail to iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us.

North West Rural Electric Cooperative

1505 Albany Place SE
Orange City, IA 51041-9678

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.
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