

The Policy Wire

A quarterly newsletter for [electric cooperative] member-consumers

Welcome

Welcome to a new publication for [electric cooperative] member-consumers covering energy-related public policy issues that impact electric cooperative grassroots advocacy efforts. You're receiving this publication because you have expressed interest in the past regarding [electric cooperative]'s communication with policy makers. *The Policy Wire* is: issue-based, not candidate-based; voluntary; bi-partisan. This news bulletin will publish quarterly or as needed for special alerts. Want to get involved? We hope you'll join us.

The best advocate for your electric cooperative is you!

The Advocacy Advantage: Iowa News

The annual fall fly-in to Washington D.C. took place in September and representatives from Iowa's electric cooperatives once again had the opportunity to speak directly with our members of Congress and their staffers about issues that impact rural electricity.

This year's message to Iowa's Senators and Representatives included a plea to fund FEMA storm recovery projects in Iowa. In addition, cooperative leaders urged development of a U.S. energy policy that is comprehensive and fair, funding for economic development projects essential to rural communities, the designation of coal ash as a non-hazardous material and federal support for government regulations that allow for prompt recovery from storms damage rather than burdensome and costly delays.

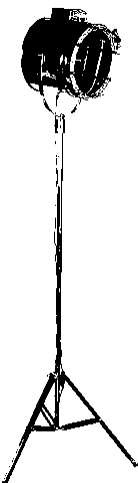
Advocacy Spotlight

Youth Tour at the Iowa Straw Poll

Youth Tour participants were outstanding spokespersons for Iowa electric cooperatives at the Ames Straw Poll on August 13, 2011. Becky Hall (pictured to the right) speaks with Iowa House Majority Leader Linda Upmeyer (R-Garner) about the need for future energy security. Iowa electric cooperatives send a group of high school seniors to Washington, D.C., each year to experience the nation's capital and to meet with members of Congress. Become a fan of the Youth Tour on Facebook to learn more about their activities.



<http://www.facebook.com/IowaYouthTour>



Presidential Caucus Project – *RURAL POWER!*

Iowa electric cooperatives initiated the *Rural Power* campaign as part of the new Presidential Caucus Project. Iowa's electric cooperatives launched the project to raise awareness about the need for safe, affordable, reliable electricity with the Presidential candidates and the national media – the project is gaining momentum and exposure.



At the Iowa Straw Poll, cooperative employees and member-consumers showed their cooperative spirit. Several volunteers wore *Rural Power* t-shirts and carried messages to Presidential candidates about the need for national energy policies that will ensure enough baseload electricity development

and investments in technology and delivery infrastructure to meet future needs of rural electricity consumers.



Janell Cheek, Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, participated in Gov. Romney's business roundtable in Treynor, Iowa on Oct. 20, 2011.

Cooperative leaders have also been busy meeting with Presidential candidates at campaign stops asking them what their plans are to ensure the U.S. has the electricity it needs in the future. Managers have also taken advantage of the opportunity to meet with campaign staff to educate them on electric cooperatives and the services they provide.

Please join us over the next year as opportunities arise to ask candidates important energy-related questions at candidate forums or related events.

Learn more and sign up to join at www.iaruralpower.org

Advocacy Etiquette

Local town hall forums are one of the best ways to communicate with elected officials. There are literally hundreds of these opportunities across the state each weekend during the legislative session, which begins Jan. 8, 2012, and is scheduled to run until Apr. 7. Here are some tips to help you participate:

- ✓ Clearly identify yourself and the issue you want to address
- ✓ Get right to your point and don't monopolize the time
- ✓ Don't burn bridges
- ✓ Be sure to sign in
- ✓ Thank officials for their time