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## **Energy & Global Warming Solutions Initiatives 2011**

*The following initiatives will be priorities of the Iowa Environmental Council in 2010-2011. They are expected to require a significant amount of effort, our coalition is in a position to lead, the initiative has statewide significance, and there is a good chance for success.*

### **1. Strengthening Energy Efficiency.**

The Council will work to strengthen the efficiency programs currently in operation in Iowa. Iowa's utilities have made significant gains in implementing efficiency programs, but more can be done to realize the significant cost-effective potential of energy efficiency. This may include:

- Improving existing policies so all Iowans have access to sufficient energy efficiency programs, including those provided by utilities as well as other providers. Ensure that utilities achieve the maximum possible energy savings with an overall goal of saving 2% of retail sales annually.
- Engaging directly with utilities and communities to ensure that energy efficiency plans are implemented effectively and programs are as coordinated and uniform as possible.
- Reducing the carbon footprint from houses and buildings. The Council will build support for more energy efficient green buildings in the public and private sector and for better compliance and enforcement of all energy and building codes in the state.

### **2. Expanding Renewable Energy.**

The Council will continue to advocate for policies and practices that encourage Iowans to develop distributed generation of renewable energy and will support appropriate large-scale renewable energy projects. This will include:

- Improving financial and technical assistance for farmers, small businesses, and residents to own their own wind turbine or solar panel. This may include improved net metering; funding for loan and grant programs and tax credits; new financing tools such as advanced renewable tariffs and performance-based incentives.
- Ensure that there is sufficient electrical transmission infrastructure for significant quantities of additional wind power, such as that needed for 10 gigawatts and 20 gigawatts of wind in Iowa (based on the Department of Energy's 20% by 2030 study).
- Support establishing long-term targets for clean energy in Iowa and in the U.S.

### **3. Enacting Solutions to Global Warming.**

The Council will advance strategies to transition to a clean energy economy that will reduce Iowa's greenhouse gas emissions. The Council will research issues and build coalitions in the state and region on the policies and practices needed to solve global warming. This may include:

- Enacting national climate and energy policies that will provide economic, energy security, and environmental benefits.
- Supporting the U.S. EPA's regulatory approach to reduce emissions under the Clean Air Act, following its endangerment finding regarding greenhouse gases.
- Implementing the strongest recommendations from recent energy and climate plans, including those of the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council and the Midwestern Governors Association.

#### **4. Supporting a Sustainable Iowa.**

The Council will support a range of policies and practices that are both environmentally and economically sustainable. These may include:

- Policies to significantly expand passenger transit choices such as buses and rail and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy on Iowa farms as well as production of local foods.
- Recovery from recent historic floods with solutions that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as putting perennial grasses on the landscape and rebuilding with energy-efficient communities.
- In addition to the clean energy policies that create jobs, initiatives regarding workforce and economic development in clean energy sectors and policies to ensure links between quality jobs and quality environmental outcomes.

#### **5. Communications Support for Clean Energy.**

The Council will continue its work to train clean energy spokespeople across Iowa, engage in media releases to promote clean energy, educate the public on energy choices and recent global warming findings, and promote new energy technologies.