

Iowa Legislative Session Recap *from page 16*

Our primary objection to the feed-in tariff concept stems from the belief that it is essentially a deeper subsidy for a limited group of member-consumers or customers—those who own their own renewable energy facilities—to the detriment of all other members or customers. “The concept of subsidizing somebody’s electricity at the expense of others is one our boards around the state have not been able to get behind,” Tim Coonan, an IAEC representative, told Midwest Energy News. Furthermore, the bill would give ratemaking authority to the Iowa Utilities Board and would be unrealistic for smaller utilities or cooperatives to implement.

Iowa cooperatives have and will continue to support the construction and interconnection of generation facilities such as wind turbines. Collectively, we have already connected more than 200 consumer-owned generation projects to our systems that produce over 14 megawatts of power. We recognize that Iowa’s ability to generate energy through these member-owned facilities has the potential to change our energy landscape, and we will continue to be proponents for efforts that support renewable energy in ways that are fair for all our member-consumers. We believe this to be incentive-based programs that encourage members to build renewable energy facilities, not programs with fixed rates determined by people outside of our local territories.

Another success this year was the activity displayed by our grassroots efforts. They were activated nine times: eight were stray voltage legislation activations; one was for the feed-in tariff legislation. Your cooperative leaders were also successful in working with a new group of lawmakers after Iowa’s redistricting sent many new faces to the capitol.

ECI REC Director Shonka at the Capitol



ECI REC Board of Director Assistant Secretary Treasurer Donald Shonka shakes hands with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in Washington, D.C., on May 1. Shonka attended the National Association of Electric Cooperative’s (NRECA) Legislative Conference, an annual event. NRECA provided a rundown of key issues as the 113th Congress got underway. In his keynote address, Sec. Vilsack urged co-op leaders to “revitalize rural America,” and he met privately with the Iowa delegation at the conference.



ATTENTION LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement buildings, or are planning the addition of a new facility, please call East-Central Iowa REC. We are committed to work with you and your electrician to eliminate any potential stray voltage concerns.

CALL 877-850-4343

A Lifestyle Tip From ECI REC

Get Powered Up!



Educate Your Kids About Money *By Doreen Friel, NRECA’s Straight Talk*

School may be out for the summer, but that doesn’t mean learning has to take a vacation. As a parent, you can teach your children how smart savings and money-management behaviors can help set them on the path to greater long-term financial security.

No matter what age your kids are, there’s one basic premise: Live within your means. Teach children to set aside savings for important financial goals to help keep them from getting into debt.

From there, tailor the lesson to age. You can even start in preschool—say an allowance must last until the next one, so the child should try not to spend all of the money right away. Give them a piggy bank, and demonstrate how saving part of an allowance over time will help buy something special later.

Grade-school children are old enough to understand that your job brings money into the household—which pays for necessities, such as food, housing, and clothing, and the “nice-to-have” items, such as movie tickets. The difference between necessities and luxuries is a significant distinction to learn.

In middle and high school, give your kids more details about how you budget money, the importance of saving part of every paycheck, and how to appropriately use credit cards.

As your children begin college, it’s critical to explain why they should avoid credit card debt. Emphasize that credit cards should be used only for true emergencies (such as an unexpected car repair) rather than for day-to-day expenses because it’s too easy to spend money you might not have.