



# The Green Bike Tour *Clips*

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## **Bike tour to visit college energy projects**

**By Dave DeWitte**

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Midwestern colleges and universities are taking renewable energy seriously, according to the organizers of the fifth annual Green Bike Tour that begins today at the University of Northern Iowa.

The combination bicycle and motor tour will stop at more than 10 colleges and universities over its 1,270 mile route through Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Participants plan a series of press conferences to explain what the institutions are doing to improve the way they consume and produce energy. The tour begins at 9:30 a.m. with a 10:30 a.m. rally at Washington Park. Cyclists then ride back to Cedar Falls for a tour of UNI's Center for Energy and Environmental Education.

The bicyclists will load up their bikes in the afternoon for Decorah, where they will stop to see the wind turbine at the home of Larry Grimstad, a retired banker, and then ride to a rally at Luther College at 3:30 p.m.

The tour will end Oct. 28, cycling from Coe College in Cedar Rapids to the University of Iowa.

Luther College in Decorah, one of the stops, is making plans to install a wind turbine.

Of the 1,270-mile route, most will be in cars. About 150 miles will be traveled on bicycles, most of them equipped with electric-assist devices with solar battery chargers. The devices provide extra power on hills or propel the bikes at a low rate of speed on level ground.

The tour is sponsored by the Iowa Policy Project, the University of Iowa Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, Fresh Energy, The League of Rural Voters, and The Fred & Charlotte Hubbell Foundation.

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**On the Net:**

• People can check for rider comments and updated schedules at [greenbiketour.blogspot.com](http://greenbiketour.blogspot.com)