



The Green Bike Tour 2004

Iowa
South Dakota
Minnesota
Wisconsin

Sioux Falls Argus Leader photo, used with permission

Why We Bike

Wind in Our Faces: Putting An Energy Answer in Front of the Midwest

By David Osterberg
Executive Director, The Iowa Policy Project

Wind-produced electricity is becoming common in Midwestern states. Ethanol and other energy uses from plant material has already become a big industry, which is good economic news for rural areas that have seen populations decrease and incomes stagnate. It is also good environmental news since air pollution and global climate change are caused by the use of fossil fuels that are imported from out of the region.

Energy has always been produced on Midwestern land. Before rural electrification, wind chargers powered early radios and pumped water. Biomass in the form of trees and even shelled corn supplied heat for houses. Technology changed towards central station fossil fuel plants for electric generation. However, technology is changing again to make both wind and biomass into efficient, clean fuels that can compete with coal, oil and natural gas. The other ingredient that has stimulated renewable energy has been government policies in the form of tax breaks, government-sponsored research and limits on the pollution from fossil fuels.

More policy changes are needed to support renewable energy if the Midwest economic renaissance and health and environment improvements are to continue. The Green Bike Tour tries to build public support for new policy.

From September 13-18, between four and a dozen Midwesterners rode bikes on various stages over the corn, bean and pasture landscape from Howard, S.D., to Baraboo, Wis. Three of the bikes were equipped to demonstrate the power of renewable energy by assisting the riders as they pedaled. Two bikes carried solar panels that converted sunlight into electricity to power small electric motors. Another bike pulled a small engine on a trailer. Ethanol fuel and sometimes the alcoholic drink Everclear powered the engine that pushed the bike and rider along.

Green Bike Tour organizers notified and gathered the press in towns along the route. The tour visited wind farms, schools powered by wind turbines, ethanol plants and the home districts of politicians (both Republicans and Democrats) who favor better renewable energy policy. After six days of riding and some weeks of follow up, the Green Bikers were the subject of four TV stories, had been on public radio stations in Iowa and Minnesota, spent two hours on the radio station with the largest audience in Iowa, had interviews with several local radio stations, and were front-page news on more than a dozen newspapers large and small.

The message was simple and the many Green Bike riders repeated it as often as we could: Renewable energy brings jobs and income to the rural Midwest and makes the environment better.

We began in Howard, S.D., a town of fewer than a thousand people that owns four wind turbines. It is home to Energy Maintenance Systems (EMS), a small firm that repairs, erects and maintains wind turbines mainly in Minnesota. The Green Bike Tour started with an open house at the EMS factory sponsored by EMS and Miner County Community Revitalization, the nonprofit economic development



Two of the bicycles carried solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity.

The Green Bike Tour

The Midwest Green Bike Tour in 2004 was the fourth such venture to use solar-powered bicycles to draw attention to operating examples of renewable energy use around the world. The longest tour, in 2002, went through Northern Europe.

Organizing sponsors in 2004 were the Iowa Policy Project, the League of Rural Voters, ME3 (Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy), the Apollo Project, and the Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, University of Iowa.

For more, see www.greenbike.org

organization that had pushed the town to invest in wind power. We rode some and put the bikes on a trailer to arrive in Sioux Falls in time for a noon rally with local politicians organized by the Clean Water Fund, a nonprofit group striving to unleash South Dakota's rich wind energy resource by passing new laws. Green Bikers were on the front page of the area's largest newspaper and had extensive stories on the evening TV news.

The support vehicles carried us to a large wind farm near Lake Benton, Minn. We rode from one of the nation's largest wind farms with State Representative Aaron Peterson, who led us into the town of Lake Benton, self-proclaimed "wind power capital of the American Midwest," and on to an interview with three local newspapers. Our message: Wind power brings jobs and income to rural Minnesota, renewables make the environment better, and policy changes by Aaron Peterson and his colleagues in St. Paul can ensure that more of

this development takes place. While we worked throughout the tour with politicians, our focus was not partisan politics, but the issue of renewable energy. We are sponsored by nonprofit organizations and must be nonpartisan. On Monday, we biked with Peterson, a Democrat. Then we spent Tuesday in Storm Lake, Iowa with Mary Lou Freeman, a Republican representative. On Wednesday, we spent time with Democrats and Republicans. In the morning, joined by two Democratic state legislators and Paul Johnson, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Iowa, we visited the first wind turbine maintenance class at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville. In the afternoon we attended a press conference in Fairmont, Minn., with a Republican representative. Clearly, renewable energy has supporters in both major parties.

Our longest bike ride on the tour was Thursday when we rode 50 miles in Minnesota from a wind farm near Dodge Center to Northfield, where our local contact Bruce Anderson arranged a town meeting with local politicians. After speaking to two high-school classes Friday, we drove to La Crosse. Ten students from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse rode with us across town to Vitro University where members of the Green Bike Tour held a noon public forum and then taught an environmental studies class. Two TV stations, the local newspaper and Minnesota Public Radio interviewed Green Bikers.

The tour ended at the "Fighting Bob Fest" in Baraboo, Wis. Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, a strong renewable energy supporter, keynoted the conference. A Green Bike member was on the environment panel with a Wisconsin assemblyman and a leading Wisconsin environmentalist. Highlights of this tour can be viewed in many pictures on our website, www.greenbike.org. Also at the site are pictures from 2002 rides in Northern Europe and Northern Iowa.

We seek better policy so that the renewable sites we visited are even more common next year. In Iowa, we believe the Legislature should require the state's monopoly sellers of electricity to each generate or buy 15 percent of what they sell from renewable sources. We believe Iowa should buy at least 10 percent

of the electricity it uses from renewable sources. We support efforts to encourage more school districts to generate some of their own energy. Iowa should have a goal of moving from eight schools with wind turbines to 50 or 100. Finally, we believe that energy efficiency should be encouraged with new state policy.

Global climate change is already occurring. Unless we invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, a global climate crisis could bring unknown and perhaps unthinkable consequences to our region and our world. The environmental answers are answers that bring economic enrichment to the rural areas of our Midwest states, which are falling behind in income and jobs. The environmental answers also will decrease our dependence on fossil fuels from the Middle East and save our soldiers' lives.



State Representative Aaron Peterson led the bikers into Lake Benton, Minn.



Green Bikers met with policymakers all week. At Baraboo, Wis., Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, second from right, talked with, from left, Tom Cook, Ed Woolsey and David Osterberg.



Meeting the media

Midwestern media gave riders on the Green Bike Tour a good opportunity to share their experience with and expertise about renewable energy with the public in four states. The riders offered media a good visual way to show a practical use of renewable energy sources in travel – solar energy and ethanol – and to spotlight day-to-day energy needs that can be met with greater use of wind power.



At left, Tom Cook stops for an interview before hopping back on his solar-powered bicycle. At right, Niel Ritchie talks to a reporter about the potential for renewable energy to power the Midwest economy.

Riders fight wind to boost sun

Sioux Falls Argus-Leader, SD (Sept. 14)

By Ben Shouse

Riders brought two solar-powered bicycles to Sioux Falls on Monday to promote alternative energy, but – in a symbol of the obstacles facing renewable power – the wind was against them. ...

But the same wind that slowed them down made them all the more excited about the state's untapped power, said event organizer David Osterberg, a University of Iowa professor.

"South Dakota has one of the best resources for wind energy in the world," he said. "You guys just need to have better policy."

For example, Iowa and Minnesota require their utilities to buy a minimum percentage of their electricity from renewable sources, whereas South Dakota does not.

Policymakers on hand were receptive to the idea.

"I would support something like that," said state Rep. Rich Engels, D-Hartford. But he said there are some obstacles. ...

But Osterberg said starting at the top, with a federal tax credit for wind power generators, is the best way to get the turbines turning.

Locally, Clean Water Action has knocked on more than 12,000 doors in South Dakota since May, trying to build support for such a credit, said organizer Becky Smith.

Election-year politics are against them for now. But Smith said they hope that after November, either in Washington or in the Legislature in Pierre, the wind will be at their backs.

Bike Tour Visits Wind, Ethanol Facilities

SolarAccess.com News, NH (Sept. 15)

Howard, South Dakota – State representatives, industry officials, and some people who just want to come along for the ride are taking a bicycle tour across states in the Midwest to get familiar with renewable energy. The group visited Energy Maintenance Service (EMS), a wind turbine remanufacturing facility, in South Dakota to launch the Green Bike tour 2004, and draw attention to the potential of renewable energy development for the area.

Wind power has a strong foothold in southeastern South Dakota. The town of Howard was the first municipality in the state to own and operate wind turbines. Canova and Carthage have also commissioned some turbines.

“We are very excited for a chance to see the EMS facility,” said David Osterberg, executive director of the Iowa Policy Project. The project is sponsoring the tour in conjunction with the Minnesota-based League of Rural Voters.

Rural communities in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin will host stops on the tour. ... Three of the bikes on the tour will carry solar panels that should produce enough electricity to power uphill rides, or to play music when the ride itself needs something a little extra.

Eco-bikers pedal for energy awareness

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, IA (Sept. 16)

By Michael Tidemann

They included bicycles powered by sun and ethanol and their message will likely extend far beyond their journey across four states.

A group of riders in the 2004 Green Bike Tour, sponsored by the Iowa Policy Project, made its way through Buena Vista County Tuesday to carry its message: The group is pedaling change in energy policy. Starting at Howard, S.D., the group is driving and biking its way to Wisconsin this week in order to cover the most miles in the shortest possible time.

Mike Kelly of Storm Lake, manager of Top of Iowa Windfarm near Mason City, is joining at least a leg of the tour to help promote wind energy.

“I hope Iowa does more so we can stay in Iowa,” Kelly said of wind energy development. “Iowa was the leader at one time. We’re not doing what we can in Iowa for renewable energy.” At present, said Kelly, Iowa imports 97 percent of its energy.

Iowa is not the only place where renewable energy development is stunted. At crux of the issue is the current federal energy bill still stuck in joint conference committee. The bill includes renewal of energy tax credits that benefit development of projects such as the currently operating Buena Vista County Wind Farm near Alta and the Intrepid Wind Farm project planned in Sac and southern Buena Vista counties, the latter project slated to begin supplying power late this year.

John Moreland, aide to Sen. Tom Harkin, said the energy bill includes a provision that would shield industries producing MTBE, a fuel mileage-enhancing additive, from lawsuits by municipalities over the leakage of MTBE from underground storage tanks into water supplies. ... Calling the MTBE liability waiver “a giveaway” to petroleum companies,” Moreland said, “This waiver issue has stopped the energy bill.”

Unfortunately, the same energy bill that gives ethanol and biodiesel a sure place in the market due to tax incentives, Moreland said, contains the MTBE waiver.

(Tour organizer David) Osterberg ... praised Alta Rep. Mary Lou Freeman ... who helped him make arrangements to bring The Green Bike Tour to Buena Vista County.

Freeman said a production tax credit before the Iowa Legislature last year did not get off the ground because it was not correctly written. She said that bill will likely be resurrected in the next session.

“That is one of the things that is very important to this group that came through today,” Freeman said of the bike tour.



Remote instruction: From left, Tom Cook and David Osterberg listen as State Senator Joe Bolkcom of Iowa City talks to one of Cook's University of Iowa classes from the Green Bike Tour.

The Green Team rolls through Lake Benton

Pipestone County Star, MN (Sept. 16)

By Laura Carrow

State Representative Aaron Peterson and a team of riders rolled into Lake Benton Monday for a stop at the Heritage and Wind Power Learning Center of southwest Minnesota. The group rides in an effort to seek to advance renewable energy for rural economic development.

The Green Team started from Howard, S.D., for the first day of their six-day solar bicycle tour of rural communities in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin promoting homegrown, renewable energy and its ability to strengthen rural economies as well as securing America's future.

The Green Bike Tour 2004 highlights the potential for rural economic development from investments in renewable energy: wind, solar and bio-based fuels. The League of Rural Voters, based in Minnesota, and the Iowa Policy Project, organized the tour. ...

The solar bike tours promoting renewable energy began back in 1999 as several individuals banded together. ... The goal was to attract media covering RAGBRAI to change their focus to cover alternative energy too. The riders were able to attract a great deal of press with the solar bike. The press reported that Iowa wind power was beginning to combat global warming and making money in the process.

Three specialty equipped solar bikes were shown with energy from the solar panels helping add power and music to the bike tour.

A second type of bike used powers through the ride using the fuel ethanol. Ed Woolsey, environmental interpreter, rode the ethanol-powered bike, "I am better and faster than Lance Armstrong on it." The ethanol-fueled bike travels 20 miles per hour for 150-175 miles on a gallon of fuel. Using ethanol for fuel helps the energy security situation as well as the environment. Although there is a long way to go with ethanol it's an industry moving forward.

A third type of bicycle made for entertainment purposes is the musical bike. Three solar panels are put together with a battery and speakers for playing music to entertain the riders along their route.

The Green Team will conclude their six-day solar bike tour ending in Baraboo, Wis., on Saturday.

Bike Tour Highlights Wind Power

Wind Energy Weekly (Sept. 17)

The Minnesota League of Rural Voters and the Iowa Policy Project organized a four-state bike tour of rural communities to highlight the potential for rural economic development from investments in renewable energy. Known as the “Wind on Wheels” or “Green Bike tour,” riders will stop at sites in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, planning press events to draw attention to wind and other renewable energy projects across the Midwest.

Though members of the press and politicians were initially drawn to the events by one ethanol-assisted and three solar-assisted bicycles on the tour, presentations quickly linked clean transportation issues with the need for clean electricity generation to address the global climate crisis. “As wind power is the most cost-effective renewable electricity source, and as the tour wound through some of the best wind resource areas in the nation, wind power was a major focus of the tour,” said John Dunlop, AWEA’s Midwest representative, who participated in portions of the tour.

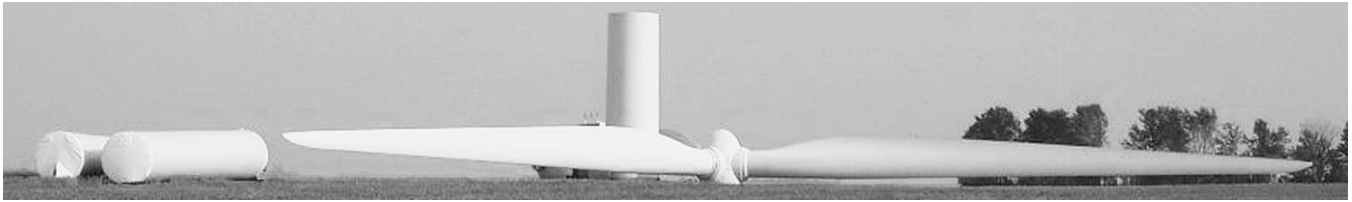
“The goal is to adopt policies supporting the development of renewable energy resources for rural community development and a more secure energy future,” said tour organizer David Osterberg of the Iowa Policy Project. “Rural communities will benefit from the jobs and income generated by renewable energy, bringing opportunity for this and future generations, as documented recently by the Union of Concerned Scientists” (see *Wind Energy Weekly* #1108). Osterberg was one of the authors of the nation’s first renewable energy standards when he was an Iowa State Representative in 1983.

Fifteen separate media events were held throughout the week, beginning with a tour of the new 10,000-square-foot remanufacturing facility in Howard, S.D., owned by Energy Maintenance Service (EMS). EMS showcased their mobile hydraulic rig used to rebuild utility-scale turbine gearboxes. The new facility is adjacent to the building where EMS remanufactures smaller turbines for the on-site net metering market.

Up to a dozen riders visited the large wind farms near Lake Benton and Dodge Center, Minn., and Storm Lake and Joice, Iowa, as well as single or clusters of turbines in Howard and Canova, S.D., Luverne and Fairmont, Minn., and Spirit Lake, Iowa. The riders were transported between sites. They also witnessed the commissioning of a new 1.65-MW turbine recently installed at Carleton College, in Northfield, Minn., which will be dedicated at a celebration on September 24. The tour started September 13 and will culminate at a rally in Baraboo, Wis., on Saturday, September 18. For more information on the tour, go to <http://www.windonwheels.org>.



Ed Woolsey, right, describes the operation of his ethanol-powered bicycle to a group including Iowa congressional candidate Paul Johnson, third from right, with a wind turbine in the background and the tour’s two solar-powered bicycles in the foreground.



MinWind wind farm under construction near Luverne, Minn.

Tour touts alternative energy

Fairmont Sentinel, MN (Sept. 17)

<http://fairmontsentinel.com/news/stories/091704a.html>

By Bill Cahalan

“Green Bike Tour” members visited Fairmont this week to tout the benefits of renewable energy, such as wind and solar energy and bio-based fuels.

The group from Iowa is on a bicycling tour of four states – Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin – to describe the potential for economic development through investments in wind, solar and bio-based fuels. The group leaders are University of Iowa professors David Osterberg and Tom Cook and alternative fuels entrepreneur Ed Woolsey.

The group of seven met at the Sylvania Park Bandshell with Linda Meschke from the Blue Earth River Basin Initiative, along with state Rep. Bob Gunther, wind turbine farm proponent Dan Moore from Windfinity, and bio-diesel promoter Sam Ziegler from the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association....

“We’re interested in renewable energy,” Osterberg said. “Minnesota has been involved in renewable energy, from ethanol, to bio-diesel, to wind and solar power.” ...

“Europe is ahead of the United States in renewable energy,” Osterberg said. “They have better energy policies. We have to get away from depending so much on burning fossil fuels or the global climate warming changes will become worse.”

Moore, a farmer and agronomist, described his efforts in planning a Windfinity wind turbines farm in Faribault County. “We have about 25 investors who are farmers,” Moore said. “We have a transmis-

sion power line, we have the wind. and we have the land (for the turbine towers) under control. I have debt and equity financing and local community support. But I don’t have a power purchase agreement from a utility company to buy the power....”

The wind farm planned by Moore would have about 60 wind turbines. It would generate power to provide electricity for about 35,000 homes for a utility company.

“A wind farm would add jobs and bring in revenue to benefit the area,” Moore said. “We estimate it would bring in about \$400,000 worth of extra revenue to Faribault County every year.”

Woolsey said wind energy would help reduce the nation’s dependence on high-priced natural gas, and would help lower natural gas prices....



Green Biker Elaine Ditsler sees up close what a 1.65 MW machine looks like before it’s put more than 200 feet in the air. This turbine was being constructed near Luverne, Minn.



State Senator Joe Bolkcom of Iowa City leads a pack of Green Bikers near the Alta wind farm in northern Iowa, followed by Jim Cooper, John Moreland of Sen. Tom Harkin's staff, Jeri Neal, Elaine Ditsler and Gail Barels. Bolkcom, Cooper and Barels all were on the Green Bike Tour through Northern Europe in 2002.

Bike tour promotes renewable energy

La Crosse Tribune, WI (Sept. 18)

By Chanel Banks

Ed Woolsey can travel 175 miles per gallon on his bicycle.

Tom Cook, creator of solar-electric-assisted bikes, can ride for 30 miles without recharging.

Both men stopped in La Crosse on Friday with the Green Bike Tour 2004, an Iowa-based, four-state solar bike tour.

Tour members met with University of Wisconsin-La Crosse students who have developed a "green bike" program for shared community bikes. They also shared their experiences with a Viterbo University environmental studies class.

Renewable energy includes power produced by the wind, sun, and bio-based fuels.

Woolsey, a Martendale, Iowa, resident, bought a 1.5-horse-power engine that runs on E-85, a renewable fuel made of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, to assist with long bike trips.

Cook's electric bicycles were powered by solar panels and a battery.

Green Bike Tour promotes renewable energy

Agri News (Sept. 21)

By Laura Theobald

DODGE CENTER, Minn. – Some ride like the wind; these guys ride for the wind.

On a six-day trip that stretches from South Dakota to Wisconsin, riders on the Green Bike Tour hope to promote renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. They kicked off the third leg Sept. 16 at the McNeilus wind farm outside Dodge Center.

Each bike is equipped with an electrical assist designed by rider Tom Cook. Solar panels on the bike gather sunlight to charge batteries, which run a small motor to help the rider. But it's no moped; riders still have to pedal.

"This thing is smart enough to sense how hard you're pedaling and adds to that," Cook said. "So it's like having someone on the back helping you pedal."

The assist has various levels. On the lowest level, the batteries will last 30 miles. The ride to Northfield on Sept. 16 was to be 50 miles, so they hoped the bright sun stayed out to be soaked up by the solar panels and add more length to the batteries' power. Otherwise, rider Dave Osterberg said that, at 70 pounds, it's a very heavy bike to pedal.

Cook, a professor at the University of Iowa, said he bikes 10 miles to work each day. The solar-powered batteries help shave his commute time from 55 minutes to 45 minutes. A public-use application of his design, he said, could be for long-range biking or for urban dwellers who don't want to start a car engine just to run to the grocery store.

In addition to solar power, Ed Woolsey's bike uses power from a one-gallon tank ethanol motor he pulls behind on a small trailer. That motor will take him about 150 to 175 miles, he said. He uses the extra energy from his solar panel to power a stereo for music – anything with good cadence – along the way.

The Green Bike Tour has traveled through Europe because the riders wanted to bring back ideas for policy-makers here, Osterberg said.



Green Bikers focused their efforts on educating Midwesterners, before, during and after the weeklong trip through four states. At left, David Osterberg, standing, and Tom Cook, right, visited WSUI-AM radio after the tour to talk about the lessons learned with talk-show host Dennis Reese. Osterberg also appeared on Jan Mickelson's popular radio talk show on WHO-AM radio in Des Moines both during and after the tour, and Green Bikers were interviewed by radio stations throughout the trip. At right, Iowa State Representative Mary Lou Freeman takes part in the Cook's U of I class to discuss renewable energy.

Riders on the 2004 Green Bike Tour:

From Iowa: Gail Barels, environmental educator, Linn County; State Senator Joe Bolkcom; Tom Cook, professor, University of Iowa; Jim Cooper, farm resource issues adviser, Ames; Elaine Ditsler, policy analyst, Iowa Policy Project; Mike Kelly, manager of Top of Iowa wind farm, Joice; John Moreland, Sen. Tom Harkin's office; Jeri Neal, Leopold Center, Iowa State University; David Osterberg, professor, University of Iowa; Justine Retz, rider/driver, Iowa City; Ed Woolsey, environmental entrepreneur, Martensdale

From Minnesota: Bruce Anderson of St. Olaf University in Northfield; Christopher Childs, Sierra Club, St. Paul; John Dunlop of the American Wind Energy Association; State Representative Aaron Peterson; Niel Ritchie, League of Rural Voters

From South Dakota: Mike Knutson, Miner County Community Revitalization, Howard; Becky Smith, Clean Water Fund, Sioux Falls

From Wisconsin: Guy Wolf, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse; Riders in La Crosse – Buzz Bocker, Bree Breckel, Rachelle Collins, Josephine Greendeer, Holly Jones, Joe Kensok, Obbie King, Rosie King, Pablo Ruiz, Ryan Schryver, Matt Stewart, Xong Xiong

Nonriding participants:

From Iowa: Donna Buell, Iowa Environmental Protection Commissioner; Ron Chapman, Alta Municipal Utilities; John Fredrich, campaign aide to Paul Johnson; State Representative Mary Lou Freeman; State Representative Marcie Frevert; Bill Frevert, Emmetsburg; Tim Grieves, Spirit Lake superintendent of schools; U.S. Senator Tom Harkin; Ken Hach, wind power developer, Alta; Gregg Heide, farmer, Storm Lake area; Michael Hupfer, president, Iowa Lakes Community College; congressional candidate Paul Johnson; State Senator Jack Kibbie; Mark Lambert, Iowa Utilities Board Commissioner; Paul Nepple, wind turbine owner, Estherville; Mark Redenbaugh, Abner Bell Coffee Shop, Storm Lake; Jim Tiervold, Spirit Lake Building and Grounds; North Iowa Area Community College Environmental Club; Iowa Lakes Community College Wind Energy & Turbine Technology program

From Minnesota: Gordon Cumming, executive director, Cannon River Watershed Project, Northfield; State Representative Robert Gunther; Rich Huelskamp, Red Wing; David Kolsrud, manager, Corn-erstone Farmers Cooperative, Luverne; Garwin McNeilus, farmer and wind entrepreneur, Dodge Center; Linda Meschke, executive director, Blue Earth River Basin Initiative, Fairmont; Dan Moore, wind entrepreneur, Fairmont; Michael Noble, Executive Director, Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy, St. Paul; State Senator Julie Rosen; Norm Vig, professor of political science, Carleton College, Northfield; Larry Vogel, bike shop owner, Fairmont; Mark Willers, president, MinWind Energy, Luverne; Sam Ziegler, Minnesota Soybean Growers; Northfield High School environmental studies class

From South Dakota: State Representative Rich Engels; State Representative Dave Gassman; State Senate candidate Lance Moran; Steve Scott, vice president of business development, Energy Maintenance Service, Howard; State Representative Bill Thompson; State Senate candidate Jeff Venekamp

From Wisconsin: State Representative Spencer Black

Chief Photographer: Tom Langdon, University of Iowa Foundation, Iowa City.

“Fossil fuels have been given a tremendous amount of support for a long, long time and to this very day and I think it's time that renewables got the same advantages.”

– Niel Ritchie, League of Rural Voters

From Iowa News Service, Sept. 13, 2004: “Study: More for Jobs for Iowa with Renewable Energy”

The Green Bike Tour 2004

Sponsored by:

The Iowa Policy Project

The Iowa Policy Project is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in the summer of 2000 to produce and disseminate sound, independent research on a broad set of issues of importance to the citizens of Iowa.

www.iowapolicyproject.org

League of Rural Voters

Founded in 1985, the League of Rural Voters is a nonprofit, national membership organization dedicated to increasing the representation of rural people in the policy making process.

www.leagueofruralvoters.org

ME₃

Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME₃), founded in 1990, is a nonprofit organization leading the transition to a clean, efficient, and fair energy system.

www.me3.org

Apollo Alliance

The Apollo Alliance for Good Jobs and Clean Energy is a broad coalition within the labor, environmental, business, urban and faith communities in support of good jobs and energy independence.

www.apolloalliance.org

Environmental Health Sciences Research Center

The goal of this University of Iowa center is to translate environmental health research results into knowledge for the community.

www.ehsrc.uiowa.edu