# Rural Energy Forum and Tour in Indiana

*October 8 & 9, 2014*

*Media report prepared by Cater Communications;*
*Media outreach conducted by the Indiana Farm Bureau, the Jasper REMC, the 25x'25 Alliance & Cater Communications*

# Hoosier State Co-op Power

## 25X25 Tour Looks at Methane and Solar Power Projects in Indiana

**Chris Clayton** DTN Ag Policy Editor

Mon Oct 13, 2014 10:38 AM CDT

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (DTN) -- Rural electric cooperatives have a chance to take advantage of livestock operations, local landfills and solar farms to diversify electrical power generation in their areas.

The 25X25 Alliance, a group that advocates for 25% renewable energy production nationally by 2025, put together a tour last week in Indiana to highlight the way renewable energy is developing in some states, particularly through work done by rural electric cooperatives. Ernie Shea, project coordinator for 25X25, said cooperatives are developing diverse ways to generate power beyond the central power stations, largely through the capture of methane, but also with solar.

More than 90% of rural electric cooperatives have at least some renewable-energy power sources, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Most of that power comes from purchase agreements.

While renewable power at electric cooperatives has surged since 2007, 25X25 wants to partner with six or seven rural utilities to pilot more renewable energy projects. The group also wants to create an informational exchange program with similar rural cooperatives in Germany where renewable electricity has been a major economic driver for rural communities.

Retired Gen. Donald Hoffman of the U.S. Air Force took part in the tour and spoke as the group gathered at the Indiana Farm Bureau offices. Hoffman now serves on the military advisory board for the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA Corp.). The board is largely made up of retired general officers who examine policy issues affecting national security. Fossil fuels and energy independence have become focal points for the advisory board.

"Nobody argues that in 50 to 100 years, fossil fuels are going to be fewer and more expensive," Hoffman said. Renewable energy "gives us some breathing room," though Hoffman noted that one of the difficulties in developing renewable energy sources is that some of them won't pan out.

"We're going to chase them down a rabbit hole that doesn't pay off," he said.

*Media report prepared by Cater Communications;*
*Media outreach conducted by the Indiana Farm Bureau, the Jasper REMC,*
*the 25x'25 Alliance & Cater Communications*

Hoffman said climate change is the "elephant in the room" that helps tie energy to national security interests. The costs of mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects require the country to keep looking for new ways to produce energy that lower our collective carbon footprint.

Indiana Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann also spoke briefly, saying that Indiana has an "all of the above" energy strategy, and the state sits on a 300-year supply of coal. Approximately 88% of Indiana's power generation comes from coal, and the state doesn't have a mandate to spur renewable energy. Indiana officials are working on a state energy policy that is expected to roll out in November.

"We're going to continue to try to keep energy prices reasonable, which means doing what is necessary to make our power plants in the state clean and be able to continue to provide that affordable electricity across the state," Ellspermann said. "But in addition, we support solar and wind and all of the biofuels that are out there. We want to see all of those out there as well."

Indiana's cooperatives have latched on to methane digesters to generate power in several ways. Wabash Valley Power Association captures methane to generate electricity at 14 landfills across the state owned by Waste Management of Indiana. At each facility, a pair of 20-cylinder engines combine to generate 3.2 megawatts of electricity.

All told, Wabash Power will be generating 55 megawatts of power from the landfills by the end of the year. In general, a single megawatt produces enough energy to power about 1,000 homes. While people often say they want renewable power, Wagoner said ratepayers are largely reluctant to sign up for green programs that could increase their rates. Other ratepayers don't want to see the costs of renewable-energy projects paid by everyone.

"Everybody wants green power, but nobody wants to pay extra. That's the friction we face," said Greg Wagoner, vice president of business development for Wabash Valley Power.

Besides generating electricity, the mini power plants lower the greenhouse-gas emissions coming off the landfills. Methane has more than 20 times the greenhouse-gas effect as carbon dioxide, so channeling those emissions to power generation has the effect of reducing a landfill's emissions by anywhere from 60% to 90%, according to EPA.

The facilities still release heat into the air during the methane conversion. Wabash Power has been trying to find local farms or businesses that might be able to use that heat. "It's just wasted heat going up into the air, so we would love to find a use for it," Wagoner said.

About an hour southeast of Chicago, Jasper County Rural Electric Membership Corp., is capturing methane from the concentration of larger dairies in the county. There are as many as 15 dairies in the area that have anywhere from 3,500 to 7,000 cows each. Digesters were developed in the area mainly for manure management to reduce runoff, odor and flies. At first they flared off the methane but then began investigating ways to capture the electricity and heat from the digester process.

Effectively, 3,500 cows generate roughly about 1 megawatt of power. Combined, the area's dairy digesters are producing 7.4 megawatts of power every day. If every dairy farm met its energy capacity, it would actually cause overload problems for the cooperative. Its transfer stations weren't built to handle 10 to 15 megawatts of power, said Bryan Washburn, CEO of the Jasper County Rural Electric Membership Corp.
Fair Oaks Farms, known for its tourism aspects, has a methane digester taking in manure as liquids from four dairies that have 14,000 cows total. The liquid waste goes through a sifting process to remove the sand the dairy uses for bedding. The digester is a 275-foot by 300-foot concrete box that's 16-feet deep and holds 6.2 million gallons of manure.

Bacteria break down the solids and generate 1.4 million cubic feet of biogases in the process. The outgoing liquids are used as irrigation water and solids for fertilizer that is spread on nearby fields.

The dairy not only produces electricity, but also compressed natural gas that serves as fuel for Fair Oaks' dairy delivery truck fleet.

BioTown Ag, outside of Reynolds, Ind., is a 4,500-head cattle feedyard and 9,000-head swine operation. It started in 1991 and added a methane digester in 2010. The company uses corn husks from a seed corn processor as its main feed silage. BioTown Ag also collects food waste from businesses, some of which is fed to animals while the rest goes into the digester mix. BioTown Ag created a closed-loop by capturing expended heat or energy and turning it back into the facility for another use rather than releasing it. The facility also churns out enough fertilizer for area farmers to reduce buys of commercial fertilizer by roughly 7,000 ton a year.

"Our neighbors, who haven't had livestock on their fields in 50 to 60 years, are really seeing the benefits," said Brian Furrer, president of BioTown Ag.

Tipmont REMC in Linden, Ind., also is dabbling in community solar power with a 240-panel array that just recently went on-line. The 100 kilowatt array is set up to allow customers to buy the panels for $1,250 each and then receive credits on their utility bills. Members can also use a financing option to buy the panels over a three-year period. This again reaches out to residents who are willing to invest to buy green energy without requiring the entire cooperative's membership to have to pay for that power.

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Saturday
October 11, 2014

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Rensselaer, IN
Volume No. 112
Number 240

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## The Daily Smile

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# Woman killed in two-car collision

By SHERRI MORRISON
smorrison@rensselaerrepublican.com

RENSSELAER — A South Bend woman was killed and her young daughter life-flighted from the scene following a two-car accident late Thursday afternoon.

Multiple emergency agencies were called to assist with the accident at approximately 4:35 p.m. at U.S. 231 and State Road 14, four miles north of Rensselaer.

Jasper County Sheriff's Deputy Bo Barrett and Chief Deputy Pat Williamson were first to arrive on the scene where they found two vehicles involved. The driver of a red Chevrolet passenger car was trapped inside the vehicle. Karen R. Hammond-Nash, 52, of South Bend, along with her 10 year-old daughter, who was seated in the right rear passenger seat were both said to be seriously injured upon the arrival of first responders.

Rensselaer Fire Deptartment Rescue Units worked to extricate Hammond-Nash and due to the serious nature of the injuries to both the mother and daughter Lifeline helicopters were called to the scene.

See FATALITY, Pg. A2

PHOTO BY SHERRI MORRISON

**Members of the Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department work to extricate the driver of a vehicle following an accident Thursday. The female died from her injuries.**

# Defenses take a stand

PHOTO BY JEAN WITHERINGTON

**Two potent offenses were held in check by two great defenses in a classic Lafayette Central Catholic/Renselaer Central clash Friday night. It was a safety by Trevor Hill that turned the game in the Bombers' favor and quarterback Dylan Wright (above) and his teammates finally punched in a score during a 9-0 victory over the Knights. It snapped CC's 22-game win streak in league play. For more on the game, see today's Sports.**

# Community can play role in helping abused kids

By SHERRI MORRISON
smorrison@rensselaerrepublican.com

RENSSELAER — There are currently 43 child abuse/neglect cases in Jasper County. That number merely shows the number of children abused or neglected that the courts have found out about and become involved in within the county.

There are currently as least three cases on schedule to be heard within the Jasper County courts involving an infant or toddler who was allegedly abused and brought to the hospital with multiple broken bones.

Jasper County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Director Katie Hall has seen first hand the abuse and neglect of children within Jasper County serving as the CASA coordinator who receives cases from the courts of children who are in need of services in the county. When CASA becomes involved, the abuse or neglect has already happened. CASA is there to help pick up the pieces and move forward in being the voice for the child who has no voice in the court system.

"The CASA is a community member who volunteers their time to visit with the child monthly, and informs the judge how the child is doing when a court hearing occurs. We have wonderful judges in Jasper County that listen to the CASA, and take into account what they have to say. The volunteer also makes sure that the child is in the best placement possible, where they can thrive in a safe, healthy, and happy environment. CASA volunteers can also recommend to the court, different programs and

See CASA, Pg. A2

## Weekend Datebook

**REMINDER**

Due to Columbus Day and no postal service, the Rensselaer Republican will not be published on Monday, Oct. 13.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 11**

• **Rensselaer Moose Lodge Steak Dinner,** 5-8 p.m., at the lodge. Menu includes ribeye steak, baked potatoes or fries, salad, corn and bread. Carry-outs available by calling 866-8956.

• **VFW Post 1279 Karaoke Night,** 7 p.m.-midnight, at the post. Featuring DJ Chuck Ramey. Event is open to the public.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 12**

• **Victory Baptist Church Homecoming,** Sunday worship begins at 10:30 a.m. with special singing by gospel group, God's Will. There will be a carry-in dinner following services with God's Will and other singers performing an afternoon concert following the meal. Victory Baptist is located 1.2 miles west of I-65 off Route 10 in the Valley Forge subdivision. For more information call the church at 345-5610 or Larry and Sharon Colee at 869-0494.

***NOTE:***
***"Datebook" lists community events happening today and/or government events that are timely. For a more inclusive list of events, see the Calendar on page A5.***

## Weather

**Today: Sunny**
**High 60°**

**Tonight: Clear**
**Low 37°**

Editor Note: Would you like to draw a weather picture for the paper? Nothing to it. Send your originally drawn pictures to the Rensselaer Republican at 117 N.Van Rensselaer Street. Make sure to write your name and grade on the picture.

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THANK YOU!

# Energy advocacy group tours local dairies

By CHERI SHELHART
editor@kvpost.net

FAIR OAKS — After lunching at the new Farmhouse Restaurant at Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure in Newton County, a group of renewable energy advocates, Indiana Farm Bureau representatives, and rural electric coops took a tour of Fair Oaks Dairy and Windy Ridge Dairy to view their digesters.

The digesters break down manure to methane gas to a clean natural gas used for electrical power and fuel, in the case of Fair Oaks Dairy. These renewable energy sources were of great interest to the visitors, who came from all across the country to view a number of renewable energy sources in use in Indiana.

Also accompanying the group was retired Air Force 4-Star General Donald Hoffman, who serves on the CNA's Military Advisory Board, a high ranking panel of retired admirals and generals who study critical national security issues. The former military personnel were among the first to identify America's over dependence on fossil fuels as a national security threat, economically, militarily and diplomatically. Promoting renewable energy and self-sufficiency in fuel production are among their goals for homeland security.

Hoffman said, "It's good to see communities and big business coming up with innovative solutions that are good for the environment, and not waiting for someone to tell them to do it. They're doing it on their own."

At Fair Oaks Farms' dairy, the manure from 14,500 cows is sent through their digesters to produce methane gas, that is "cleaned" and used to power most of the diary, and also turned into a natural gas that fuels 49 trucks that deliver the raw milk from the dairy to be pasteurized and processed.

The renewable energy advocacy group, 25x'25 Alliance and the Indiana Farm Bureau hosted the tour, which included stops at Twin Bridges IV Landfill gas operation, Tipmont REMC Community Solar Project and BioTown in Reynolds, along with the stops in Newton and Jasper County.

Ernie Shea, project coordinator for the 25x'25 organization said Indiana is in the forefront of renewable energy technology, and that was why

See ENERGY, Pg. A3

PHOTO BY CHERI SHELHART

**Director of Operations Mark Stoermann, of ampCNG, which runs the digesters at Fair Oaks Farms explains how the digester produces methane gas. General Donald Hoffman, USAF Ret., far right, looks over the area.**

# Consistent, loyal readers are always appreciated

## Betty's Kitchen

Betty Brown Miller
(219) 866-8845

Hi there. It's me again, wishing you a very happy Saturday morning. Or to be more accurate, it's actually you again, reading what I wrote earlier when it really was me (or I) putting my heart into answering the first question of the day, "What shall I write about?" Good question indeed!

Well, thankfully, I've come up with an idea. I want to say "Good morning to all of the readers in general and the following in particular. See if you can guess what they have in common."

Here are their names: Dr. John Egan, Ron Timmons (the lawyer), John Bolvich, Harley Houghton, Allen Broussard, Neil Clapp, Steve Roberts, Todd Sammons, another Steve, the Mayor. And oh yes, another mayor, now deceased. He's Bob Wilcox and his family is dear to my heart.

Just one more name and maybe I can do more next time. Bob Randle comes to mind and then I'll tell you how I thought of the names listed.

They are names of readers who have shown a lot of interest in my writing and many of them have just "made my day" by saying so.

And I certainly do appreciate the many different guys who have taken the time to call and say they enjoy what I write.

Yes, that is one thing today's "chosen ones" have in common. I'm giving most of the attention to the ones on the list who occasionally write a few lines. I always think that men don't usually enjoy writing a letter, but John Egan, Jim Hoffman and Ron Timmons surely must enjoy my efforts.

Whether it's a phone call, a postcard or just a friendly wave, it's the energy that keeps me going. Thanks to all of you.

One more thing that today's list has in common is that most of them are very career-minded. There's a doctor, lawyer, Indian chief (smile) and even two mayors.

I have a lot of family members connected with police work and post office duties. I honestly don't mind at all when it's time to visit my dentist.

And not all lawyers are "bad guys," right Ron and Randle?

And now I will "cease and desist" on all of this foolery and return to the good graces of my lady friends. Etta Bork is back on her job of keeping me in high spirits. Etta has been having medical problems and I've really missed her phone calls. She never failed to call and tell me to "keep up the good work." Well, you keep up your good health. I'm sure you know by now that "sick is not fun."

But it's good fun to count the days to Christmas. Seventy-seven days, cross my heart! Time seems to always go fast, but never more so than when we need the extra time.

I forgot to tell you some of the things that take up Neil's time. He's a "Jack of all trades."

In closing, "The longer I live, the more I see. It's not my job to change the world, but to keep the world from changing me."

Have a nice weekend!

YOUR FRIEND,
BETTY

## Boiled Cookies

**INGREDIENTS**
**2 cups white sugar**
**½ cup of milk**
**½ cup peanut butter**
**1 (6oz.) pkg. chocolate chips**
**1 tsp. vanilla**
**1 stick butter or margarine**
**3 cups oatmeal**

Place sugar, milk, peanut butter, chocolate chips and margarine in a pan and boil for 90 seconds, stirring constantly. Add oatmeal and vanilla. Beat well to blend all ingredients. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper. Let cool and set up at room temperature.

We really enjoy the "Boiled Cookies" around our house and I hope you will, too. They're so easy and quick to make, and you'll probably find everything that's called for right there on your pantry shelf.

Another one your nursing home or hospitalized friends would enjoy is called just plain and simple "Chewy Snack Squares." (With both recipes, check first before you give them, in case they're not allowed on their menu.)

**Love,**
**Betty Brown Miller**

# SJC student receives Realizing the Dream Award

Submitted Article

Saint Joseph's College Elementary Education major Jacob Brown of Rensselaer will be honored along with students from other Indiana independent colleges and universities at the 25th Realizing the Dream banquet in Indianapolis in November.

In order to receive the award, students must be the first in their families to go to college, be chosen for outstanding achievement by their college during their freshman year, and be advancing toward successfully completing a bachelor's degree.

"Receiving the Realizing the Dream award has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Brown. "I am very thankful for this opportunity and for being chosen for this award. Being noticed for your hard work and commitment to the community is remarkable. Thank you, SJC, for realizing my dream and making this possible."

In addition to his involvement at SJC, Brown serves as the assistant director of the Rensselaer Central afterschool program.

The Realizing the Dream award, made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., recognizes first-generation students attending ICI campuses, as well as their inspirational teachers and families. A $2,500 check is awarded to each student to assist with college costs, and a $1,000 check is given to each student's choice for most influential teacher/mentor. Rose Schneider of the Rensselaer Central High School English Department will be honored as a result.

"Rose Schneider, a very influential teacher and a great friend, had the greatest impact on my life before SJC," said Brown. "Rose's commitment to student success and her dedication to her students was unbelievable. Thank you so much, Rose, for all that you have helped me accomplish in my life so far."

One out of every three students on ICI campuses is a first-generation college student. Generous financial aid provided by the campuses, combined with state and federal grants, makes a private college education a possibility for all students in Indiana.

"We are so grateful to Lilly Endowment, Inc. for making this inspirational program possible," says Richard L. Ludwick, ICI president and CEO. "We are proud, too, that because of the higher graduation rates of our ICI institutions, these students are twice as likely to realize the dream of completing their degrees in four years."

Named a "character-building college" by the Templeton Foundation, a "Best Midwestern College" by the Princeton Review, and "Best Value" and "Best Midwestern College" by US News & World Report, Saint Joseph's College is a four-year, Catholic college offering 27 majors, four group majors, 35 minors, and nine pre-professional programs, complemented by the nationally acclaimed Core Program. Founded and sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, SJC is located in Rensselaer, Indiana, approximately 90 minutes from both Chicago and Indianapolis, on a park-like campus of 180 acres and has an enrollment of nearly 1,200 students.

# Celebrating at the JCCS

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**On Thursday, Oct. 9, Elmer Bucher celebrated his 88th birthday at the Rensselaer Senior Center. Three of Bucher's four daughters joined him at the lunch meal and birthday celebration. Elmer came back to Indiana in 2011 after being in Florida for 10 years. He recently began attending the events, lunch and activities at the Senior Center. Anyone interested is invited to join the group. Call 866-4333 for further JCCS information. Pictured with Elmer are his daughters Elaine Sanders of Rensselaer, Mary Huber of Bloomington, Indiana, and Linda Hodel of Roanoke, Illnois. Not pictured is Beky Barnes of Lafayette.**

# Energy

From A-1

they were visiting Indiana. Shea traveled here from Maryland, and others with the organization came from across the country. News media from the area and agriculture were invited to tour with the group as well. A PBS news crew from Iowa filmed much of the tour and spoke to some of the visitors in the group.

Stephanie Johnson, of the Jasper County REMC, greeted the tour bus at the Farmhouse Restaurant before they headed off to view the digestors. She and Jasper County REMC CEO Bryan Washburn helped to coordinate the tour in the area.

Mark Stoermann of ampCNG took the visitors through the digester process at Fair Oaks Farms beginning with the sand removal from the manure. At the dairy, the cows bedding is sand, plentiful to the area. As the bedding is removed, it is taken to the digestor where the sand is separated from the cow's manure. The manure is added to water, which is sent through the digesters where the bacteria in that occurs naturally in the cow's manure are given a chance to eat all the pathogens in the droppings. The waste from the bacteria becomes methane gas. The gas is separated and cleaned through a complex process.

Stoermann said the gas can be used in a variety of ways, and the dairy is able to use over 75 percent of the gas it produces. The digesters need to be heated to keep the bacteria that digests the pathogens in the manure from dying. The methane is used to to power the heaters that produce more methane. He said there is not carbon footprint left behind from the production of the gas.

At Windy Ridge Dairy, the digester is fed by 7,000 cows. All of the manure from the cows and all water substances end up in their digester, which is 15 feet deep. Steve Bos, owner of the dairy, was the tour guide for this portion of the visit. He said it takes 21-25 days to process the manure in to when it is processed out. The dairy uses the dried end product, which has nearly all of the pathogens removed and is almost odorless for the bedding of their cows.

Instead of having to separate the sand from the manure as they do at Fair Oaks Farms, they reuse the end product which mixes with the fresh cow manure and becomes a part of the methane producing process once again.

Windy Ridge uses the methane to produce electricity, which is sold to Jasper County REMC. They produce 100 megawatts of electricity every month. The two generators powered by methane produced by the cows could power 700 homes.

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HOOSIER AG TODAY
WITH GARY TRUITT

# Indiana's Leadership in Renewable Energy Draws National Attention

October 9, 2014
Gary Truitt

Don Villwock

A group of national leaders has come to Indiana to see the advances our state has made in renewable energy and the role that agriculture has played in its development. The group toured the Hoosier State on Thursday looking at the progress that has been made in renewable biofuels, solar, and wind energy. Indiana Farm Bureau President Don Villwock said Indiana is a leader in the development new sources of energy, "We have the second largest biodiesel plant in the world at Claypool, IN, and 13 very progressive ethanol plants that have really developed the market in this state." Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann spoke to the delegation and said much of this credit for the development of the renewable energy sector in Indiana is agriculture, "We are very proud of agriculture and the leadership role it has played in renewable fuels in our state, and we expect this to continue." She added that Indiana also has a wealth of traditional energy sources including a 300 year supply of coal and supply of oil in the Illinois basin.

*Media report prepared by Cater Communications;*
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Ellspermann hinted at a new state energy policy that is under development and will be

Sue Ellspermann

rolled out next month. State Director of Agriculture Ted McKinney said his department has been at the table during the development of this policy and sees agriculture as playing a key role in the development of new sources of renewable energy.

General Donald Hoffman

The Hoosier State is also a hotbed of innovation when it comes to new sources of energy, including the wind farm in Benton County, the solar project in Tipton County, and the methane digester at the Fair Oaks Dairy in Jasper County that is turning animal waste into natural gas. The group toured the Fair Oaks farm along with several other locations in the state. They also got a briefing on new cellulosic research at Purdue University. U.S. Air Force General Donald Hoffman, retired, a member of the delegation, told HAT that

Indiana is on the cutting edge of the next generation of renewable energy, "Indiana agriculture has found ways to use the waste from agricultural production to create energy; that is a win/win situation for everyone." Hoffman said developing new sources of energy is vital for national security.

The tour was sponsored by the 25×25 Initiative, whose goal is to have 25% of our nation's energy needs come from renewable sources by the year 2025. Currently, the group says 11% of the nation's energy comes from renewable resources.

http://www.hoosieragtoday.com/indianas-leadership-in-renewable-energy-draws-national-attention/

**Sample social media hits promoting the above article:**

the voice of agriculture
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## Renewable energy is a key to national security

*Posted October 10, 2014 by Meghan Grebner*

Energy independence is a key to national security. Retired US Air Force General Donald Hoffman, a member of the military advisory board says since World War 1, fuel has replaced fodder as our means of mobility from military actions. He adds, "Both on the battlefield and getting to the battlefield and training and getting ready to go to the battlefield all involve enormous amounts of energy."

Currently the country is dependent on energy from other countries, some of which aren't friendly, and that is a concern. But, Hoffman says, America is on target to change that. "We're approaching point now with extraction of non-traditional means of getting energy that we're approaching an energy independence state – perhaps," he says. "Energy independence, energy divergence and diversity, and assured energy resources – not just here in the US, but around the globe – are very, very important to our national security."

Last week the General was touring renewable energy projects throughout in Indiana as part of the 25x'25 Alliance's Rural Energy Forum and Tour.

Hoffman tells Brownfield the state's agriculture industry is a benefit to renewable energy. "They have found ways to take waste streams from the agricultural processes and to take the real estate that's involved in agriculture and convert that into a win-win situation to produce alternative energy," he says.

The goal of the 25x'25 Alliance is to secure 25 percent of the nation's energy supply from renewable sources. **Sample social media hits promoting the above article:**

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the voice of agriculture
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# Highlighting Indiana's renewable energy projects

*Posted October 9, 2014 by Meghan Grebner*

The goal of the 25x'25 Alliance is to provide 25 percent of the nation's energy from renewable sources by 2025. Right now – around 10 percent of the nation's energy comes from renewables. Today, the 25x'25 Alliance is in Indiana to see first-hand some of the progressive renewable energy projects in the state.

Ernie Shea, project coordinator for the Alliance says Indiana's rural electric co-ops are providing cutting edge innovation in how electricity is produced. "Whether that is in the form of solar energy or wind energy, biogas development," he says, "there are a variety of ways in which smaller, distributed generation projects can be knitted together and create a cleaner energy sources and create an economic engine within the co-op."

**Ernie Shea, 25x'25 Alliance**

Indiana's Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann says with Indiana's "all of the above" energy strategy, they can lead by example. "We support solar and wind and the biofuels that are out there," she says. "We want to see more of those out there as well. As we roll out a full energy strategy in November – you'll get to see a few more things that will help lift up Indiana." Ellspermann says the agriculture industry will be a part of the energy plan to be rolled out next month.

**Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann**

http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/10/09/highlighting-indianas-renewable-energy-projects/

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Indiana to unveil new energy strategy

*Posted October 14, 2014 by Meghan Grebner*

The 25x'25 Alliance's Rural Energy Forum and Tour held in Indiana last week highlighted some of the reasons Indiana is a leader in renewable energy. Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann told attendees the administration is supportive of all forms of renewable energy. "As we roll out an energy strategy in November you're going to get to see a few more things that will really help lift up Indiana into leadership in energy stability," she says.

And adds agriculture will be part of that plan. "We're very proud of agriculture and the role it has played, really a leadership role in renewable fuels," she says. "We fully expect that to continue. Indiana supports renewable fuels at the biofuels level, we support the initiatives that agriculture is taking. We think agriculture is a responsible partner in looking for energy solutions."

Indiana's new energy plan, Ellspermann says, will be unveiled in November.

http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/10/14/indiana-unveil-new-energy-strategy/

October 10, 2014

# Energy Tour Highlights Green Projects In Rural Indiana

*JILL SHERIDAN*

On Thursday, a group of national and local leaders hopped on a bus for a tour of renewable energy projects in rural parts of Indiana.

Greg Wagner, vice president of business development for Wabash Valley Power, starts off the day with a tour of a small block building located across the street from a Danville landfill.

"We pride ourselves on the block building, there is some noise but it's manageable," says Wagner. "The community doesn't even know we're here half the time and the power goes right out on the distribution lines, right out in front of the building.

"The small footprint facility, which was opened in 2012, takes methane gas from the dump and turns it into electricity, providing enough juice to power around 2,000 local homes.

The stop at Twin Bridges was one of five sites picked for the tour that highlighted Indiana's investment in homegrown energy sources. The group also visited a community solar project and farms operating on energy provided by methane digesters.

Retired Air Force Gen. Donald Hoffman was on the tour. He is on a military advisory board studying critical national security issues including America's dependence on foreign oil.

"It limits our diplomatic influence when we have to consider the energy impact of our position with some of these countries that are providers, they're not all our friends," says Hoffman

Although Indiana is making strides in developing renewable energy opportunities, coal fired electric power plants still provided 84 percent of the state's net electricity generation last year.

A recent USDA grant will help support 13 new energy projects in rural Indiana.

http://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/energy-tour-highlights-green-projects-in-rural-indiana

Indiana public media WFIU npr WTIU

# Farm Bureau Says Renewable Energy Delivering Benefits

By NETWORK INDIANA

Posted October 9, 2014

The Indiana Farm Bureau president says ethanol now accounts for 40 percent of the state's corn production.

Photo: K All/Flickr

Villwock says that renewable farming methods benefit Indiana's farmers.

The Indiana Farm Bureau says the state's small-scale renewable energy is gaining attention.

The 25×25′ Alliance, a national renewable energy group, and the Indiana Farm Bureau are showcasing the benefits that small-scale renewable energy is delivering to rural Indiana communities.

The Bureau spotlighted recent initiatives in a daylong tour of northern Indiana Thursday. The tour included visits to a Danville landfill-to-gas operation, a solar farm in Montgomery County, and the nine-year-old "BioTown" experiment in Reynolds.

It also included a stop at Jasper County's Fair Oaks dairy farm, which is almost entirely self-sustaining.
Bureau president Don Villwock says forms of renewable energy such as solar and wind farms, which are often located on farmland, benefit farmers.

*Media report prepared by Cater Communications;*
*Media outreach conducted by the Indiana Farm Bureau, the Jasper REMC, the 25x'25 Alliance & Cater Communications*

"We do have a few solar farms starting to sprout up," says Villwock. "We have a new one in Tipton County that just recently started. So we're really on the forefront, and Purdue University is probably the leading cellulosic research institute in the country." Villwock adds that ethanol now accounts for 40 percent of Hoosier farmers' corn production.

http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/farm-bureau-renewable-energy-delivering-benefits-73028/

***This article was also picked up by:***

MIDWEST ENERGY NEWS

http://www.midwestenergynews.com/digest/ *(See the October 10th edition of the Midwest Energy News Daily Digest)*

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# Ethanol Now A Big Cash Crop For Hoosier Farmers

**BY NETWORK INDIANA**

A wind farm in northern Indiana.

Indiana farmers' biggest cash crops now include not just corn and soybeans, but energy.

Indiana Farm Bureau president Don Villwock says ethanol now accounts for 40-percent of Hoosier farmers' corn production.

And he says other forms of renewable energy benefit farmers as well.

"We do have a few solar farms starting to sprout up," says Villwock. "We have a new one in Tipton County that just recently started. So we're really on the forefront, and Purdue University is probably the leading cellulosic research institute in the country."

The Farm Bureau and the agriculture-and-environment renewable energy coalition 25x25 spotlighted some of those initiatives with a daylong tour of northern Indiana.

*Media report prepared by Cater Communications;*
*Media outreach conducted by the Indiana Farm Bureau, the Jasper REMC,*
*the 25x'25 Alliance & Cater Communications*

It included visits to a Danville landfill-to-gas operation, a solar farm in Montgomery County, the nine-year-old "BioTown" experiment in Reynolds, and Jasper County's Fair Oaks dairy farm, which is almost entirely self-sustaining.

Renewables now comprise 11-percent of American energy production, with more than half that amount coming from different forms of biomass.

http://wbaa.org/post/ethanol-now-big-cash-crop-hoosier-farmers

# Renewable Energy Becoming One of Indiana's Biggest Cash Crops

Eric Berman
Oct. 09, 2014

Indiana farmers' biggest cash crops now include not just corn and soybeans, but energy.

Indiana Farm Bureau president Don Villwock says ethanol now accounts for 40-percent of Hoosier farmers' corn production. And he says other forms of renewable energy benefit farmers as well. Solar and wind farms are often located on farmland, and Indiana is a national leader in research into other forms of biofuels, from cellulosic ethanol to biodiesel.

The Farm Bureau and the agriculture-and-environment renewable energy coalition 25x25 spotlighted some of those initiatives with a daylong tour of northern Indiana, with visits to a Danville landfill-to-gas operation, a solar farm in Montgomery County, the nine-year-old "BioTown" experiment in Reynolds, and Jasper County's Fair Oaks dairy farm, which is almost entirely self-sustaining.

Renewables now comprise 11-percent of American energy production, with more than half that amount coming from different forms of biomass.

http://www.wibc.com/news/local-news/renewable-energy-becoming-one-indianas-biggest-cash-crops

TWEETREACH SNAPSHOT FOR

# #INRuralEnergy

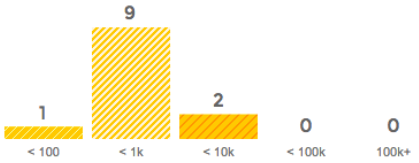
## ESTIMATED REACH

**6,138**

ACCOUNTS REACHED

## EXPOSURE

**8,574** IMPRESSIONS



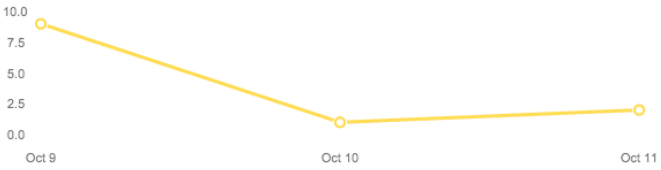

Bars show number of tweets sent by users with that many followers

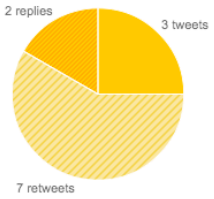
## ACTIVITY

**12** TWEETS

**7** CONTRIBUTORS

**3** DAYS




## TOP CONTRIBUTORS

**3.4k** IMPRESSIONS

@infarmbureau

Follow 3,371 followers

**5** RETWEETS

@ifbkyle

Follow 563 followers

**7** MENTIONS

@ifbkyle

Follow 563 followers

## MOST RETWEETED TWEETS

**4**

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle — 5 days ago

IN Lt Gov Ellspermann addressing #INRuralEnergy Forum @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance in #indy ow.ly/i/7abv4

**1**

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle — 5 days ago

Visited the only community #solar project in #Indiana in Linden as part of #INRuralEnergy Tour, more coming ow.ly/i/7aqdW

**1**

Purdue Ag Econ @PurdueAgEcon — 3 days ago

RT @ifbkyle: Dr Wally Tyner speaking on #RFS & future biofuels, part of #INRuralEnergy Tour @25x25Alliance ow.ly/i/7aHjk

*Media report prepared by Cater Communications;*
*Media outreach conducted by the Indiana Farm Bureau, the Jasper REMC, the 25x'25 Alliance & Cater Communications*

# TWEETS TIMELINE

Oct 11, 2014 at 7:24am UTC

Research At Purdue @Research_Purdue — 3 days ago
RT @PurdueAgEcon: RT @ifbkyle: Dr Wally Tyner speaking on #RFS & future biofuels, part of #INRuralEnergy Tour @25x25Alliance http://t.c...

Purdue Ag Econ @PurdueAgEcon — 3 days ago
RT @ifbkyle: Dr Wally Tyner speaking on #RFS & future biofuels, part of #INRuralEnergy Tour @25x25Alliance ow.ly/i/7aHjk

Oct 11, 2014 at 12:00am UTC

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle — 4 days ago
Thanks @ChrisClaytonDTN for making the trip to #Indiana this week for the #INRuralEnergy Tour w @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance #renewables

Oct 10, 2014 at 12:00am UTC

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle — 4 days ago
@PurdueAgEcon Dr Wally Tyner speaking on #RFS & future biofuels, part of #INRuralEnergy Tour @25x25Alliance ow.ly/i/7aHjk

Amy Cornell @ifbamy — 4 days ago
RT @ifbkyle: IN Lt Gov Ellspermann addressing #INRuralEnergy Forum @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance in #indy ow.ly/i/7abv4

Kristina Cline @CraftyMamaBelle — 4 days ago
RT @ifbkyle: Visited the only community #solar project in #Indiana in Linden as part of #INRuralEnergy Tour, more coming http://t.co/VloIbF...

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle — 4 days ago
Next stop on #INRuralEnergy tour @fairoaksfarms, their animal waste produces enough power for 3700 homes ow.ly/i/7aAS3

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle — 5 days ago
Visited the only community #solar project in #Indiana in Linden as part of #INRuralEnergy Tour, more coming ow.ly/i/7aqdW

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*Media outreach conducted by the Indiana Farm Bureau, the Jasper REMC, the 25x'25 Alliance & Cater Communications*

Kristina Cline @CraftyMamaBelle 5 days ago
RT @ifbkyle: IN Lt Gov Ellspermann addressing #INRuralEnergy Forum @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance in #indy ow.ly/i/7abv4

Indiana Farm Bureau @infarmbureau 5 days ago
RT @ifbkyle: IN Lt Gov Ellspermann addressing #INRuralEnergy Forum @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance in #indy ow.ly/i/7abv4

Cayla McLeland @misscaylamac 5 days ago
RT @ifbkyle: IN Lt Gov Ellspermann addressing #INRuralEnergy Forum @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance in #indy ow.ly/i/7abv4

Kyle Cline @ifbkyle 5 days ago
IN Lt Gov Ellspermann addressing #INRuralEnergy Forum @infarmbureau @25x25Alliance in #indy ow.ly/i/7abv4

**Chris Clayton**
@ChrisClaytonDTN

Follow

Hoosier State Co-op Power. @25x25Alliance tour looks at methane and solar power in Indiana. dld.bz/ck9Cq

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RETWEET
1

11:16 AM - 13 Oct 2014

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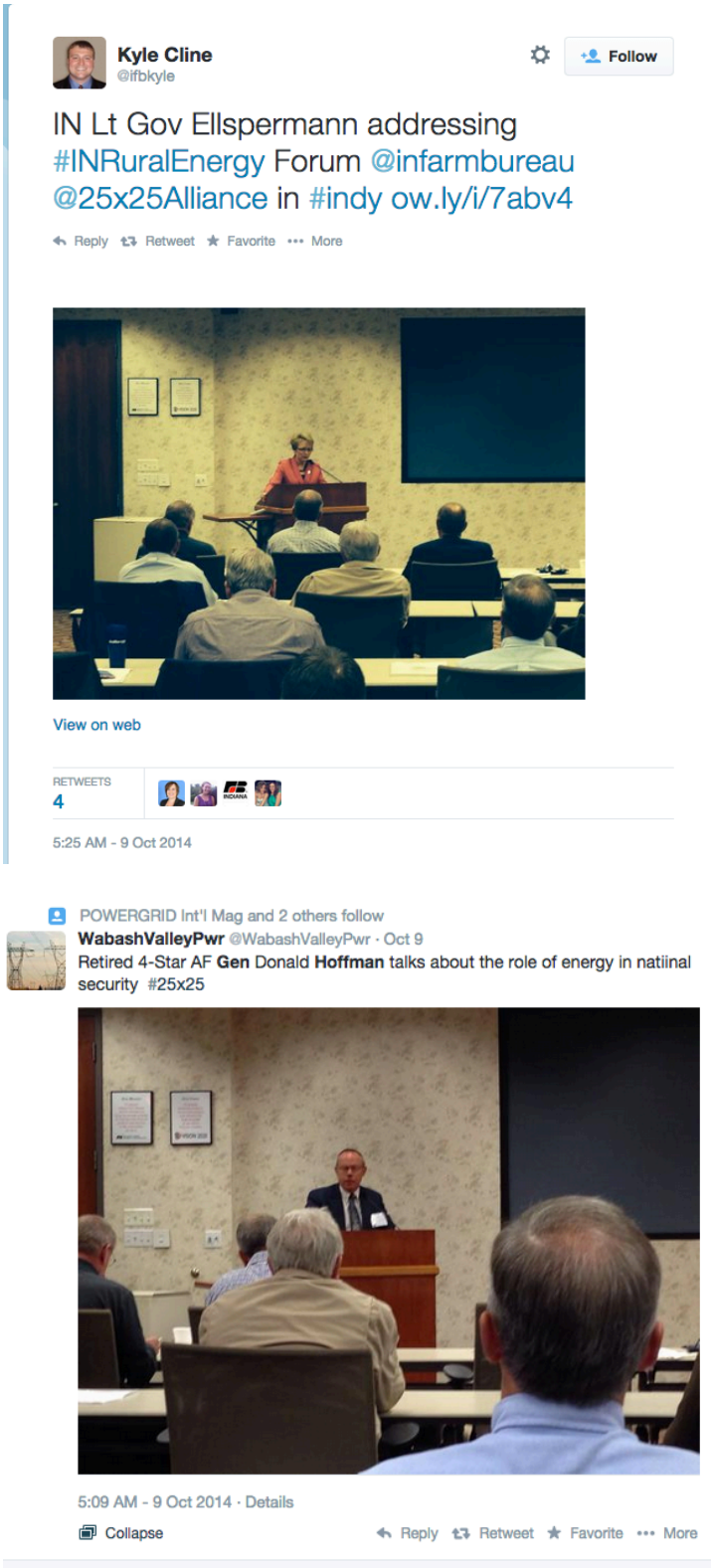


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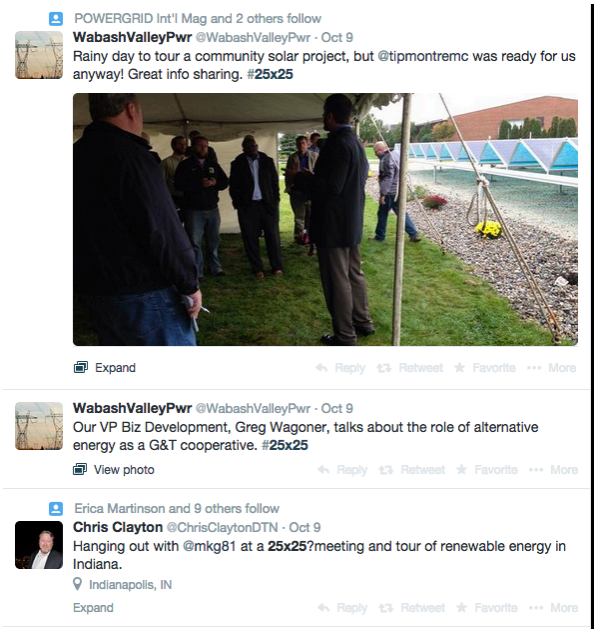


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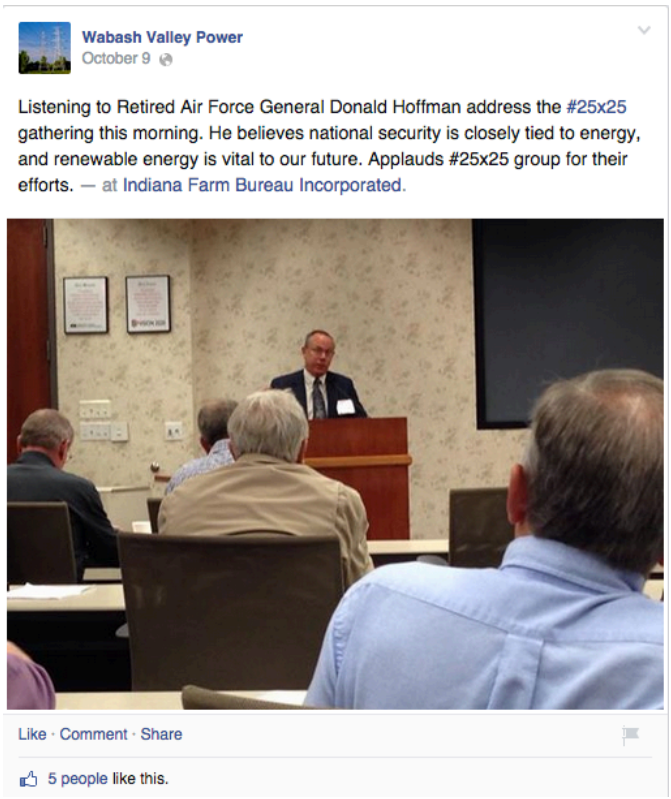


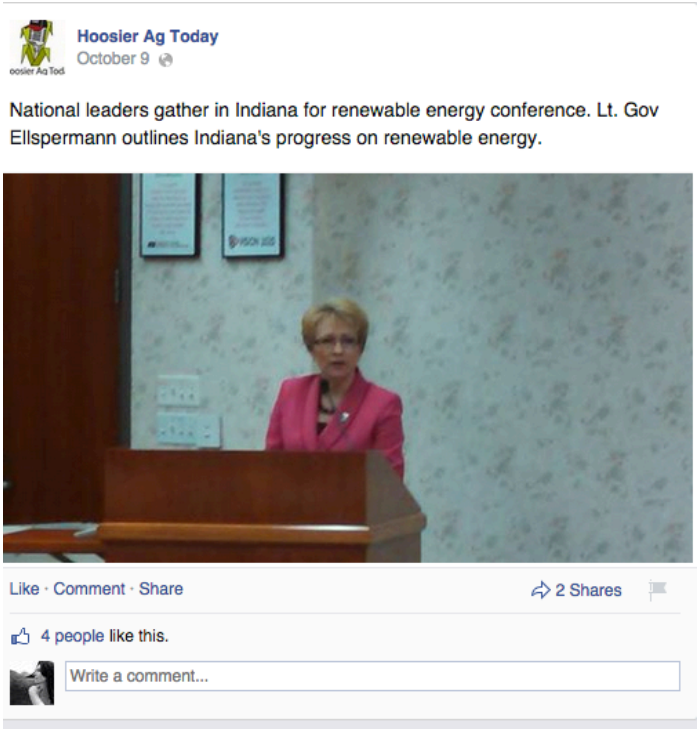


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