

NEWS



4301 WILSON BLVD. • ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1860 • TEL: 703.907.5500 • WWW.NRECA.ORG

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ELECTRIC CO-OPS ENDORSE 25X25 AG. ENERGY ACTION PLAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Patrick Lavigne
703-907-5732**

Statement of NRECA CEO Glenn English
On the Introduction of the Ag Energy Working Group's 25x25 Action Plan.

Washington, DC – February 28, 2007 – America's member-owned electric cooperatives strongly support the recommendations of the Ag energy working group's *25x'25 Action Plan: Charting America's Energy Future* introduced here today.

As the sole representative of the electric utility industry on the 25x25 Steering Committee, I have worked closely with other industry, environmental and community leaders to develop a roadmap to reduced dependence of foreign fuel and increased development of domestic renewable energy options.

America's electric cooperatives are strong proponents of increased integration of cost-effective renewable fuels into our nation's energy supply. In fact, members of the national network of electric cooperatives currently receive 11% of their power from renewable resources. Today those 40 million consumers are joined by more than 400 different industry and environmental organizations and a bipartisan group of elected officials to establish an achievable goal that will, once realized, increase national security by reducing dependence on foreign oil, foster economic opportunity, and benefit the environment.

We started with a goal: to produce 25% of the nation's energy supply from renewable sources by 2025. The consensus document unveiled today provides a realistic game plan. Now the nation must execute.

Co-ops serve 75% of the American landmass and are historically tied to its agricultural regions - we will play the important role in development of a new renewable, ag-based fuel industry. By providing safe, reliable electric power at the lowest possible cost, electric co-ops can lend stability to the fledgling rural businesses that are expected to supply one-quarter of our nation's energy.

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