There's good news about jobs and economic development in rural Iowa
At a time when other businesses in Iowa were retrenching and reducing their payrolls, the state’s electric cooperatives were showing significant signs of growth in both investment and income during 2009.

For example, output – the payrolls, purchases and deliveries of services – by Iowa’s electric cooperatives resulted in a $1.2 billion impact throughout the state’s economy. New construction, facility upgrades and replacement, and energy-efficiency program investments have contributed to a 48 percent increase since 2006 and a 95 percent increase compared to 2003.
Metal fabricator Kooima Company in Rock Valley employs more than 100 people. A 93,000-square-foot expansion will include laser-robotic manufacturing capabilities.

Puck Custom Enterprises in Manning recently upgraded to a 15,000-square-foot facility that will accommodate about 20 employees.

With news reports continuing to focus on expanded job losses and extended jobless benefits, Iowa’s electric cooperatives have a different story to tell: They helped create and retain nearly 8,000 jobs during 2009.

Significantly, more than two-thirds of these jobs were in sectors outside the utility industry.

- Services 31.3%
- Utilities 21.3%
- Manufacturing 20.9%
- Transportation and Trade 18.8%
- Financial 4.1%
- Miscellaneous 3.1%
- Agriculture and Mining 0.6%
A partnership with the local electric cooperative helped make Honey Creek Resort near Lake Rathbun a desirable destination for Midwestern families and business travelers.

Concern for community is one of our founding principles

The local electric cooperative helped secure a portion of the funding for the construction of this popular aquatic center in Corning.

Iowa’s electric cooperatives contributed more than $10 million to business and community investments such as these during 2009.

- **Economic Development** – membership in organizations, key accounts activity, industrial parks, value-added agriculture and tourism
- **Community Support** – job training assistance, community recreation, charitable donations, and police, fire and ambulance
- **Housing Assistance** – new housing developments, housing rehabilitation, wiring help and energy-efficiency donations
- **Employee Volunteer Labor** – uncompensated hours at the employee’s hourly earnings rate
- **Educational Assistance** – K-12 school and college/university programs, scholarships, youth organizations, county fair activities, electric safety awareness and plant tours
Grants and loans from the state’s electric cooperatives are a significant source of funding for economic development projects throughout rural Iowa. These business investments have been used to create projects such as industrial parks, spec buildings, schools, factories, farms, clinics and hospitals.

Since 1989, Iowa’s electric cooperatives have invested a total of almost $98 million in loans and grants, resulting in the completion of local projects worth $928 million. At the same time, more than 5,700 new jobs were created and 17,500 existing jobs were retained.

In addition, Iowa’s electric cooperatives will continue to work to create new jobs during the next ten years, as a result of programs already underway.
With the burgeoning wind industry taking shape in the Midwest, Iowa Lakes Community College established a wind energy training facility in Estherville.

Platinum Ethanol in Arthur processes more than 36 million bushels of corn into 110 million gallons of fuel.

Compared to the previous year, the number of privately owned renewable generation facilities interconnected to electric cooperative lines more than doubled during 2009, from 44 to 104. These installations included 90 wind turbines, 13 solar-energy systems and one methane recovery facility. The total generation capability of these installations is 7.5 megawatts – enough electricity to power about 1,700 homes.

In addition to utilizing traditional sources, Iowa’s electric cooperatives also receive power from 13 wind farms, three landfill gas projects, four methane digesters and multiple hydroelectric stations. During 2009, Iowa’s electric cooperatives also supported initiatives for providing environmentally responsible power, including a wind energy tax credit, using soy-based transformer oil and streamlining interconnection policies and contracts.
As part of an energy-efficiency goals report filed Dec. 31, 2009, with the Iowa Utilities Board, Iowa’s electric cooperatives have developed a five-year plan to invest $71.5 million in energy-efficiency programs for homes, farms and businesses across the state. The $14 million average annual investment for 2010 through 2014 is a 30 percent increase over the amount for 2008.

Of special note is the fact that these cost-effective programs were tailored specifically to the needs of every electric cooperative and its members. The lifetime energy savings from the energy-efficiency measures installed during the life of the statewide plan will be enough to provide electricity to 350,000 homes for one year.
The central mission of Iowa’s electric cooperatives is to deliver power that’s reliable, affordable, safe and environmentally responsible. It’s a commitment we made to our members long ago – during the 1930s, when the national Rural Electrification Administration was formed – and it’s the same commitment we maintain with our members today.

Inherent in this commitment is the responsibility to support and help develop the communities we serve. The investments we make – and the benefits they provide – stay in our local communities.

As a whole, Iowa’s electric cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 650,000 Iowans in 210,000 homes, farms and businesses in each of Iowa’s 99 counties. We own more than $2 billion in electric infrastructure, and we provide employment to nearly 1,200 Iowans.

The bottom line? Iowa’s electric cooperatives will be an important contributor to the vitality of Iowa’s economy for many years to come.
Together, we can continue to create jobs and strengthen Iowa’s rural economy

Generation and Transmission Cooperatives

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bismarck, N.D. • 701-223-0441 • www.basinelectric.com

Central Iowa Power Cooperative
Cedar Rapids • 319-366-8011 • www.cipco.net

Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Humboldt • 515-332-2571 • www.cbpower.coop

Dairyland Power Cooperative
La Crosse, Wis. • 608-788-4000 • www.dairynet.com

L&O Power Cooperative
Rock Rapids • 712-472-2556 • www.landopowercoop.com

Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative
Palmyra, Mo. • 573-769-2107 • www.northeast-power.coop

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative
Le Mars • 712-546-4141 • www.nipco.coop

Iowa Area Development Group

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) is the business and community development leader for Iowa’s electric cooperatives. Since 1985, IADG and the state’s rural utilities have worked on more than 1,600 projects, attracting $5.6 billion in capital investment – and creating and retaining more than 40,000 jobs.

IADG offers a wide variety of economic development services, including site selection, financial packaging, permitting assistance and informational databases.

2700 Westown Parkway, Suite 425, West Des Moines, IA 50266-1411
800-888-4743 • 515-223-4817 • E-mail: iadg@iadg.com • Web site: www.iadg.com

Economic analysis provided by Strategic Economics Group, Des Moines (www.economicsgroup.com).

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