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### **Lee County Recognized for Wind Energy Leadership**

*Iowa continues to lead the nation as several coveted awards were distributed at the state and county level during American Wind Week*

**Des Moines, IA** – Iowa has many achievements to celebrate at the local, state, and national levels as Governor Kim Reynolds [proclaims](#) this week [American Wind Week](#). Ranked first in the nation for percentage of electricity generated by wind, Iowa once again surfaces in the national spotlight for its clean energy leadership. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) recognized Governor Reynolds with the 2020 U.S. Wind Champion Award during a virtual event yesterday. This year marks the first time that AWEA has selected Governors to receive the honor among the select group of bipartisan leaders who embrace a forward-thinking approach to energy policy.

"The wind industry is critical to Iowa's continued economic development, employing nearly 10,000 Iowans and providing affordable, reliable energy to all," **said Governor Kim Reynolds**. "We are proud to be a leader in harnessing wind energy, making up 42% of our in-state electricity generation. I am honored to receive AWEA's Wind Champion Award and look forward to further developing this Iowa industry."

[Watch the event here.](#)

But it's not only the state's top leader that has made Iowa a success story – many counties across the state have harnessed the power of wind energy as an opportunity to stimulate their local communities.

AWEA, in conjunction with Governor Reynolds, launched the Iowa Wind County Seal Program in which eighteen counties were awarded with a gold, silver, or bronze seal in recognition of their leadership to embrace the wind industry and the economic benefits it has to offer. The following counties seized on the opportunity to be a part of wind energy's success and are building the future through job creation, power generation, and education. Counties honored include:

- **Gold county seal recipients:** Cass, Emmett, Ida, Jasper, Lee, Mitchell, O'Brien
- **Silver county seal recipients:** Buena Vista, Carroll, Cherokee, Grundy, Linn, Marshall, Osceola, Sac, Story, Worth
- **Bronze county seal recipient:** Fayette

As wind energy continues to grow across the nation, Lee County is leading the charge on educating future generations.

"Lee County and its residents are proud to be recipients of a gold award from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)" said Lee County EDG CEO Dennis Fraise. "Wind energy provides over 600 high quality jobs in Lee county. We are excited to be part of the wind energy industry that has made Iowa a national leader in renewable energy."

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### **About Power Up Iowa**

*Power Up Iowa is a statewide coalition of renewable energy supporters advocating for local, state and federal policies that bring wind energy investment into Iowa. By educating, raising awareness, and participating in conversations with our state's leaders, Power Up Iowa will make the case for continued wind power growth, which will create jobs and new economic opportunities for families and businesses across the state. Power Up Iowa is an initiative of the American Wind Energy Association. Learn more at [PowerUpIowa.com](http://PowerUpIowa.com)*

### **About the American Wind Energy Association**

*AWEA is the national trade association for the U.S. wind industry, the largest source of renewable energy in the country. We represent 1,000 member companies, 120,000 jobs in the U.S. economy, and a nationwide workforce located across all 50 states. AWEA serves as a powerful voice for how wind works for America. Members include global leaders in wind power and energy development, turbine manufacturing, and component and service suppliers. They gather each year at the Western Hemisphere's most efficient and targeted event for utility-scale renewable companies, the [AWEA CLEANPOWER Conference & Exhibition](#), next in Indianapolis, June 7-10, 2021. An outgrowth of the AWEA WINDPOWER Conference & Exhibition, CLEANPOWER is the first trade show focused exclusively on the utility-scale renewable power sector, bringing together all the major developers, utilities, OEMs, suppliers, and buyers under one roof. Visit [AWEA's website](#) to learn more about the enormous economic benefits wind power brings to America and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*