

# Nebraska ENERGY

Q U A R T E R L Y

Nebraska Energy Office

Summer 1993

## Ag/Environment/Energy Get Top Billing...

### "Earthbound" at the Nebraska State Fair

In April, Governor Nelson announced a new celebration of Nebraska's quality natural resources — water, land, air and living wildlife resources. *Earthbound*, a new event for the 1993 Nebraska State Fair, will highlight the tie between agriculture, energy and the environment.

"Nebraskans have always been conscientious toward their natural resources. Native Americans who first lived in this state and the farmers and ranchers who followed them have all served as examples of good environmental stewards," said the Governor. *Earthbound* will give Nebraskans



in agriculture and other businesses an opportunity to showcase their efforts to protect and preserve the bountiful resources we all enjoy."

*Earthbound* is a joint project among the Nebraska State Fair, Keep Nebraska Beautiful, University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the state

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STATE OF NEBRASKA

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## 1,800 Nebraskans Surveyed...

### 91% Will Pay More for Energy Saving Home

Over 91 percent of Nebraskans would pay more for an energy-efficient home according to a recent survey conducted on behalf of the Energy Office. The respondents willingness to pay more was conditioned on recovering the added cost within five to seven years.

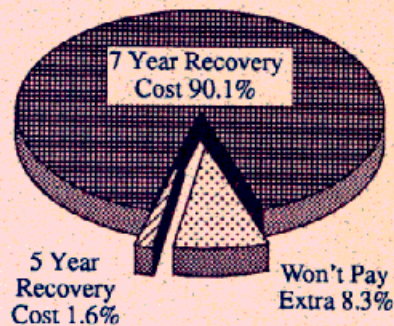
More than one-third of those unwilling to pay more for a home were 75 years or older. Unwillingness to pay more for a home was also the response by nearly a third of all those earning \$5,000 or less a year.

#### \$4,000 Plus

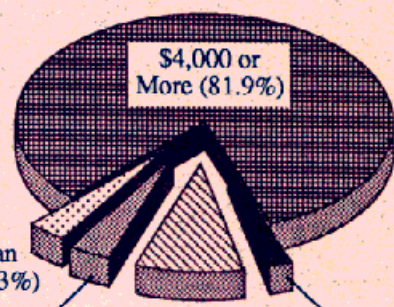
But, eight of every ten Nebraskans said they would pay an additional \$4,000 or more if the home were energy-efficient. About nine percent of Nebraskans would pay less than \$4,000 while an equal number wouldn't pay anything extra.

The survey was conducted last fall by the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska and taken prior to President Clinton's call for a broad-based tax on energy. A more detailed analysis of the survey is available from Larry Kinyon in the Energy Office.

Willingness to Pay More for an Energy Efficient Home



How Much Extra for an Energy Efficient Home



Source: Nebraska Energy Office, February, 1993

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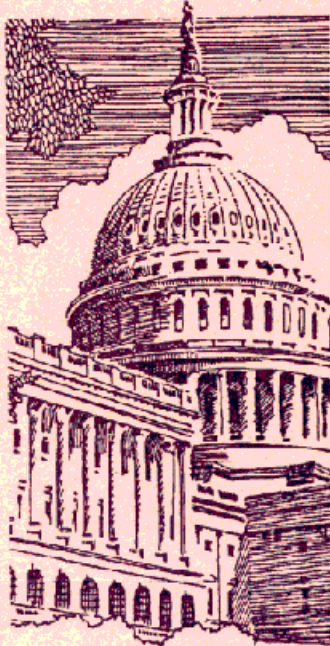
## The Latest News...

# The Energy Tax

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In the last issue of the *Quarterly*, the Energy Office detailed the impact of the proposed broad-based energy tax. Since then, several developments have occurred:

- In April, the U.S. Treasury Department issued several clarifications:



- Ethanol, methanol, ether derivatives of the two fuels and the fuel used in their production would be exempt from the tax. Also exempted was soy diesel as well as solar, wind and geothermal energy sources.

- Liquefied petroleum gases such as propane would be taxed like non-petroleum based fuels — 0.787 cents per gallon in July, 1994; 1.574 cents in July, 1995; and 2.361 cents per gallon in July, 1996. Increases in succeeding years would be indexed to inflation. The typical propane-heated home using

1,200 gallons per year would be paying \$28.33 in taxes yearly by 1996.

- Asphalt used by many states, counties and cities in street construction and repairs would be exempt from the tax.
- All fuels in storage as of July 1, 1994, would be subject to the tax. This will eliminate the practice of "hoarding" or buying a larger inventory than normal prior to the imposition — or change — in the tax.

The clarifications announced by the Treasury Department are expected to reduce the impact in Nebraska by approximately \$6-\$7 million by 1996-97. The revised impact is estimated at \$197 million per year after the tax is fully implemented. Most of the reduction would come from the exemption for asphalt.

### Proposal to Congress

The energy tax proposal was sent to Congress in the President's budget package in April. Both Houses are expected to package the legislation using procedures that guarantee quick action and limited debate.

The House Ways and Means Committee plans to complete its action before the end of April with consideration by the full House membership by the end of May. According to press reports, Representative Rostenkowski, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said the

members of his group would "swallow hard" and accept the tax.

The Senate is expected to consider the legislation in mid-June. This time, the Senate's rules will prohibit a filibuster such as the one used to tie up the economic stimulus package. Some Senate members, especially those from oil producing states, have vowed to try to defeat the proposed tax.

The Energy Office will continue to monitor Congressional action on the proposed energy tax and provide periodic updates on developments affecting Nebraskans.

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## In the Legislature...

# Utility Appliance Subsidy Ban Passes

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In April, Governor Nelson signed into law modifications to the *Municipal Natural Gas Regulation Act* which prohibit retail natural gas utilities from subsidizing appliance-related activities such as merchandising and appliance service contracts with proceeds from energy sales.

The new law was supported by utilities and heating and plumbing contractors who had raised the subsidization issue for the past several years.

Under the new law, an affidavit must be filed annually (by August 1st) by each utility stating that the utility's operating expenses exclude appliance-related business and summarize how such operating expenses were derived.

The act also says that towns may seek injunctions to prevent natural gas utilities from engaging in subsidization, but may not use the Municipal Natural Gas Revolving Loan Fund to pay for associated legal expenses. Courts are also authorized to impose civil fines equal to twice the improper subsidization or \$50,000, whichever is less. A city may also initiate a full review of the utility's rates if the affidavit contains evidence of subsidization of its appliance-related activities.

The Energy Office is responsible for implementing the new law. The utilities' filings will be maintained by the agency and available to interested municipal personnel. For a copy of the new law, contact Jerry Loos in the Energy Office.

### On June 4, 1825

The first time natural gas was used for illumination was in Fredonia, New York. A pipeline was laid from a well to a residence where a reception was held for General Lafayette. The house was brilliantly illuminated by natural gas, using about 30 burners. At the time, gas illumination was regarded as a great curiosity.

## Frequently Asked Questions...

# 5% Dollar and Energy Saving Loans

The *Nebraska Energy Quarterly* features questions routinely asked about 5% Dollar and Energy Saving Loans. Loan forms may be obtained from participating lenders or the Energy Office.

### Can nursing homes get Dollar and Energy Saving Loans?

Yes, if the nursing homes are in cities with 5,000 or fewer people or beyond a city's official boundaries. A loan of up to \$100,000 is available per building. To date, three nursing homes have received loans, primarily to replace cooling systems or to add insulation.

### I'm building an addition to my home. Can I use the loans for energy saving items such as windows and insulation?

No, an addition is considered new construction which is not eligible. However, these same improvements planned for an existing home could be financed.

### When is the "Certification of Added Wall Insulation R-Value" form (#34) necessary?

This form should only be completed when you are adding exterior siding (and insulation) to an outside wall. Because the technical details on how the additional R-10 insulation value will be achieved require complex information, the contractor or supplier completes this form. After the form is signed by the contractor or supplier and the borrower, it is reviewed by the Energy Office before the loan is approved.

### Are there additional costs which can be included on standard or "pre-qualified" projects (Items listed on forms 2A,C and D)?

Additional costs which are directly related to a "pre-qualified" improvement may be included in the loan. Examples of this are new ductwork needed in the replacement of a heating or cooling system and modifications to the electrical system or walls or ceiling to protect interior insulation. If you are uncertain if associated project costs may be financed, call Joel Phipps or Jody Johns in the Energy Office.

### Are Energy Office-financed improvements inspected?

The local lender is responsible for checking any differences between planned and actual improvements. Usually this is done by on-site inspection or through proof-of-purchase documents. However, the Energy Office does inspect a percentage of the projects. If discrepancies are found, borrowers may have to provide further information or possibly retire all or part of the loan immediately.

Borrowers should be advised to complete the project as proposed and if changes become necessary, clear them with both the lender and the Energy Office before proceeding.

**Project Loans to date: 5,915 for \$33.7 million**

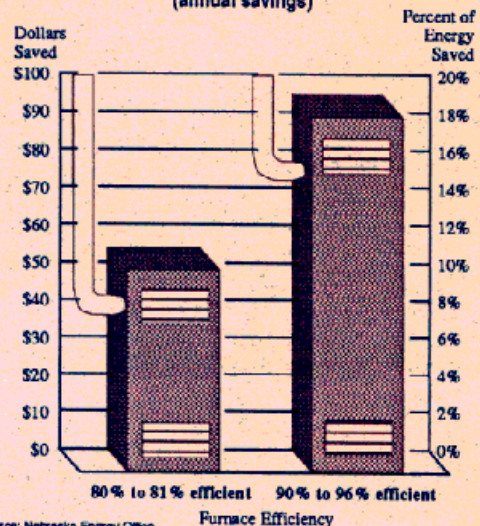
## 80% vs. 90+%...

# Furnaces That Pay

When replacing a natural gas furnace, homeowners not only must select from a wide variety of brands, but choose one that claims to be more efficient than another.

The Energy Office recently analyzed the savings from 22 furnace replacements financed with Dollar and Energy Saving loans from the agency comparing differences between 80 percent Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) furnaces and those rated 90 AFUE or more. Usually, the 90 AFUE furnace costs an additional \$250-\$400.

## Savings From Natural Gas Furnaces (annual savings)



Source: Nebraska Energy Office

Furnace Efficiency

The findings revealed that the ten percent increase in AFUE rating almost doubled the yearly energy and dollar savings.

Energy savings achieved by installing a 90+ AFUE furnace totaled 19.2 percent or \$95 annually. Installing an 80 percent furnace only achieved energy savings of 10.7 percent or \$54 annually.

While the lifetime of a furnace generally ranges between 15 and 20 years, the added cost of buying a 90 percent efficient furnace would be recovered in ten years or less. For more information about this study, contact Larry Kinyon in the Energy Office.

## It's a Fact

Nebraska is only one of four states (out of 21 responding to a survey) where energy efficiency standards established in the Community Development Block Grant program are reviewed by the Energy Office.

This is an example of the collaborative effort between government agencies recommended in the state's *Energy Action Plan*.

### Six Different Fuels Promoted...

## Alternative Fuels Group Created

In April, Governor Ben Nelson, named his appointments to the newly-created Alternative Fuels Committee he formed to increase the use of transportation fuels such as electricity, ethanol, biodiesel, methanol, natural gas and propane in the state.

"The sooner Nebraska and the nation move away from our nearly total dependence on petroleum fuels for cars and trucks, the better," said Nelson. "We must begin to pursue other alternatives."

Nelson said 1991 figures from the Energy Office show that nearly 98 percent of the state's transportation fuel comes from



These alternate fuel vehicles were on display at the Eartbound/Nebraska State Fair announcement in April.

refined petroleum — gasoline, aviation and diesel fuels and propane.

According to the governor, the advisory group will consist of 26 members and will recommend strategies for increasing the use of alternative fuels and identify any obstacles to increasing consumption of those fuels. The group will also coordinate marketing activities, fueling sites and promotional and educational efforts.

Those named to the committee:

#### Alternative and traditional transportation fuels

Dick Ellingson ..... Nebraska Blue Flame Gas Association  
Steve Anderson ..... Nebraska Power Association  
Todd Sneller ..... Nebraska Ethanol Board  
Jim Weyer ..... Nebraska Soybean Board  
Keith Fickenscher ... Propane Gas Association of Nebraska  
Fred Stone ..... Nebraska Petroleum Marketers

#### State agencies

Bob Harris ..... NE Energy Office  
Roland Heedum ..... NE Department of Roads  
Duane Schmidt ..... NE Department of Education  
Glen Eppens ..... NE Dept. of Administrative Services  
Larry Sitzman ..... NE Department of Agriculture

Randy Wood ..... NE Dept. of Environmental Quality  
**Local government and educational institutions**  
Dan Nelson ..... City of Fremont  
Gail Kopplin ..... Gretna Public Schools  
Sandy Plambeck ..... Adams County Supervisor  
Pat Barrett ..... University of Nebraska  
Ellen Lierk ..... Box Butte Development Corporation

#### Consumers and conservation interests

Harriet Gould ..... Common Cause  
Faye Sitzman ..... Sierra Club

#### Car dealers, mass transit and private fleet operators

Larry Worth ..... Lincoln Transportation System  
Bob Curtwright ..... Omaha's Metro Area Transit Authority  
Marlene Gakle ..... NE Assoc. of Transportation Providers  
Loy Todd ..... Nebraska New Car Dealers Association  
Roy Ryscamp ..... United Parcel Service  
Bill Lange ..... Lincoln Telephone Company  
Charles Bacon ..... Nebraska Motor Carriers Association

The Director of the Energy Office, Bob Harris, will head the committee. The executive order creating the committee implements another of the recommendations from the Governor's *Energy Action Plan For Nebraska*.

### A Profile...

## Alternative Fuels

The idea of alternative fuels is not a new one. In fact, some types of fuel such as alcohol and electricity are nearly as old as the automobile itself. Generally, there are six different fuel types presently classified as 'alternative': biofuels (SoyDiesel, for example), electricity, ethanol, methanol, natural gas and propane.

The primary reason use of these fuels is being promoted is because they are less polluting than currently used petroleum-based fuels such as gasoline and diesel.

**Biofuels** such as SoyDiesel are produced from renewable sources such as soybeans, wood and other sources. Generally, these fuels are still considered experimental and are not price competitive. For example, SoyDiesel while reducing a number of pollutants, costs approximately \$2 per gallon.

**Electricity** to power vehicles, excluding some experimental vehicles in the early 1980s, has been gone from the scene since the early 1900s. However, because several large states will be requiring an increasing percentage of zero-polluting vehicles before the turn of the century, Detroit's Big Three automakers and the U.S. Department of Energy have joined forces to develop electrically-powered vehicles capable of meeting the country's needs.

**Ethanol** is presently produced from renewable sources such as corn, sorghum, wheat

and sugar cane. Other potential sources of ethanol include grasses, crop residues, trees, waste paper and municipal solid waste. Variants of this fuel include Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE) and Tertiary Amyl Ethyl Ether (TAEE). Some vehicles are capable of operating on blends of up to 95 percent ethanol (called E95); other percentage mixtures are also becoming common.

Blends of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline have become quite prevalent in the country and are effective in reducing carbon monoxide pollution. Because of various federal and state subsidies, the fuel is price competitive with gasoline.

**Methanol** is currently produced almost exclusively from natural gas. However, it can be produced from coal, wood and certain types of municipal solid waste. Variants of this fuel include Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) and Tertiary Amyl Methyl Ether (TAME). Some vehicles can operate on up to 95 percent methanol and 5 percent gasoline (called M95); other percentage mixtures are also common.

Methanol contains half the energy content of gasoline, lowering driving distances between fill-ups. It is price competitive with regular unleaded gasoline. Extensive engine modifications are required since the fuel is highly corrosive.

### \$1.5 million grant...

## Firm Seeks More Oil

A McCook oil company was selected by the federal energy department to pioneer in increasing oil recovery from old oilfields typical of those found in the state.

Beard Oil was one of 11 selected from a field of 27 applicants for the Shallow Shelf Carbonate Reservoir portion of the Oil Recovery Demonstration. The oil company's efforts are expected to cost \$3 million of which one-half will be paid by the federal government.

The experimental recovery system will be tested in Hitchcock County, the source of over a quarter of the state's oil production. Forty-two wells will be tested where water flooding has been used to enhance oil recovery. Fluorescent, ionic and radioactive tracers will be used to determine if large quantities of oil remain after the water flooding.

Expected to begin this year, the tests should be completed in a little more than three years. An extra 200,000 barrels are expected to be recovered if the tests are successful. If the recovery technique is applied to similar oil producing regions, between 8-40 million barrels of oil could be recovered.

**Natural gas**, usually in compressed form, has been used as a transportation fuel in Europe, North America and Australia for over 40 years. Over 77,000 compressed natural gas vehicles were in use in New Zealand five years ago. Since there are few natural gas vehicle fueling stations, most vehicles are flexible — capable of operating on natural gas or gasoline. Currently, there are only 13 fueling sites in the state and only one is open to the public. Fourteen compressed natural gas dual fuel vehicles are currently being used by rural transit systems in the state. However, in 1991, there were an estimated 30,000 vehicles operating in the country.

Disadvantages of this fuel are twofold: reduced engine power and reduced vehicle range, usually 80 to 200 miles (depending on the number and size of the fuel tanks). Because of these limitations, trucks, buses and fleet vehicles seem to be the most likely users.

**Propane** powered vehicles are still somewhat new. They're used mostly in rural areas since a propane supply infrastructure is already in place. With the assistance of a federal grant, the Energy Office purchased 25 propane/gasoline vans and buses in 1991 for use by rural transit systems.

Most propane in the country is extracted from natural gas, but it can also be produced from petroleum.

### More of Amory Lovins...

## An Easy Economic Development Strategy

Amory Lovins, one of the nation's foremost energy efficiency proponents, said Osage, Iowa (population 4,000), may be the archetypal Midwestern example of the economic development benefits resulting from using off-the-shelf energy saving technologies. Lovins spoke to utility executives and others in Lincoln in February.



Osage is 165 miles north of Des Moines.

"Osage's utility manager Wes Birdsall and his crew of 11 did some significant things," said Lovins. "But the technology was nothing unusual — just the standard caulk gun, duct tape and other things." Installation of flow-restricting shower heads was also part of the effort. Birdsall tested

hundreds before finding the right one to use in the town.

### An Example Worth Copying

The nine year, on-going weatherization program reduced the locally-owned municipal utility's costs in excess of revenues so much, the utility was simultaneously able to:

- prepay all of its debt
- build up a multi-million dollar cash surplus
- cut the electric rates five times in five years — by 32 percent overall
- attract two new large factories to town, in part, because of the utility's low rates
- put an extra \$1,000/year/household into the local economy making the town more prosperous than others nearby
- keep a third car dealer in business because of the money from energy savings stayed in the community

### The Hardware Connection

"Venturing into an Osage hardware store is a unique experience," said Lovins. "'Bad' equipment such as incandescent light bulbs are hard to find while 'good' equipment such as compact fluorescents are easy to get." The utility has worked with hardware stores and other types of suppliers to make certain miserly energy using equipment is readily available.

The utility in Osage views their energy efficiency work as unending because it contributes so much to the town's economic development efforts.

**On June 11, 1895**

The first United States patent for a gasoline-powered automobile was issued to Charles E. Duryea of Springfield, Massachusetts.

## #2 and Trying Harder...

# State Government is Buying Recycled

Nebraska's state government ranks second among state governments in purchasing recycled paper according to a national group of state purchasing officials. Approximately 95 percent of the paper products bought by the state contains recycled paper. Kentucky's state government ranked first.

"I believe Nebraska's stellar performance in this area is due, in part, to the recycling initiative implemented in 1989," said Steve Danahy, state government recycling coordinator. "The state's policy is to buy recycled goods as a first choice whenever supplies are available."

Besides paper, other recycled products include benches made of plastic "lumber", plastic trash bags, lubricating oil and printer and copier toner cartridges.

In overall purchases of recycled products, Nebraska ranked fourth — behind Pennsylvania, Maryland and Kentucky.

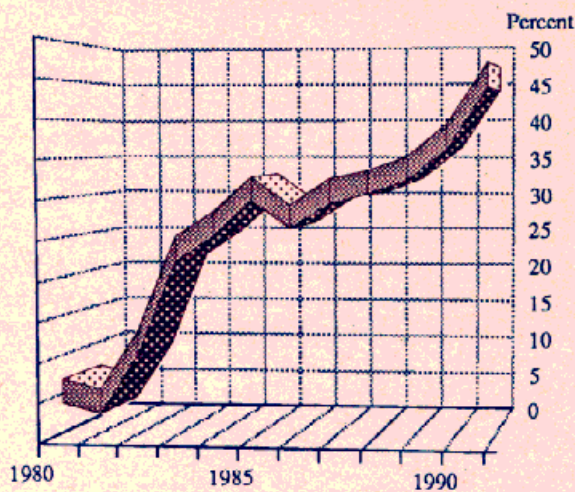
### Counties, Cities and Schools Can Buy, Too!

"Any level of government in the state can purchase what we do under the state's contract," Danahy said. "By pooling governmental purchases, we can increase the market for recycled products, realize the cost savings through group purchases and divert waste from our landfills."

For more information about joint purchasing recycled products, contact **Steve Danahy at the Department of Administrative Services, (402) 471-2431.**

## Nebraska Tops in U.S. Ethanol Use

Nebraska's Ethanol Market Share



Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

## Efficiency Pays...

# Energy Gets \$ Boost

Because of changing national energy priorities and continued collaboration between two state agencies, several energy programs will likely be receiving funding increases.

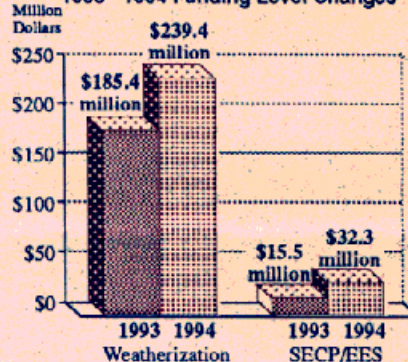
### Federal Increases

At the federal level, 1994 funding increases are slated for three programs. "The need for our nation to improve its energy efficiency has never been more clear," said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary. "Energy efficiency improvements in homes, commercial and government buildings, transportation and industry will contribute significantly to enhancing economic performance and improving the environment, while reducing our reliance on foreign oil."

The three programs — Low Income Weatherization Assistance, State Energy Conservation and Energy Extension

Service — have, in recent years, seen funding declines. In the proposal, the Weatherization program is targeted to receive \$239.4 million, up 29 percent and the other two programs increase from \$15.5 to \$32.3 million, a 108 percent increase. The Energy Office said the state's share of these three

1993 - 1994 Funding Level Changes



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

programs is expected to total over \$4 million. Congress must still approve all the funding levels.

### Joint State Effort

Energy Director Bob Harris also said the state's Departments of Energy and Social Services have agreed to another year maximizing federal funds for energy-related purposes in the state. The Department of Social Services receives federal funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For the twelfth consecutive year, \$1 million of these funds will be used by the energy agency for home weatherization.

"Taken together, these two increases for weatherization could result in improvements being made in over 1,000 additional homes and apartments," said Pete Davis, Weatherization Division Chief.

### Where The Money Goes

The Weatherization program makes free energy saving improvements in homes and apartments. To qualify, people must meet income criteria established by federal and state regulations.

The State Energy Conservation Program and Energy Extension Service promote energy conservation and efficiency and reduce the rate of growth of energy demand through information, education and financing programs.

Earthbound continued from page 1

Departments of Agriculture, Economic Development, Energy and Environmental Quality. Highlights will include exhibits filled by both commercial and nonprofit organizations demonstrating environmentally friendly products and practices, a stage featuring entertainment and educational programs, an energy park complete with benches and flower pots made from recycled plastic and a display of alternative fuel vehicles.

Fund-raising has begun to finance the entertainment, booth space and other expenses for the event. The Sowers



Freddy, a baby Oilasarus, gets a chance to meet school children before joining the Governor for the Earthbound announcement.

Club of Lincoln and Gillette Dairy have both made generous contributions to get the event off the ground. More sponsors are being sought.

"Earthbound is a natural celebration for our state which is, and always has been, 'ag-bound,'" said Jack Aegerter, a state fair official.

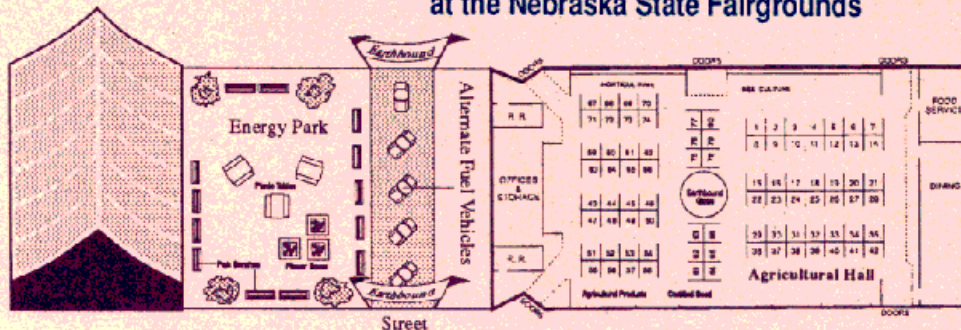


Governor Nelson (left), Ann Brockhoff from the Energy Office, and Energy Director Bob Harris (right) introduced Freddy Fossil Fuel, the Oilasarus, to hundreds of school children at the State Fair/Earthbound announcement.

As an example of how agriculture is working for the betterment of the environment, the Governor demonstrated the use of several new products made from Nebraska commodities. Among those products were packing peanuts made from 95 percent corn starch which dissolve in water, thereby removing non-degradable plastic from landfills and *hydrosorb*, a corn starch-based powder which gels when mixed with a liquid, making it a potential solution to cleaning up chemical spills and other threats to our groundwater. Both of these products are examples of the environmentally consciousness fair-goers will see in the agricultural displays.

Dianne Nelson, the state's first lady, will head the event.

### Preliminary Plan for the Earthbound Exhibition Area at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds



#### Building & Display Specifications

Agricultural Hall booths  
10' x 10' \$500.  
Exhibit Tent booths 10' x 10'  
\$400.  
Corner booths are \$25.  
additional.  
**PLUS SELLING  
PRIVILEGES**

#### Main Stage & Exhibits

- Entertainment
- Demonstrations
- Seminars
- State Fair Farmer's Market

#### FEATURES:

- Agricultural, Energy and Environmental Exhibits with local/regional/national representatives
- Special Demonstrations and Speakers
- Educational Activities
- Entertainment



#### Sample Crops

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Wheat
- Grain Sorghum
- Miscellaneous

**Broad Support...**

## **Poll: Renewables & Efficiency Tops**

Two environmental groups released results from a national poll showing widespread support for a redirection of the nation's energy priorities. The poll showed a majority of voters want either energy efficiency and conservation or renewables to be the country's top energy policy priorities. A willingness to support these policies with tough regulations, tax incentives and changes in personal behavior was also endorsed.

Prior to the release of President's budget for the Department of Energy showing a reordering of past priorities, 59 percent of the voters surveyed wanted research and development of renewables as the top priority at the agency, followed by 53 percent who opted for energy efficiency.

### **Energy Taxes**

Taxes which would penalize polluters and reward energy efficiency were supported by seven out of every ten respondents if the proceeds were earmarked for either deficit reduction or decreasing personal income tax.

Taxes on specific fuels such as gasoline or other fossil fuels were supported to a lesser degree or not at all. Fifty-eight percent opposed a 50 cents per gallon gasoline tax and only 50 percent supported increasing taxes on oil and coal. However, if a portion of the taxes were dedicated to reducing the deficit, 58 percent were in favor.

### **Car and Appliance Efficiencies**

Other findings indicated even stronger support for more vigorous efficiency standards for cars and appliances. Nearly eight out of ten wanted stricter government standards increasing the energy efficiency of cars and electrical appliances and this group said they would be willing to pay up to five percent more in the initial cost of the item to get more efficient cars and appliances.

Increasing the federal fuel efficiency standard on cars from the current 27 miles per gallon to over 40 was favored by 85 percent. Almost three-quarters of those surveyed supported taxes on the purchase of new fuel-inefficient cars with rebates being given to buyers of fuel-efficient autos.

### **World Trade and Renewables**

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents believed that increasing industrial energy efficiency would make the U.S. more competitive in world trade. Giving tax incentives to these businesses to use renewable energy sources or become more energy efficient was also supported by over 90 percent.

By 2005, 81 percent believed that renewable energy sources such as solar and wind should supply one-quarter of the nation's new sources of energy.

The poll was conducted on behalf of the Alliance to Save Energy and Friends of the Earth in January. The survey of 1,000 Americans had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, the state will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any program or activity listed in this publication, please contact the Energy Office to coordinate arrangements. Upon request, this publication may be available in alternative formats.

## **Information Services**

The toll-free **Alternative Fuels Hotline** provides general and specific information on alternative vehicular fuels including fuel performance and availability. Call between 9am-5pm CT, Monday-Friday. (800) 423-1363

**CAREIRS** The Conservation and Renewable Energy Inquiry and Referral Service answers questions at no charge. Call between 7am-4pm CT, Monday-Friday.

(800) 523-2929 Renewable Energy Information  
P.O. Box 8900  
Silver Spring, MD 20907

**NATAS** The National Appropriate Technology Assistance Service offers free technical and commercialization assistance. Call between 9am-6pm CT, Monday-Friday.

(800) 428-2525 NATAS  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 2525  
Butte, MT 59702-2525

The **National Materials Exchange Network** provides free advice via computer modem on recycling and reducing disposal costs. Call 24 hours per day. Modem access (800) 858-6625 General assistance (509) 325-0507

**NREL/TIS** The National Renewable Energy Laboratory/ Technical Inquiry Service offers free technical solar information for scientific and industrial professionals. Call between 9am-6pm CT, Monday-Friday.

(703) 487-4650 Technical Information Service  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, CO 80401

**NEIC** The National Energy Information Center provides data and projections on energy production, consumption, prices and supplies. Call between 7am-4pm CT, Monday-Friday. (202) 586-8800

National Energy Information Center  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Forrestal Bldg., EI-22, Room 1F048  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

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