

**Fred Hubbell believes that Iowa's natural resources, like water and soil, are among our top assets and must be protected and managed in a sustainable fashion to guarantee a legacy of long-term economic and recreational benefits. It's time we started treating them like the gold they are and harness their strength to grow Iowa the right way.**

Fred and Charlotte Hubbell have spent personal time, energy and resources with many environmental organizations in Iowa since the 1980s. Fred was chair of the Iowa Power Fund from 2007-2011, which oversaw the growth and development of renewable energy, including wind and solar, renewable fuels and the expansion of energy-efficiency programs. He served on the board of the Environmental Law and Policy Center from 2014-2017.

Charlotte served on the boards of the Iowa Nature Conservancy from 1994-1998, was a co-founder of the Iowa Environmental Council and served as board president from 1996-1998. She was appointed by Governor Culver to serve on the Environmental Protection Commission in 2007 for a four-year term and served as chair for two of those years. She currently serves on the advisory board of the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

The following is a list of organizations they have supported here in Iowa: 1000 Friends of Iowa, the Iowa chapter of the Sierra Club, the Raccoon River Watershed Association, Iowa Rivers Revival, the Brenton Arboretum, Central Iowa Trail Association, Climate March/Climate Action, Des Moines Waterworks Park Foundation, Interfaith Power and Light, Great Outdoors Foundation, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Polk County Conservation Board (Jester Park), Practical Farmers of Iowa, Whiterock Conservancy and Trees Forever.

### **Water and Soil**

Water and soil in Iowa are inevitably intertwined. Fred supports many of the findings of Iowa's Soil and Water Future Task Force including the statement that, "Iowa has a unique opportunity to invest in Iowa's soil and water infrastructure -- an infrastructure that is critically important to the state's wealth and prosperity." The state of Iowa must reverse the trend of losing top soil at rates far exceeding our ability to replace it. Soil erosion undermines the state's agricultural economy while threatening drinking water and recreation.

Soil is an Iowa "infrastructure" that needs more care and maintenance, like our roads and bridges. Water is essential to all life and in the great books of faith symbolize provision, renewal and healing. At the end of the day, we need better practices in both urban and rural areas that will reduce soil erosion and water contamination.

In addition to thousands of lakes, Iowa has more than 73,000 miles of rivers that provide drinking water, potential recreational use and a life-sustaining habitat for wildlife. Yet, half of our water bodies are "impaired", meaning they are unsuitable for drinking and primary recreational uses, like swimming, child's play, canoeing and kayaking. They have elevated levels of nutrients and e-coli bacteria that come from both urban and rural sources, but primarily rural sources.

Many of these nutrients are attached to Iowa's soil. The state loses an average of five tons per acre of soil every year to wind and water erosion, and much of it ends up in our lakes, rivers and streams. Slowing water run off will reduce the likelihood of floods and help clean it before it reaches our waters. Reducing runoff and soil erosion will reduce algae blooms in lakes that result in beach closings and health hazards to humans and their pets.

Among the policies Fred intends to pursue as Governor:

- *Allocating sufficient, permanent and dedicated funding sources for detailed nutrient reduction implementation plans and practices. Fred sees the recently passed water legislation as resources that are far too few and too randomly applied to achieve real impact. Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWILL – see below) is one key funding mechanism Fred supports.*
- *Creating a monitoring network that requires transparent data so we can better check our progress in reducing runoff and soil erosion and determine which practices should be applied where.*
- *Streamlining funding methods so dollars aren't wasted in red tape but instead get to worthy, effective, on-the-ground projects.*
- *Incorporating the state's Soil and Water Conservation Districts and watershed management areas into our policies. This will allow the state to prioritize our funding resources to clean the watersheds of greatest need and watersheds ready-for-action.*
- *Prioritizing projects and practices which will have multiple benefits for farmers, area citizens, recreation, and tourism.*
- *Requiring a stronger partnership with the private sector to collaborate across traditional political boundaries to get effective results.*
- *Creating a nutrient reduction policy that promotes agricultural growth and protects our soil's health by introducing more scientific practices in applying chemicals and accepting more "Best Practices" like filter strips and cover crops.*

### **Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Funding (IWILL)**

Fred believes people, not corporations, deserve first shot at being able to use and recreate in Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams. The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, created by an overwhelming majority of Iowa voters in 2010, is a permanent and constitutionally protected funding source for conservation. The Fund will ensure that natural spaces are preserved for generations to come. Iowa's Water and Land Legacy is bringing Iowans together in support of immediate, permanent, reliable, substantial funding aimed at improving our water quality, protecting our soil, enhancing our wildlife habitat, and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Iowa. With a small increase in our state's sales tax, we can fund the trust to preserve Iowa for generations.

The stated legislative purpose of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is "to maintain state parks and forests, protect the environment of Iowa, and manage energy, fish, wildlife, land resources and water resources of Iowa". The department has received less than 1% of the

State's tax appropriations since it was founded, ranking among the lowest states in per capita spending on environmental protection.

- *Fred supports fully funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.*
- *Fred also supports fully funding the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.*
- *Fred supports fully funding the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) that goes to trails, wildlife habitat, and community grants.*

**Fred Hubbell may not be a career politician, but his background in growing businesses and serving in government demonstrates he has the experience in the private and public sectors and the courage to bring diverse perspectives together to find common ground and get results where changes need to be made.**

### **Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)**

The basic design for regulation of confinement feeding operations in Iowa is not keeping up with the rapid growth of the industry. In addition, lapses in requirements for information sharing, inadequate oversight by regulators and specific loopholes allow many operations to avoid meeting the intent of the law.

The present protection for neighbors of CAFOs is inadequate. There must be a change that allows each county to have more influences over its economic future. As the Des Moines Register editorial of February 15, 2015 states: *"While Sioux County is apparently comfortable with having the equivalent of 35 hogs for every resident of the county, there is mounting concern in Dickinson County about the growing number of livestock confinement operations in one of the state's premier tourism destinations."*

There is much discussion about changing the Master Matrix. The discussed changes are varied and range from increasing the number of points required to get a passing score to providing counties the option of approving or disapproving a construction permit rather than just providing a recommendation to the DNR. Serious review and discussion needs to be held on what changes are needed to restore more appropriate balance between the needs of the livestock industry and the need to better protect other industries and local public interests.

- Fred believes that with so many counties filing protests against the Master Matrix, there needs to be changes. Fred will create a Blue Ribbon Commission of producers, legislators, consumers and local elected officials to recommend changes to the legislature. Fred will support more local control and more environmental consideration as recommended changes.

**Fred Hubbell believes in stewardship, and we have an opportunity to increase jobs with higher incomes, and leave a cleaner environment to our children and grandchildren, if we grow Iowa the right way.**

### **Wind**

Wind energy is truly clean energy and provides more affordable electricity throughout our state. It is the lowest cost source of new electricity generation and supported between 7,000 and 8000 jobs in the state in 2016. It has allowed Iowa to have some of the lowest energy costs in the country and has provided millions in revenue to landowners as well as a much needed revenue source to counties from increased property taxes. Iowa has the technical potential to grow wind energy and sell it to out-of-state customers along with wind turbines and service contracts. This would increase economic development and job opportunities.

- Fred will expand Iowa's leadership in wind energy production, manufacturing and job training. Iowa's Governor needs to be a national spokesperson for this international emerging industry.

### **Solar Energy**

As costs have come down dramatically in recent years, we have seen a wide range of solar projects and installations all across Iowa. Farms and rural businesses are leading solar adopters in rural areas like Washington County, while successful community solar projects are operating in cities like Cedar Falls. By the end of 2016, at least 97 counties had installed solar projects that benefited from Iowa's solar tax credit.

Solar energy has the potential to play a much more significant role in Iowa's energy portfolio, and has been gaining momentum in recent years. As with wind energy, the potential for economic development with solar could support well over 3,000 jobs in the state. From 2014 to 2015, Iowa's distributed solar capacity grew 32 percent according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, placing it ahead of many Midwestern states including Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. At the end of 2016, Iowa had an estimated 45 MW of installed solar including distributed solar and utility solar.

- Fred will expand the incentives available for farmers, businesses, residents, utilities and communities to own or invest in solar panels, including tax incentives, net metering, third-party PPA financing, and utility rate incentives.

### **Energy Efficiency**

Iowa's energy portfolio includes significant shares of wind and solar energy, and is shifting away from heavy reliance on sources like coal and oil.

Using energy more efficiently means getting the same or better results for things like lighting, heating and cooling in our homes, but doing so by using less energy. There are significant opportunities to improve energy efficiency – and save money – beyond homes in Iowa, including small business, large industrial users and agriculture. Iowa utilities have increased annual electricity savings significantly in recent years, but there is room for continued improvements. Iowa's efficiency plans are also cost-effective, meaning they create economic

benefits that are greater than their costs, and the potential for additional energy savings is significant.

- Fred will recommend to the legislature the adoption of policies that encourage energy efficiency. He will ensure that utility energy efficiency programs maximize opportunities for saving energy, including implementation of current efficiency plans and improving efficiency policies and resources so all Iowans have access to leading energy efficiency programs.
- Fred will also increase responsibilities of the Iowa Utilities Board consumer advocate to protect all Iowans from unfair practices.

### **Statewide Energy Districts**

An Energy District is a locally led institution that provides leadership toward a locally owned clean energy transition. The Energy District model is based on the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) model that grew out of the Dust Bowl and Great Depression. SWCDs were founded on the realization that state and federal agencies needed local partners and local leadership to implement private lands conservation in every county in the country. This locally led soil conservation in the 1930s resulted in developing a strong ethic among Iowa farmers.

Universal local leadership and infrastructure supporting the clean energy transformation is the key missing link, and Energy Districts could provide a highly replicable and impactful model through:

1. Quality, comprehensive, results-oriented energy planning with all energy users, including technical analysis of efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, economics and incentives, and plan development and follow-through.
2. Local investment and job/wealth creation through market transformation and the acceleration of energy efficiency and a renewable energy economy.
3. Community mobilization through action, education, inspiration, and development of an energy ethic and identity: we're all in this together at the local and community level.

Energy districts would bring a similar message to every classroom, main street, courthouse, gravel road and home -- that avoiding the pending disaster of climate change is the responsibility of each and every one of us. An energy ethic needs to take root in Iowa.

- Fred will recommend to the legislature the creation of energy districts across Iowa.

[Nature Conservancy, [Fall/Winter 2016](#)]

[The Gazette, [3/19/17](#)]

[The HawkEye, [7/9/17](#)]

[Iowa Public Policy Project, Accessed On [4/12/18](#)]

[Iowa Starting Line, [8/3/17](#)]

[Quad-City Times, [9/12/11](#)]

[Editorial, Des Moines Register, [1/3/18](#)].

[Des Moines Register, 5/13/12]

[Iowa Policy Project, [1/25/18](#)]

[Globe Gazette, [10/28/16](#)]

[Iowa State, [Winter 2005](#)]

[Iowa Legislature, Accessed On [4/13/18](#)]

[Iowa Policy Project, [1/25/18](#)]

[Editorial, Des Moines Register, [2/15/15](#)]

[Iowa environmental Council, [9/19/17](#)]

[Iowa Environmental Council Accessed On, [4/13/18](#)]

[Corridor Business, [2/12/15](#)]

[Tim Dwight Op-ed, The Gazette, [11/14/17](#)]

[Iowa Environmental Council, Accessed On [4/11/18](#)]

[Des Moines Register, [12/21/16](#)]

[Diane Munns and Darrell Hanson Op-Ed, Des Moines Register, [2/27/18](#)]

[Practical Farmers Of Iowa, Accessed On [4/13/18](#)]

[About Page, EnergyDistrict.org, Accessed On [4/14/18](#)]



