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Winkelman's Environmentally Responsible Construction

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Representative Mark Kuhn Probes Renewable Energy



Mark Kuhn standing next to the Nex-Gen turbine on tip up day. Notice the wind turbines in the background.

Wind turbines are not a surprise or novelty to Mark Kuhn, State Representative of District 14 in Iowa. Nearly everywhere you look at his family farm near Charles City, IA you see giant megawatt wind turbines farming the wind in the distance.

For the past 34 years, he has shared duties of managing and operating the family's 770 acre grain farm. And since 1998, Mark has been serving in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he is a member of the Agriculture, Environmental Protection and Public Safety committees, as well as the chair of the Agriculture & Natural Resources budget subcommittee. Kuhn also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee. He was awarded "Legislator of the Year" in 2002 by the

Izaak Walton League in 2002, and has received the "Friend of the Family Farmer" award three times from the Iowa Farmers Union. He is also a member of the Charles City Area Chamber of Commerce, serves on the Board of Directors of the American Corn Growers Association.

Mark wanted to make his own statement on environmental stewardship and reduce his own farm energy consumption costs over the grid. He realized that he had a viable spot for farming the wind since so much of it was going on all around his farm. So he decided to have his own wind powered generator on the homestead. WERC provided a favorable site plan and installed a Nex Gen 12.50 - 35 kilowatt wind turbine system with a 50 foot monopole on the premises. The turbine is estimated to be able to produce over 51,000 kilowatt hours per year at his location.

Mark also applied for (through WERC) and was successful in being awarded a USDA grant of \$25,762.

