



Rural Power

Iowa's electric
cooperatives

Energizing rural
economic growth

Iowa Rural Power Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate responses will be shared in their entirety with the member-consumers of Iowa's electric cooperatives and posted on www.iaruralpower.org.

1. How much interaction have you had or do you currently have with electric cooperatives in your home state?

Rural electric coops are an integral part of the energy economy in Colorado and cover 70 percent of the land in my state. I interact with the Colorado Rural Electric Association and their 22 members regularly in both Colorado and Washington, DC. In fact, the coops have endorsed several of my policies in the Senate, some of which were included in the 2018 Farm Bill. Rural electric coops are one of the first organizations I talk to when I write policy in the Senate and that will continue in a Bennet Administration.

2. How will your energy plans provide affordable and reliable power to rural Iowa?

First, I will continue to listen to the people of Iowa and the electric coops when developing my energy and climate change policies. Second, I will establish a Climate Bank to catalyze \$10 trillion in private sector investment in innovation and infrastructure at home and abroad. The bank will invest in projects in rural communities to bring reliable, clean, and affordable electricity and create new job opportunities. Third, I will launch a 2030 Climate Challenge to states to create their own plans to transition to clean energy. The states that submit plans that lower the cost of energy and increase the reliability of the electric grid, among other targets, will receive the most federal funding.

3. Iowa's electric cooperatives are successful proponents of renewable energy resources in our state. However, obstacles remain for shifting to a 100% renewable portfolio, such as extreme weather and limits on battery storage technology. For example, how will your energy plan compensate for electricity needs in February during a polar vortex (because...Iowa) and the sun isn't shining, the wind isn't blowing, and our limited battery storage options are depleted due to their performance in cold temperatures?

In line with the direction from scientists, I believe we can transition to achieve 100 percent clean, net-zero emissions as soon as possible, and no later than 2050. I recognize that transition will take time and a diverse set of energy sources beyond renewable electricity. Every community is unique. In the meantime, we must invest in research and development projects to speed the transition, including to cost-effective energy storage, energy from methane capture, and carbon capture and sequestration.

4. Co-ops are very proud of their role in electrifying America but couldn't have done it without the support from FDR and the Federal Government. Will your energy plan emphasize partnerships with entities like co-ops to implement your vision for the future of electricity delivery in the U.S.?

My climate and energy plan intentionally engages a broad coalition of Americans, including agricultural and rural communities, to ensure that our approach to climate change not only is sufficiently ambitious, but will endure across American elections and administrations. Rural coops will be a necessary partner in the development of my energy policy. In particular, my plan creates the American Climate Council—a diverse coalition that will develop “America's Climate Change Plan” by Day 100 of the Bennet Administration. The Council will include

seats for organized labor, representatives of rural America, scientists, environmental and business leaders, and more.

5. What other ideas on strengthening rural America are unique to your campaign that would be of interest to electric cooperative member-consumers?

As a Senator from Colorado, a state very similar to Iowa, much of my focus is on rural communities.

My rural health plan will achieve universal coverage, lower costs, and improve the quality of care in some of the most underserved communities nationwide. My plan builds on my Medicare-X public option plan, which starts in rural areas, and adds policies to close existing coverage gaps and bring more providers to rural areas. It also tackles prescription drug costs, surprise medical bills, and leverages telemedicine to increase access to care in rural communities.

My housing plan also includes a particular focus on rural areas and small towns, which face unique housing needs that require flexible solutions. Rural renters are particularly vulnerable, with nearly one in four paying more than half their income on rent. Rural renters are also more than twice as likely to live in poverty than rural homeowners. And many seniors and disabled people in rural areas face a lack of affordable transportation options or accessible homes. The Bennet Administration will support flexible affordable housing solutions in rural areas by increasing funding for the USDA's multi-family rental housing portfolio.

My education plan also addresses school funding disparities that effect rural areas. My plan provides federal funding support to states and localities that make an effort to provide significant financial support to rural, high-poverty, and otherwise underserved schools to close the financing gaps that lead to achievement gaps.

I also support student loan forgiveness of up to \$10,000 per year for up to four years for public servants and those who work in high-need professions in underserved communities, such as teachers, OB-GYNs, nurses, or primary care physicians in rural areas.

Please email candidate responses to Haley Moon (hmoon@iowarec.org).