



NORTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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ALLETE CLEAN ENERGY GIVES \$10,000 TO NEWLY FORMED ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hettinger, ND – ALLETE Clean Energy (ACE) has made a \$10,000 donation to the newly formed Adams County Community Foundation as a permanent gift to the area.

A subsidiary of ALLETE Inc. (NYSE: ALE), ACE is building the 107-megawatt Thunder Spirit Wind Farm near Hettinger, N.D. Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU), a division of MDU Resources Group (NYSE: MDU) will acquire the project this year and will operate the wind farm for use by its utility customers.

“We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important endeavor that will help to ensure a strong future for communities in Adams County,” said Wells McGiffert, Thunder Spirit Project Manager. “We truly appreciate the outstanding cooperation and support we received from the community every step of the way during the construction of Thunder Spirit, and we are pleased that through this donation our connection with the community will continue for years to come.”

The Adams County Community Foundation was recently established through the North Dakota Community Foundation by a group of local residents to benefit the communities in Adams County. It is a permanent, flexible, general purpose charitable fund. Earnings from the fund can be given as grants every year to support projects and programs that improve the quality of life in the area. The principle of an endowment fund remains intact, continuing to generate income for generations to come.

“Other communities like Richardton and New England have had an endowment fund for years,” says Jim Goplin, one of the founding members. “We decided it was time for our area to have one, too.”

Sixty other North Dakota communities of all sizes have established community endowment funds through the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF), including Bowman & Slope Counties, New Salem, McKenzie County, Casselton, Minot, Killdeer, Mott-Regent, Bismarck-Mandan, and Ellendale. Some of the community endowment funds give out over \$20,000 in grants to local organizations every year for a variety of projects and programs in their area. Examples of grant projects from other community foundations include building repairs at the senior citizens center, new playground equipment for a city park, computer updates for the local clinic, and new turnout gear for the local volunteer fire department.

“The goal is for this fund to grow over time,” says Goplin. “We want others to know that this fund has been set up and that it is a great way to provide support to charitable organizations in our communities forever. This initial donation from ALLETE is a huge boost to get us started.”

NDCF is working with Goplin and other local residents to establish an advisory committee to lead fundraising efforts for the foundation and determine grant awards. NDCF provides professional management of the fund as well as administrative support to the local committees. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Goplin at 701-567-2531.

Additional donations can be added to the fund at any time. The Adams County Community Foundation is considered a qualified ND endowment fund and gifts to the fund that are over \$5,000 should qualify for the generous 40% ND income tax credit. Residents can also consider leaving a portion of their estate to the fund.

“This fund can make a real difference in our county,” says Goplin. “It is truly an investment in our future.”

For more information about the newly formed Adams County Community Foundation, go to www.NDCF.net/AdamsCounty or contact Jim Goplin at 701-567-2531. Those people interested in contributing to the fund can donate online at www.NDCF.net by clicking “Donate” and entering “Adams County Community Foundation” in the “Fund Name” line or can mail their check to NDCF at PO Box 387, Bismarck, ND 58502-0387 (please write “Adams County CF” on the memo line.)

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Photo caption: Chris Aepelbacher of ALLETE Clean Energy presents a \$10,000 check to Jim Goplin, a member of the Adams County Community Foundation Steering Committee. *Photo courtesy of the Adams County Record.*