



**STATE SENATOR**  
**Hudson – Cedar Falls - Waterloo**

**EDUCATION TEACH-IN**

***Vouchers - Educational Savings Accts - School Choice***

Saturday, January 27 @10:00 - 11:30am  
 UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Ed

This free event is sponsored by Cedar Valley Activate. It was set up to address local concerns about [SF 2091](#).

Scott Ellison, faculty member in the UNI College of Education, will talk about school choice implementation in other parts of the United States and other countries. Roark Horn, director of School Administrators of Iowa, will talk about the impacts that school vouchers could have on school districts in Iowa.

**SOLAR ENERGY CAN CREATE GOOD JOBS**

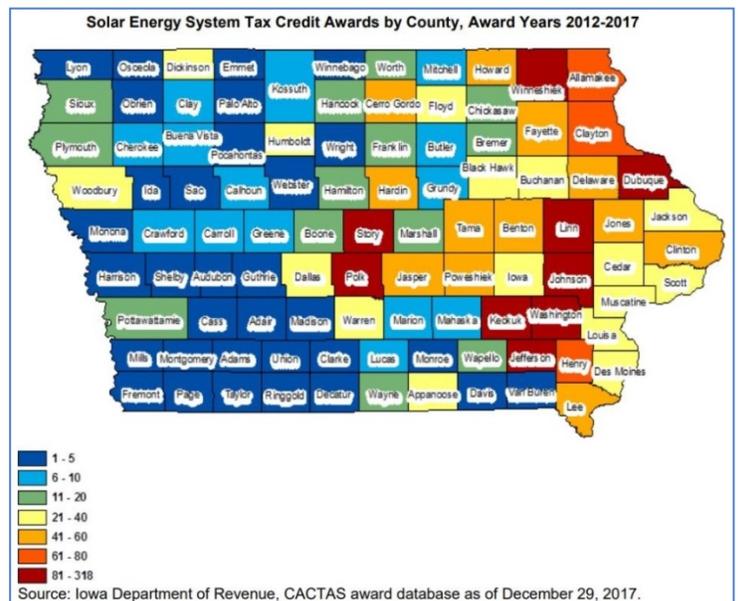
Iowa is known across the country as a leader in renewable energy, including ethanol, biodiesel and wind. These industries are built on Iowa’s natural resources and benefit Iowans through lower energy costs, increased crop values and new jobs. In 2016 alone, Iowa jobs in clean energy grew by 7 percent.

Solar energy holds even more promise for Iowa. The sun that helps grow our crops also can power homes, farms and businesses.

Since 2012, Iowans have installed more than 2,500 solar projects in all of Iowa’s 99 counties. These projects lower energy costs and raise property values, with rural counties leading the way. Many Iowa utilities recognize the appeal of solar and are making it a viable option for their customers. More than 700 Iowans now work in the solar field, and 47 Iowa businesses are part of the solar energy supply chain.

The demand for solar presents Iowa with continued opportunities for growth. We can do our part by ensuring Iowans have the knowledge to grow the industry and the skills to fill the jobs.

To learn more about the benefits of solar energy and how you can install it and use it, visit the [Iowa Solar Energy Trade Association](#) website.



**BILL DOESN'T SOLVE OUR WATER PROBLEMS**

Water quality is a real problem that deserves a real solution. [Senate File 512](#), which was rushed through the Iowa House this week and awaits the Governor’s signature, will not solve Iowa’s problems.

[SF 512](#) is a Senate Republican bill from last year that takes \$270 million from other priorities—like health care and our schools—to pay for water quality improvements. The bill also fails to ensure

accountability by monitoring how well projects clean up our water and improve our soil.

We all want safe drinking water, natural resources that support a strong economy and a healthy environment for work and play. Unfortunately, Republicans did not take the time to truly solve Iowa's concerns. A well-rounded approach with input from farmers, environmentalists and other concerned Iowans could produce more effective results.

### **PET PROTECTIONS PASS FIRST HURDLE**

People who torture, abuse, neglect or abandon dogs, cats and other companion animals will face harsher penalties if [Senate File 421](#) becomes law. The bill has been approved by a three-person Senate subcommittee, clearing its first hurdle in the legislative process.

According to an [Animal Legal Defense League report](#), Iowa has some of the weakest animal protection laws, ranking 49<sup>th</sup> among all 50 states. We've seen a number of animal hoarding cases in which offenders are found guilty of severe mistreatment of animals, yet proceed to accumulate more animals and mistreat them.

Under [SF 421](#), anyone who has been found guilty of animal mistreatment will face more severe penalties for subsequent offenses. Upon conviction, a court will be able to prohibit them from owning or even living in the same home with an animal.

In addition, the bill makes it a crime for a person to leave an animal in a parked vehicle when it is extremely hot or cold, and allows law enforcement to rescue animals from parked vehicles if the animal appears to be suffering.

### **DEADLINE FOR WESTERN UNION CLAIMS**

Iowans who wired money to scam artists via Western Union from 2004 through January 19, 2017 have until February 12 to submit a refund claim. Refunds will be made as a result of a \$586 million

[settlement](#) reached among Western Union, the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice. Apply for a refund at [ftc.gov/wu](http://ftc.gov/wu) or [westernunionremission.com](http://westernunionremission.com), or call 844-319-2124 for more information.

### **FARMERS MARKET WINTER WORKSHOP**

The 20th Annual Iowa Farmers Market Workshop will be held February 3, at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines. Topics to be covered include:

- New FDA produce safety rules
- Wine sampling and sales at markets
- Insurance needs of vendors and markets
- The state's Double Up Food Bucks Program

A panel of market managers will share their successes and challenges, and attendees can get training for certification in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

More information and registration materials are available at [www.iafarmersmarkets.org](http://www.iafarmersmarkets.org).

### **RADON IS A SILENT KILLER IN IOWA HOMES**

January is Radon Action Month. Radon is a natural, radio-active gas that can cause major health problems. About 400 Iowans die from radon-induced lung cancer every year.

Radon seeps in through cracks in walls, basement foundations and other openings. The problem is you can't see it, smell it or taste it.

More than half of Iowa homes have elevated levels of radon, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That's the largest percentage in the country.

Fortunately, detection is easy with an inexpensive test kit from your hardware store or the [Iowa Department of Public Health](#). You can also order a kit from Iowa's Radon Hotline at 1-800-383-5992.

Learn more about radon and its risks in this video from the University of Iowa: [https://youtu.be/Fuzl3Nb\\_ah0](https://youtu.be/Fuzl3Nb_ah0).

### **Contact information**

*State Senator Jeff Danielson serves Hudson, Cedar Falls and Waterloo. He can be reached at 319-231-7192. E-mail him at [jeffdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:jeffdanielson@gmail.com).*

*Senator Danielson is ranking member on the Education Budget. He also serves on the Appropriations, Education, State Government and Transportation committees.*

*For further information, go to [www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson](http://www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson) and [www.jeffdanielson.org](http://www.jeffdanielson.org).*