

## **Iowa Energy Plan working group members selected**

January 8, 2016 (*Des Moines, IA*) – Members have been selected for the Iowa Energy Plan working groups for the areas of Economic Development and Energy Careers, Iowa's Energy Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency and Conservation. Late last year, officials announced that the state would undertake an effort to set priorities and provide strategic guidance for a statewide plan to assess current and future energy supply and demand, examine energy policies and programs and identify emerging challenges and opportunities.

The Iowa Energy Plan will be built on four foundational pillars. The working groups were organized around these pillars and more than 140 membership applications were accepted for 48 spots within these groups. The groups will provide input, review data and help shape the goals and strategies of the plan.

Selection for working group membership was based on a number of factors, with the intent to bring together groups that represent the diversity of energy stakeholders. Factors considered included expertise, organization type, geographic distribution around the state, industry sectors and energy sources.

Working groups will meet both in person and via conference calls over the next six months. During the meetings, members will share insights and experiences on numerous topics critical to the plan's development.

The development of the Iowa Energy Plan is intended to be an open, transparent and collaborative process that leverages input and insight from business leaders, energy innovators and members of the public. Non-members are welcome to register for the working group sessions to listen to the discussion and contribute written questions, thoughts and comments that will become part of the public record. In addition, five public energy forums will be conducted across the state to facilitate additional input.

The plan will be developed over the next several months with a tentative delivery date planned for November of 2016. The leadership team for the Iowa Energy Plan consists of Lt. Governor Reynolds, Iowa Partnership on Economic Progress (IPEP) members, Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives. The cost of the plan, estimated at approximately \$500,000, will be paid by IEDA and DOT.

IEDA houses the Iowa Energy Office, which coordinates a variety of state and federal programs related to energy.