

Linn and Johnson Counties Solar Tour
Saturday, October 3, 2009
part of the National Solar Tour

Indian Creek Nature Center, Prairiewoods, R.J. Construction, and Don Laughlin
welcome visitors for this special tour.

Guided tour at Indian Creek Nature Center, 6665 Otis Rd. S.E., Cedar Rapids: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Indian Creek Nature Center has a 2.7kw photovoltaic array, a sunroom with a display of glazing options, and a wetland wastewater treatment system. ICNC is in the early planning stage for future upgrades to its historic barn. Visitors are also invited to tour the Nature Center's woodland, prairie and wetland trails.

Directions: From Mount Vernon Road S.E., turn south onto Bertram Road. Proceed to ICNC parking lot on North side of Otis Road. Walk across Otis Road to Nature Center.

Prairiewoods: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Multiple solar systems on various buildings and a 7KW PV array: 120 E. Boyson Road, Hiawatha

The Residence has a Trombe wall for passive solar heating, a solar hot water system supplies the Guest House with hot water, and a stand alone photovoltaic system powers the Hermitages, which are small straw bale retreat cottages. This year, Prairiewoods has added a 7 Kilowatt grid-tied photovoltaic array, which provides about 13 percent of the site electrical usage. Guided tours will begin at approximately 30 minute intervals.

Directions: From I-380, exit onto Boyson Road in Hiawatha. Proceed east about 1 km to Prairiewoods Lane. Prairiewoods is first drive to left after passing the 4-way stop at Robins Road. Westbound on Boyson Road (from Cedar Rapids (Council St.)), Prairiewoods is the drive to the right at the top of the rise from Dry Creek (after the Welcome to Hiawatha sign).

Don and Lois Laughlin Home: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Passive and Active Solar House 827 East Church Street, Iowa City

The Laughlin home has a tight and energy efficient envelope, a super-insulated home. The house is oriented for passive solar heating, but is not principally passively heated. The main space and domestic hot water heating comes from the large array of solar water heating collectors. Four collector panels provide domestic hot water and the rest provide space heating. Don is always happy to share his extensive knowledge about renewable energy systems.

Directions: In Iowa City, the house is on the Southwest at the corner of East Church Street and North Governor Street (Iowa Highway 1 Northbound). Parking is available only on the South side of Church St.

RJ Construction Office: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Solar Power and Space Heated Office and Shop, 637 16th Street, Marion

The office of this builder and renewable energy system installer is partly powered by a Photovoltaic system and has a solar air heating system. In addition, they have an electric truck, which will be on display.

Directions: In Marion, the office is South of 7th Avenue (Business U.S. 151) on 16th Street.

Site contacts:

Indian Creek Nature Center.	319-362-0664. Jan Aiels
Prairiewoods.	319-395-6700. Emelia (Emy) Sauter
Don Laughlin	319-337-5651. Don Laughlin
R.J. Construction	319-373-9672. Roy Jordan