

2008 Accomplishment Report – Iowa

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Introduction

The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry (IUCF) program provides broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. Residents value the program as a resource to protect and improve community trees and forests. Program activities result in improved awareness of urban forestry, its practices, and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

IUCF combines Federal, State, and investor-owned utility funds to provide support and technical assistance to more than 500 Iowa communities annually. Matching grants are offered to communities throughout the State to increase tree canopy and enhance urban forest resources. Partnerships with cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations enhance and broaden the impact that the IUCF program has had throughout Iowa. During FY 08 Iowa was able to use 3 full-time employees providing 3 full-time equivalents (FTEs) and partial-time commitments from 13 district foresters and 3 assistant district foresters amounting to 6 FTEs for a total investment of 9 FTEs.

Key Accomplishments

Operation Releaf

Since the fall of 2001, a partnership with Alliant Energy and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Forestry Bureau has promoted energy efficiency and urban forestry tree diversity and increased tree planting on private lands in Iowa. Operation Releaf is a residential tree distribution program with the support of Alliant Energy (\$250,000) that funds an urban forestry specialist with the IDNR Forestry Bureau and

provides partial funding to buy and distribute locally purchased landscape trees, and sell them at greatly reduced prices to Alliant Energy customers for planting in their yards. The IDNR Forestry Bureau buys landscape trees through a request-for-proposal basis, establishes local partnerships for distribution with



Volunteers load trees into a local participant's vehicle during a tree distribution offered through the Operation Releaf program.

local county and city organizations, and coordinates local tree distribution days with volunteers. During FY 08, a total of 14 tree distribution projects were organized during the spring and fall and distributed a total of 5,134 landscape trees to 2,987 Alliant Energy customers at a cost of \$25 per tree. Customers also received planting and care advice, and free wood chip mulch. The value of these trees is approximately \$189,516 with more than 773 hours of volunteer service donated to complete the distribution projects.

Plant Some Shade

Since the spring of 2003, a partnership with MidAmerican Energy and the IDNR Forestry Bureau has promoted energy efficiency, urban forestry tree diversity, and increased tree planting in private yards across Iowa. Plant Some Shade is a residential tree distribution program with the support of MidAmerican Energy (\$185,000) that funds an urban forestry specialist with the IDNR. During FY 08 a total of 12 tree distribution projects were held in cooperation with county and city partners to distribute a total of 2,768 landscape trees to 1,256 MidAmerican Energy customers to plant in their yards. Tree value is \$154,267 with more than 533 hours of volunteer service donated to complete the distribution projects.



Volunteers load trees into a local participant's vehicle during a tree distribution offered through the Plant Some Shade program.

Statistical Highlights

Managing and Developing Communities:	283
Population of Participating Communities:	1,876,489
Volunteer Hours:	22,045