

Wind Farming

Adair westbound



Adair County
I-80 westbound at milepost 80
Emphasis: Wind farming
Artist: David B. Dahlquist
Completed: June 15, 2011



This site is proud to interpret the use of wind through history and the significant role it plays in developing clean, renewable energy for Iowa and the nation. The integrated artwork throughout the building and site speaks to the fascinating story of wind farming and energy production.



The towering, 148-foot, vertical, wind turbine blade becomes an icon, dramatically marking Adair County. Colorful, energy efficient, light-emitting diode (LED) lighted cube benches depict "power clusters" on the entry plaza. Railings flank the buildings in patterns of windmill "fan-blades." A continuous band of terra-cotta "echo-blocks" wrap the building in a pattern based on the electrical sine wave. A series of eight modeled relief panels, inset in the building's brickwork, depict the various fuels currently used to provide electrical power, as well as asks the question about what the next renewable fuel source might be. Even the picnic shelters, complete with a leg that recalls the grid-work blade of a Dutch windmill, look as though the wind is lifting and moving them across the site.



Inside, a floor mural in epoxy terrazzo illustrates the power grid, complete with a light bulb in the entry vestibule, symbolic of our need and demand for electricity. Digitally glazed "echo-block" detail the use of wind through history, and current facts about design and production. Standing in the foyer are site-specific murals looking east and west in Adair County, from farm field to supply line. Additional murals show the relationship between a bird's wing (Leonardo da Vinci style) and the interior cutaway view of a generator.

