



High-Schooler Attends NRECA Annual Meeting

Ian Youngen, a senior attending Lind High School, represented Big Bend Electric Co-op and the state of Washington at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California, February 22-27. Following is Ian's recap of his trip.

I would like to start by thanking everyone at Big Bend Electric Co-op who made this trip possible for me. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I am so glad I was able to participate in.

When I arrived in Anaheim on Friday the 22nd, I was reunited with all of the other Youth Leadership



Ian Youngen

Council (YLC) representatives from the 46 states with electric cooperatives.

Friday night was mostly spent getting reacquainted. Saturday morning a breakfast

meeting was held,

where NRECA CEO Glenn English spoke to us and other NRECA members. The rest of Saturday was spent at Disneyland and California Adventure theme parks.

Sunday morning, the YLC sang a song at the annual meeting church service. We returned to the parks for one more afternoon of play before the real work started Monday morning. The rest of the week included late nights and early mornings, with homework in between.

Monday morning, in the opening general session, each YLC presented their respective state flag in a ceremony. We then started our main task of the week: collecting cards and sending e-mails to senators and representatives about issues affecting the electrical world.

At Tuesday's general session, the



Dale Anderson of Big Bend Electric Cooperative explains the solar oven to a pair of visitors at the Alternative Energy Fair.

YLC representative from Iowa read her speech in front of thousands of people, while battling a sudden cold. After that session, it was back to the Congressional Action center, which was our headquarters for sending e-mails. Tuesday was our last day, so it was a mad dash to finish sending e-mails. In the end, we shattered the previous record for e-mails sent, totaling over 12,000.

We were pretty proud of ourselves for that one and, as a reward for our hard work, we took a bus tour of Los Angeles and Hollywood that night. Then it was back to the hotel for the emotional good byes followed with a little sleep.

On Wednesday the 27th of February, I returned home. I would once again like to thank everyone at Big Bend Electric Co-op and its members for how much I appreciate this wonderful opportunity. ■

Big Bend Participates In Alternative Energy Fair

Dale Anderson took Big Bend Electric Co-op's solar oven to the Alternative Energy Fair sponsored by Franklin PUD and Columbia Basin College on April 25 and 26. He demonstrated the sun's ability to

change light energy into heat energy.

About 900 fifth-graders from the Pasco area worked their way through the displays and were taught about how we can capture and benefit from the sun and wind by creating energy.

Displays included hybrid vehicles, solar water heaters, pumps and small solar-powered cars.

Adults interested in solar or wind energy also attended the fair to see how they might be able to put the latest technologies to work for them.

This year's fair was an unusually cool spring day in Pasco. Some high, lingering clouds had a negative effect on the performance of the solar oven.

The highest temperature reached was about 290 degrees. At such low temperatures, it takes a long time to bake a couple of rolls or cookies.

But days like that help teach the students the importance of energy conservation. Baking with a solar oven can be a lot of fun, unless that is the only way one can cook.

By the time the students left the demonstration, hopefully they will understand the importance of doing their part not to waste electricity.

Big Bend Electric Co-op is happy to be able help Franklin PUD in this important educational endeavor. ■