



EDGE Newsletter

2025 | Quarter 1

January, February & March

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Executive Director

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Executive Order Language Supportive of Biofuel Projects

Article by *World Bio Market Insights* Published on January 29th



An article titled *Trump's first week and its impact on the bioeconomy* was published in *World Bio Market Insights* at the end of January and outlined federal bioeconomy sector policies. Emerging technologies that utilize corn and soybean to produce energy and other raw materials are target markets for our Mid-America Rail Campus development.

An excerpt from the article notes, "Major biofuel feedstock producers in the Midwest are keen to exploit new higher-value industries for their crops. In general, agricultural producers see selling into the higher-value biobased processing industries as a way to shore up their income and buffer against the volatility of prices for food commodities."

[🔗 Link to World Bio Market Insights Article](#) | [🔗 Link to Executive Order](#)

Construction of 4-Bedroom Home Begins at 1612 Fulton St.

Funded by **Rural Workforce Housing Fund Program**

Construction of a 4-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-car garage house with 1,662 sq. ft. of finished living space has begun at 1612 Fulton Street. The City of Falls City project is supported by a state grant through the Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) program and is expected to be available by the Fall of 2025. The Southeast Nebraska Land Bank acquired the infill lot in April of 2024 and sold it to the City of Falls City the following October for redevelopment. The RWHF program limits building costs of new residential homes to \$325,000. With lot cost included, the list price is expected to be around \$330,000. Interested buyers are encouraged to contact City Hall at 402-245-2851.



4-bed, 2-bath house with extended 2-vehicle garage at 1612 Fulton.

Committees

Investor & Community Relations

Bart Keller, *Chair*
Denise Daake
Rachel Rankin
Tracie Heckenlively
Bart Keller
Joleen Stoller

Marketing & Sales

Mitch Merz, *Chair*
Kelly Bletscher
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Product Development & Public Policy

Ray Joy, *Chair*
Bob Campbell
Chris Halbert
Tim Heckenlively
Jess Jordening
Ryan Larsen
Adam Morris
Anthony Nussbaum
Samantha Scheitel
Trent Scheitel
Beth Sickel
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Contact Us

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EDGE Attends Nebraska Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

Discussions Also Held with Department of Energy

Representatives from the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Hastings Economic Development Corporation, and Falls City EDGE traveled to the nation's capital at the end of March to meet with Nebraska's federal delegates. Meetings were scheduled with Senators Ricketts and Fischer, and Congressmen Smith, Bacon, and Flood. The group also attended the weekly Nebraska Breakfast hosted on Wednesday Mornings and attended by all five elected officials. The individual meetings and group breakfast provided an opportunity for EDGE to advocate for local projects. While in Washington, D.C., meetings were scheduled with the Department of Energy to discuss creative energy solutions for Falls City and the Mid-America Rail Campus development.



Community Updates

- 🌈 The North Commercial Corridor listing agreement & marketing contract with Lincoln's NAI FMA Realty expires on April 30th and other options will be considered.
- 🌈 EDGE is partnering with the Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce on a community branding initiative to highlight amenities and local businesses for talent attraction to Falls City.
- 🌈 Utility infrastructure proposals for natural gas continue to be collected for the onsite generation necessary to meet operational timelines for local projects. Upfront costs for development projects are often the responsibility of the project owners, not local rate payers.
- 🌈 EDGE partnered with city leadership to meet with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) officials in Little Rock at the end of January to discuss electrical upgrade options for the community.
- 🌈 The Board of Public Works passed a resolution authorizing the pursuit of Network Integrated Transmission Service (NITS) customer status and utilization of \$15 million in grant funds to enhance electrical system capabilities, redundancy, and resilience.
- 🌈 EDGE testified to the Revenue Committee in support of Sustainable Aviation Fuel, Biodiesel, and Renewable Chemical Production tax credits on March 19th. These programs play a key role in landing historical project investments that improve conditions for our corn and soybean producers.