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## Clipper Windpower sets up fund to aid Iowa employees

STEVE SINOVIC, NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

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Clipper Windpower has established a flood recovery fund to help its employees at its Cedar Rapids, Iowa, manufacturing plant who have been affected by the recent flooding. Sixteen people employed at the wind turbine plant have so far lost homes.

James Dehlsen, chairman and CEO of the Carpinteria-based company, said the Clipper Fund has been set up by the company's finance team to calculate losses and directly benefit employees and family members living in temporary housing and dealing with the "complete" loss of properties and belongings. Homes that were damaged -- and still standing -- are being assessed for habitability by FEMA, similar to the process that followed Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The company is continuing to compile a list of employees in this category, and how long they'll be displaced.

Mr. Dehlsen said Clipper Windpower will match every dollar donated by employees, suppliers and vendors to the fund.

"Our hope is that this fund will provide support for some of our affected team members' most critical needs, which is obviously loss of housing and possessions," said Mr. Dehlsen. While the company's plant was unaffected by the flooding, it did result in a four-day closure. This coincided with a pay period, so the company's payroll department staff contacted employees without direct deposit to make sure they got their paychecks.

"Nearly all displaced by the flooding were accounted for, well and safe in temporary housing," said Mr. Dehlsen, who added that 90 percent of the employees have returned to their jobs.

In addition to the ongoing housing assistance, the company has also brought in a certified crisis counseling team to facilitate a Clipper employee and family support group. The vendor also will provide individual counseling services for those impacted by the disaster.

e-mail: [ssinovic@newspress.com](mailto:ssinovic@newspress.com)

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