

Renewable Energy Solutions Wind Farm Energy Alliance for School Districts



Current Law

Public Act 95-0420 (220 ILS 5/16-107.5)

§ Effective August 24, 2007.

1. Allows schools and community colleges to operate wind farms.
2. Establishes the principle of on-site net metering for wind farms.



Current Law

Public Act 95-0805

§ Effective August 12, 2008.

1. Allows schools, community colleges, and municipalities to own and operate a wind turbine farm.



Pending Legislation HB 6660

- **House Bill 6660 will mandate that any school district, community college, or municipality that builds a wind turbine farm will have access to “net aggregate metering” for each facility owned and operated by a school district.**
- **This means that the local electrical utility must give the wind farm members a 1 kilowatt-hour credit for each kilowatt-hour produced by a wind turbine against the aggregate bills of the district at the current cost of electricity.**



What is Net Metering?

- Net metering is the application of the kilowatt-hour of credit to the meter at the site of the wind turbine.
- An example of net metering is Erie School District hard wiring all its schools to the electrical meter located by its one wind turbine.



Erie School District 1



"That's what we were searching for – a way in the future, [to be] independent of the demands on energy, or the cost of energy that may be brought in by companies."

-Superintendent
Mike Ryan

The first district in the state to connect all schools to their wind turbine without net aggregate metering.

- **Additional cost of project to hard wire all the schools in the district to its one wind turbine was over \$1,000,000.**



Keeneyville School District 20



"Due to the rising cost of energy, and the significant needs of our educational programs, only through creative technology, will we be able to meet the District's mission."

-Superintendent
Dr. Carol Auer

District 20's estimate of hard wiring its three school districts to its proposed turbine is estimated to cost over \$1,000,000.



What is Net Aggregate Metering?

Net aggregate metering avoids incurring additional costs to wire buildings together and back to the wind turbine.

- The energy created by the wind turbine is locally put on the grid.
- The meter reading at the wind site is netted against the electrical energy usage at other off-site governmental meters.



Benefits of Net Aggregate Metering

- **Eliminates redundant multiple meter interconnect costs.**
- **Allows the wind turbine farm to be located in Illinois where the best wind harvest can be reaped.**



The Power of Wind

Why Wind, Why Now?

- **Positive Environmental Impact**
 - Reduced CO₂ emissions
- **Utility Cost Containment**
 - Commodity Independence
- **Learning Opportunity for Students**
- **Increased Revenue for School Districts to Fund Unfunded Educational Special Education Mandates**



Do We Know The Wind Is There

“Seven meteorological towers have been measuring wind for the past two years in McClean County, Illinois.”

Based on the wind data collected

“ it is expected that electricity can be generated well over 91% of the time with minimal disturbance to the surrounding communities and wildlife”



How Will The Farm Be Funded

- **The Federal Clean Renewable Energy Bond Program (CREBS) allows renewable energy projects such as wind turbine farms to obtain interest free financing.**
- **This Federal Program has been reauthorized recently by with the recent passage of the recent economic bailout program.**



What Are Our Next Steps



"Even a journey of a
1000 miles begins
with a single step."

Timeline

- Passage of HB 6660
- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement to formally establish the Wind Energy Farm Alliance.
- Public Bidding for wind turbines and installation on central Illinois site.
- **TAXPAYERS SAVE MONEY!!!**



Wind Turbine Farm

- Questions

