



LLC

# WIND

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2007

## SCORECARD

- 18 Town Hall Meetings
- Over 100 Site Assessments
- Door County Fair Participant
- Over A Dozen Special Interest Group Meetings
- FOE Grant Award
- WPPI Proposal

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## Winds of Change in Door County

Community Wind Energy LLC of Door County (CWE) was created through the efforts of the Door County Environmental Council (DCEC). CWE sincerely appreciates the support provided by Jerry Viste, Don Pardonner, Ralph Valatka and other members of that organization. DCEC's support included a Wisconsin Focus on Energy business and marketing grant, provided to promote the idea of clean and renewable wind energy. CWE used the grant in 2006 to fund public education programs about the realities and possibilities of wind energy in Door County. Since 2005 CWE has held numerous town-hall meetings and over a hundred site visits. The overwhelming

support for local wind energy shows the environmental and economic concerns of the general public.

Throughout Wisconsin, interest and support for renewable energy production is reflected in the Renewable Energy Portfolio, recently passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Doyle. This law requires that by 2015 10% of all energy used in WI must come from renewable resources. On the national front, the Production Tax

has been extended by Congress through 2008, thereby supporting the continued growth of wind energy projects nationwide. Our efforts to bring wind energy to Door County remain important in providing a sustainable renewable energy supply to benefit our local community and future generations. The issues influencing us globally are impacting us locally. Each of us plays a vital role in providing for a stable energy future, to maintain our rural landscape, to strengthen our local economy, and protect our environment.

CWE believes that bringing wind energy production to Door County will help to fulfill that mission. We hope



Maintaining the Landscape of Door County

## Ordinance Amendments Necessary

Door County adopted a restrictive wind ordinance in 1999 after wind turbines were installed in neighboring Kewaunee County. The ordinance has given county residents time and opportunity to experience wind energy first hand. We have learned that these large turbines can provide tremendous benefits to our county while majestically adding to our landscape. The

present ordinance has served to dissuade non-local wind developers. CWE is currently working to establish county guidelines that will be more in keeping with the state's model wind ordinance. We are working to maintain local control over wind turbine placement. We look to you for your informed support during the amend-

ment process. With your help, we will be able to amend the ordinance to permit the sensible placement of wind turbines in small attractive clusters, maintaining the rural charm and character of Door County. Please contact your representatives to let them know of your confidence in wind energy and your interest

# WE NEED YOU!



Groups, organizations, and schools that are interested in having a FREE presentation on wind energy production are encouraged to contact Bill.



The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island have been completely powered by wind energy since March of 2006.

We need everyone to continue to spread the good word about wind energy in Door County. Family, friends, and neighbors all need to be involved with this process to keep informing and educating people. We all need to participate in the decision making process of Door County to promote the idea of clean renewable energy production in Door County. Local developers demonstrate a stronger commitment to the community and have a positive impact that counters the principles of outside developments.

CWE believes that local people are crucial in maintaining local control of any development. CWE seeks interested individuals that may assist in our ongoing efforts to obtain local investor financing. Local ownership of this project remains a priority so that revenues remain in the local economy.

**Want to help? Want to hear? Contact Bill at 920.333.0523 or [bill@communitywindenergy.us](mailto:bill@communitywindenergy.us)**

*The state of Wisconsin alone spent over \$18 billion in 2005 on fuel sources that originated from out of state.*  
-Wisconsin Dept of Administration

## On the Horizon



At the request of Wisconsin Public Power Incorporated, Sturgeon Bay Utilities' Energy Provider, CWE recently sub-

mitted a community wind project proposal for the installation of a small number of commercial size wind turbines in the SBU service area. CWE has identified preliminary sites within their territory for a project. If approved, this project may be the first phase of installation of wind turbines in Door County. The utility provider remains encouraged by our

community-driven plan and favors working with CWE to advance the proposed project in Door County. We look forward to landowners and others who maintain an interest, to continue their efforts to be a part of any wind energy project in Door County. CWE has also filed FAA applications for these sites and looks to keep up the momentum.

## Tower Tech Systems

Just "down the road" in Manitowoc CWE members recently visited Tower Tech Systems, Inc (TTS), where we learned that world-wide demand for wind turbine towers has resulted in a three-fold increase in employee hiring in the past year alone. Future plans at TTS include hiring a second and even third shift to



keep up with the increase in orders received.

CWE sees such an increase in "local" job creation as a valuable byproduct in the switch to renewable energy.

We sincerely appreciated the opportunity to experience the TTS manufacturing capabilities first hand.



## “WINDCOWS” Lose

Wisconsin INdependent Citizens Opposing Windturbine Sites, a Manitowoc County group has been fighting to halt construction of a large scale (40+) wind farm near the town of Mishicot. The group’s assertions that wind generators threaten the health and safety of near by neighbors are unfounded says Michael Vickerman, executive director of RENEW Wisconsin. “No matter which jurisdiction the lawsuit is filed in, Vickerman said, “wind farm opponents recycle the same unsubstantial claims even though

not one of their legal challenges has ever prevailed. They seem unable to distinguish fantasy from fact.” The court found the lawsuit’s allegations that the turbines constitute a public nuisance utterly without merit.

Both *RENEW* and *Clean Wisconsin*, non-profit groups, championed the passage of the state’s clean energy law (Act 141), which will raise the renewable energy content of the state’s electricity usage to 10% by 2015. According to Vickerman, wind generation should account for more than two-thirds of the renewable generation leveraged

by Act 141. He went on to say, “There are more than a dozen wind energy projects proposed in Wisconsin, ranging in size from a single turbine to nearly one hundred.”

Wisconsin is considering legislation to increase the amount of renewable energy state wide to 25% by 2025. This would help tremendously to abate global warming.

“Wisconsin relies far too heavily on dirty [coal, natural gas and uranium] sources of electricity.” contends Mark Redsten, executive director of *Clean Wisconsin*. “It’s critically important that we



*“I’m willing to be a part of any process that gets the state and country off of fossil fuels.”  
-a Door County Landowner*

## Meteorological (MET) Towers Provide Data

CWE is installing several MET Towers throughout the county to establish the baseline data needed to obtain estimates of wind energy production.



This data assists with the feasibility study underway.

We currently have three MET Towers in operation and are looking for other favorable sites. Many thanks to host landowners that have graciously allowed these towers to be placed on their land.



## Site Assessments

CWE has visited with over 100 local landowners in Door County who control a total of over 12,000 acres of land.

The list of landowners keeps growing, and there is widespread support for wind energy production.

These site assessments illustrate the compatibility of common land use and wind energy production. If you or someone you know wishes to have CWE conduct a site assessment, please contact Chris.

**\*\*Don’t forget to take the scenic route to Green Bay and visit our neighbors in Kewaunee County to see commercial wind turbines “close up & personal”. Head south and take Hwy C out of Brussels or Hwy S to STH 54 out of Algoma.\*\***



### Other Websites of Interest:

**WWW.WINDINDUSTRY.COM  
WWW.AWEA.ORG  
WWW.RENEWWISCONSIN.ORG**

**Contact Chris at 920.746.4008 or [chris@communitywindenergy.us](mailto:chris@communitywindenergy.us)**



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**“Supporting locally owned, environmentally sound energy production”**



**Testimony of Douglas Decker  
Public Hearing on Blue Sky Green Field  
Wind Project (November 30, 2006)**

My name is Douglas Decker. [My wife and I] are the site owners for the Byron turbines, and I have a statement here I would like to read.

We own . . . the land that WE Energies leases for our two wind turbines, which are located in the Town of Byron in Fond du Lac County. We feel fortunate to be part of something sustainable that produces energy yet reduces pollution. We support domestic renewable energy sources. We believe strongly that this type of clean, renewable wind energy is a step in the right direction.

The two Byron turbines have been generating renewable electricity for over seven years now. So far they have generated over 19 million kilowatt hours, the energy equivalent of 14 train car loads of coal, without producing any carbon dioxide or smog forming emissions. To put this production in perspective, the average home served by WE Energies consumes 9,000 kilowatt hours per year.

The following is our experience with the wind turbines on our property. Each year, we witness flocks of birds migrating. Our wind turbines have proven to be no threat to bird or bat populations. In over seven

years of operation, we have found only four dead birds. Cars, trucks, as well as the average cat, kill many more birds in one week than a wind farm does in a year. Improper grounding and poor wiring cause stray voltage, not the wind turbines themselves. There's ample evidence that wildlife is constant around our wind turbines by their tracks and also the gopher holes at the base. If stray voltage was present, animals would avoid the area. Wind turbines do not fling ice; they shed ice. This happens because turbines are designed to shut down as soon as ice forms on the blades disturbing the airfoil. As the temperature warms up, the ice will fall off the lowest blade. Only when all the ice has slid off the blades can production resume.

Conditions have to be right for shadow flicker to occur. The sun has to be in the proper position in the sky and shining. The turbine blades have to be turning. Due to the changing orbital path around the sun, these conditions occur twice a year and last only a few days. It takes only 10 to 15 minutes for the flicker to pass across our house.

We live about 1,300 feet east from the turbines and can hear them occasionally. However, every day we hear nearby Highway 41, which is further away, and the Byron train, which is almost two miles away.

Our neighbors and many other people have told us how much they enjoy watching the graceful sweeps of the blades. They say that they now always know which way the wind is blowing. Some use this knowledge for hunting game on our farm. A neighboring farmer told us that he looks to see which way the wind is blowing before he takes his tractor out to spread manure.

We would like to close with a quote from Michael Vickerman, Executive Director of RENEW Wisconsin. "Keep in mind that all sources of electricity -- coal, natural gas, wind turbines, hydro, solar and nuclear -- have measurable environmental consequences. Placed in that context, wind is a clear environmental winner."