

Siting Reform in Wisconsin

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RENEW Wisconsin

Wisconsin Wind Working Group

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www.RENEWWISCONSIN.org

About RENEW Wisconsin



**Foggy morning, Forward
Energy Center, Brownsville**

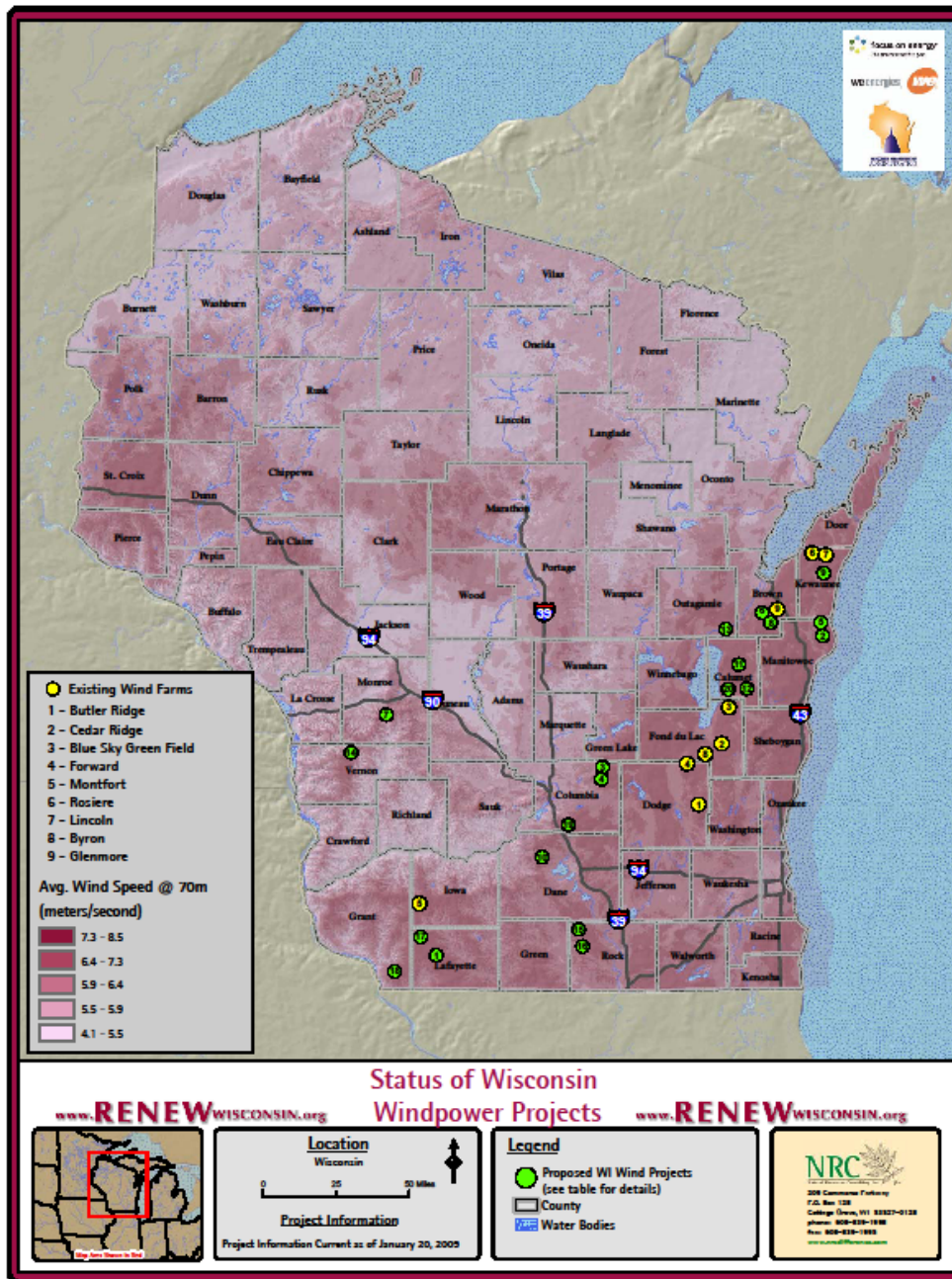
Advocates for state-level sustainable energy policies since 1991

One of the architects of the state's Renewable Energy Standard and ratepayer-funded public benefits program

Top three policy priorities for 2010

- * Uniform Permitting Standards for Wind
- * Increased Renewable Energy Standard
- * Advanced Renewable Tariffs

An organized voice for renewable energy producers and purchasers!



Q. Where are the wind projects in Wisconsin located?

A. The majority are located near the load centers of eastern Wisconsin, in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties

This is a Working Landscape



Cedar Ridge – Alliant Energy - Fall 2008 – Eden, WI

What an Eyesore!



Cedar Ridge – Alliant Energy - Eden, WI

Why the Need for Legislation?

Snapshot - Midwest Windpower Development Activity

State	Operating capacity (in MW)	Under construction (in MW)
Iowa	3670	200
Minnesota	1809	60
Illinois	1546	539
Indiana	1036	99
Wisconsin	449	--
Michigan	143	20

Source: AWEA
February 2010

Projects Blocked by Local Opposition

Projects	MW	County
Twin Creeks	98	Manitowoc
Mishicot	19	Manitowoc
Stony Brook	80	Calumet
Ecomet	80	Calumet
New Holstein	6	Calumet
Summit Ridge	75	Monroe
White Oak	99	Grant
Evansville	5	Rock

A Tale of Two Projects

Twin Creeks, a 98 MW proposal north of Manitowoc in Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) territory, received a permit in 2005. Due to a combination of litigation and ordinance changes, ground was never broken. Twin Creeks was officially abandoned last year.

Crane Creek, a 99 MW project owned by Green Bay-based WPS and located in Howard County, Iowa, was permitted in 2008 and placed in service by 12/31/09.

Broad Base of Support

Wind for Wisconsin A Killer Coalition

- Wind Industry (AWEA/WOW/Developers)
- Utilities (IOU's, Munis, Co-ops)
- Farmers (WI Farm Bureau, WFU)
- Business Groups (WMC, General Contractors)
- Clean Energy Groups (RENEW, IBEW)
- Labor (IBEW, Operating Engineers, Carpenters)

Killer Coalition = Bipartisan Support

9/15/09 **SB 185 passes 23– 9 (17 D's, 6 R's)**

9/16/09 **AB 259 passes 65–41 (48 D's, 17 R's)**

What 2009 Act 40 Does

- 1) Require PSC to establish, by rule, uniform siting standards for all wind turbines, covering:
 - ✓ Setbacks
 - ✓ Sound levels
 - ✓ Shadow flicker
 - ✓ Studies and testing requirements
 - ✓ Decommissioning

- 2) Create procedures for municipal review of permit applications and a process for appealing local decisions to PSC

Other Provisions in Act 40

- 1) **Creates a 15-Member Wind Siting Council**
 - Tasked with producing a report to Legislature in five years regarding health effects

- 2) **Eliminates conflict with Smart Growth Law through 2015**

- 3) **Directs DNR to identify high-risk areas for birds and bats**

Next Steps for PSC

- ✓ **Issue Glacier Hills Order** 1/22/10
- Form Wind Siting Council** early March?
- Issue draft rule** 3/15/10?

About Glacier Hills

- Before the PSC from 10/30/08 to 01/22/10
- 90 turbines – utility-owned
- We Energies proposed 1,000 foot setbacks
- Intense scrutiny from opposition statewide
- EIS prepared
- WE testimony rebutted Wind Turbine Syndrome, lower property values
- Easement agreements for project neighbors

Key Decisions in Glacier Hills

Minimum setback from neighboring residences: 1,250 feet*

No. of turbines that We Energies will have to move as a result of setback decision: 15

Maximum allowable sound level: 50 dBA, and, upon complaint, 45 dBA at night between April 1 and September 30

Glacier Hills need *not* conform to standards adopted in forthcoming rulemaking.

* Shorter setbacks are acceptable with written permission from landowners.

Required Mitigation Measures

- **Shadow flicker (> 25 hours/yr—upon complaint)**
- **Signal interference (cellular, TV radio)**
- **Stray voltage testing (inside of ½ mile of project facility)**
- **Emergency evacuation plan (medivac flights)**
- **One-year post-construction bat/bird mortality study**
- **\$150K toward operational curtailment study re: bats**
- **Special measures OK'ed for two households surrounded by turbines**

One Commissioner's Perspective

“When we take up applications like this, we ask some individuals, businesses and families to take on more burden than others and it’s humbling when considering the individual sacrifice in cases like this. “

--Commissioner Mark Meyer

Wisconsin's Next Wind Projects†

Name	WTG/MW	Reviewer	Date Permitted
Shirley	8/20	T. of Glenmore	3/6/07
Glacier Hills	90/162	PSCW	1/22/10

These projects will not be subject to the siting standards developed in the PSC's rulemaking

†Project construction to commence in 2010

WI Wind Projects On Deck

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Developer</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>Year</u>
1.	Shirley	EE*	20	2010*
2.	Glacier Hills	We Energies	162	2011
3.	EcoDane	Wave Wind	10	??
4.	Quilt Block	Horizon	99	??
5.	Randolph	E-Wind	30	??
6.	<i>The Ledge</i>	<i>Invenergy</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>??</i>
7.	<i>White Oak</i>	<i>WCG**</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>??</i>

* Emerging Energies

**Wind Capital Group

Are We Out of the Woods?

Yes

State govt. is fully invested in welcoming windpower

Construction activity will resume this year.

No market for other energy resources

No

Antiwind activity in WI is intensifying – aimed at undermining landowner participation

There are a handful of neighbors in large projects who are convinced that wind turbines are ruining their lives (1 household per 10 turbines)

Uncertainty Abounds

Query: Will there be demand for windpower after 2012?

Present Renewable Energy Standard will be a spent force by 2013

Prognosis for Successor RES this year: Your guess is as good as mine.

For More Information

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