



Doyle Signs Wind Siting Reform Bill into Law



Governor Doyle signs Senate Bill 185 into law as Act 40. In the front row immediately behind the Governor from left to right, Curt Pawlisch, R.J. Pirlot (bow tie, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce), Senator Jeff Plale, Rep. Soletski, Steven Peters (Rep. Soletski staffer), Walter Lueder (Wisconsin Farmers Union, open collar), Ryan Schryver (Clean Wisconsin), and Michael Vickerman (RENEW Wisconsin).

Governor Doyle's signing of Senate Bill 185 (SB 185), a bill that will create statewide standards for permitting wind projects in Wisconsin, is a powerful demonstration of Wisconsin's desire to welcome new wind energy development within its borders. With Doyle's signature, SB 185 is now 2009 Act 40.

A plain English explanation of the Act 40 can be found on RENEW's blog at <http://renewwisconsinblog.org>

Governor Doyle signed the legislation September 30 at an ABB production facility in New Berlin. Towering behind the signing table were several lines of power conversion systems fabricated at ABB's New Berlin plant for the wind industry. The two legislative coauthors of

SB 185, Sen. Jeff Plale and Rep. James Soletski, were on hand to watch their legislation become law.

The legislation enjoyed bipartisan support in both chambers. SB 185 cleared the Senate September 15 on a 23-9 vote and the Assembly a day later on a 65-31 vote.

The new law directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to initiate a rulemaking proceeding for promulgating rules that specify the maximum restrictions that a local government may impose on the installation of wind energy installations, regardless of size and location. During the rulemaking process, the PSC will receive advice and guidance from a stakeholder committee to

In this issue . . .

Solar Outlook Set to Dim in 2010	2
PSC Approves Coal to Wood Conversion	3
Producer Profile: Rick Adamski	4
Educating Schools on Solar Air Heating	6
RENEW Slams Anti-Wind Article	7
Calendar	8

be convened in the next several weeks.

As part of this proceeding, the PSC will establish minimum setback distances that provide reasonable protection for neighboring residences and occupied structures as well as standards for decommissioning turbines at the end of their operating lives. The rules will also address several other issues relating to the protection of public health and safety, including sound measurement protocols, maximum sound thresholds, moving shadows, communication signal interference and lighting.

The passage of SB 185 culminated a grueling two-year effort by RENEW Wisconsin and other renewable energy supporters to seek a legislative fix to the patchwork quilt of local regulations that has made Wisconsin a veritable minefield for commercial wind developers. In late

Continued on page 2

New RENEW Members

RENEW welcomes the following new businesses and individuals who joined since the last newsletter:

- Cardinal Heating • Laura Caspari • Ingrid Kelley • MMK Solar Thermal Northern Battery Pieper Electric, Inc. • Paul Sager

To join RENEW, complete and return the membership form on page 2.

Doyle Signs

continued from page 1

2007, RENEW enlisted wind developers, environmental groups and labor to join forces and push back against the blanket restrictions on wind development being adopted willy-nilly by local governments.

Out of this effort emerged Wind for Wisconsin, a broad-based coalition consisting of more than 60 companies and organizations representing farm, labor, environmental, health, and manufacturing constituencies.

The bipartisan nature of the final votes reflected the diversity of groups and businesses united behind the Wind for Wisconsin banner.

The breadth of its supporters enabled Wind for Wisconsin and its legislative champions to overcome a well-organized network of opposition groups.

Notwithstanding the substantial winning margins in both chambers, the legislation narrowly survived eight weakening amendments in the Assembly.

One of the amendments would have required the PSC to establish setback standards from buildable parcels of land. That amendment was defeated on a tie vote.

The PSC opened a docket (1-AC-231) on the wind siting rules to establish uniform statewide standards.✪

Solar Outlook Set to Dim in 2010

by Michael Vickerman
RENEW Wisconsin

In contrast to the rapid growth experienced in the last three years, installed solar electric capacity in 2010 will likely decline sharply.

In statements directed to the Public Service Commission (PSC), three utilities – Wisconsin Electric Power (WE), Wisconsin Power and Light (WPL), and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) – acknowledged that their voluntary solar incentive programs have been discontinued for new customers.

All three had offered, on a limited basis, a special buyback rate for the generated electricity, which effectively cut in half the payback period for the systems.

These three incentive programs spurred homeowners and businesses to install nearly 2.5 megawatts of solar electric capacity. But for those incentives, installations would not have reached the 2.5 MW milestone that PSC Chair Eric Callisto recently celebrated at the installation of a system serving the Town of Menasha.

Though voluntary initiatives are certainly welcome, they cannot by themselves sustain a vibrant solar marketplace. By far the most effective way to maintain solar's momentum is for the Legis-

lature to require utilities to purchase a set amount of renewable energy from their own customers at a reasonable price.

Going into 2010, the only investor-owned utility that has a special buyback rate is Madison Gas and Electric (MG&E), which pays its customers 25 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity generated from their solar systems. MG&E's voluntary program still has room for another 600 kilowatts of customer-owned solar.

Until their voluntary initiatives had reached capacity, both WPS and WPL had been paying the same rate as MG&E, while WE had offered a 22.5 cents for each kilowatt-hour generated.

If renewable energy is to drive job growth in Wisconsin, lawmakers must create favorable marketplace conditions to support new installations going forward. No policy will accomplish that goal more effectively than a state initiative to establish higher buyback rates.✪

Number of Solar Electric Systems Funded by Focus on Energy

2004	14
2005	33
2006	82
2007	108
2008	334
2009	375 (est.)

Yes! I want to help RENEW promote the use of clean, renewable energy resources to diversify Wisconsin's energy resource mix.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Make your check payable to RENEW and mail to RENEW, 222 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703
608.255.4044 · www.renewwisconsin.org

Please accept my membership in the following category:

- Terawatt Sponsor - \$2,500+
- Gigawatt Sponsor - \$1,000 - \$2,500
- Megawatt Partner - \$50 - \$1,000
- Kilowatt member - \$25 - \$50
- Conservationist member - \$10 - \$25
- Additional contribution of \$ _____

Your contribution is tax deductible.

WISCONSIN RENEWABLE QUARTERLY

Fall 2009, Volume 14, Number 3

RENEW Wisconsin, a nonprofit membership organization, advocates the adoption of sustainable energy strategies to power Wisconsin businesses and households in an environmentally responsible manner. Through a combination of public policy and private sector initiatives, RENEW aims to increase the use of clean, renewable, and locally available resources to produce thermal and electric energy.

STAFF

Michael Vickerman, Director
mvickerman@renewwisconsin.org
608.255.4044

Ed Blume, Communications
eblume@renewwisconsin.org
608.819.0748

OFFICERS AND BOARD

Jenny Heinzen

President, Manitowoc

Richard Hasselman

Vice President, Madison

Michael Allen

Secretary, Sun Prairie

Shelly Laffin

Treasurer, Spring Green

Chuck Alsberg, Neshkoro

Jeff Anthony, Milwaukee

John Bahr, Wauwatosa

Dennis Briley, Waukesha

Alex DePillis, Madison

Larry Krom, Spring Green

Katie Nekola, Madison

Mick Sagrillo, Forestville

Ryan Schryver, Madison

Michael Vickerman, Madison

Articles may be reprinted with credit to the author and the *Wisconsin Renewable Quarterly*, published four times a year by RENEW Wisconsin, 222 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703.

Research and publication are funded in part by the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program.

RENEW also moderates a blog at www.renewwisconsinblog.org.

PSC Approves Coal to Wood Conversion

by Ed Blume
RENEW Wisconsin

The Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the plan to re-power an aging northern Wisconsin coal-fired plant with locally available wood fuel.

The approval allows Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin (NSPW), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, to install the state's first biomass gasifier. The system will produce synthetic gas from a variety of wood sources to produce electricity at the company's Bay Front Power Plant in Ashland.

This project will yield multiple dividends to the utility's ratepayers and the local economy in and around Ashland.

Since 1979, Bay Front has used woody biomass discarded or under-utilized by the existing forest products firms from northern Wisconsin, Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northeastern Minnesota.

The conversion will require an additional 200,000 to 250,000 tons of biomass annually, most coming from within a radius of 50 miles, which includes the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer and Gogebic (Michigan), according to Xcel testimony at the PSC.

The larger supply will come from waste wood generated by forest products firms, forest harvest residue, dead and dying trees, and creosote-treated railroad ties.

"This project swaps out 20 megawatts (MW) of old, boutique coal for locally grown biomass, keeping ratepayers' fuel dollars in Wisconsin," said PSC Chair Eric Callisto. "Our ratepayers send over a billion dollars out of state every year to buy coal for power generation. Today's decision helps keep more of those dollars here in Wisconsin."

Capital projects are few and far between in northern Wisconsin. Rather than closing down an inefficient plant that relies on imported fossil fuel, NSPW is extending its life and improving its en-

vironmental performance with this switch to a sustainable energy source.

The plant will gasify the wood products through pyrolysis, a high-temperature chemical process that reacts carbonaceous materials with a controlled amount of oxygen to produce a synthetic gas (syngas) to power a generator.

Up to 100,000 tons of coal and 4,000 tons of petroleum coke will be displaced from current generation operation, significantly reducing greenhouse gases and other pollutants. According to the PSC's environmental assessment, NOx and SOx emissions will be at least 60% lower than burning coal to generate the same amount of BTUs. Mercury and particulate matter will be 80% lower.

Greenhouse gas emissions will drop to zero, because gasification is considered carbon "neutral." According to Xcel testimony, the carbon returned to the atmosphere from combusting the biomass-based syngas is the same in quantity as the carbon absorbed from the atmosphere to produce the wood fuel.

In addition, harvesting the biomass could contribute to the health of the state's forests if done in compliance with the state's biomass harvesting guidelines. In turn the forests should be able to sequester more CO₂.

The End of Coal Generation?

With apologies for the sports analogy, Midwestern coal interests took a called third strike in the last year with the PSC's decision on Bay Front.

Just weeks ago, project developers announced cancellation of plans to build Big Stone II, a \$1.6 billion coal-fired plant located in South Dakota that would have served Minnesota utilities. According to the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, "the recession and uncertainty about federal climate-change regulations that scared off banks and other potential partners."

The PSC threw the first strike a year ago when it rejected plans for Alliant's coal/biomass plant in Cassville.✪

Renewables Profile

Rick Adamski: A Not-so-Typical Dairy Farmer

Though he modestly calls himself a typical dairy farmer, Rick Adamski's Full Circle Farm in Shawano County belies that description. Adamski runs an all-organic operation with grass-fed cattle, free-ranging chickens, a solar hot water system on the farmhouse, and a 35-kW wind turbine standing tall in the pasture.

Adamski farms the 240 acres across the road from the house where he was born and where his 86-year-old parents still live. Wife Valerie, son Andrew, 18, and daughter Jenna, 13, help out with the work.

He inherited his land use ethic from his parents, who were the model of "conservative use of resources - not a scrap was wasted." This approach was a matter of survival for them growing up during the Great Depression.

As a student at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Adamski became acutely aware of modern agricultures complete dependence on fossil fuels. Though he would eventually earn a degree in soil science and resource management, Adamski began thinking about a more sustainable approach to farming, with an emphasis on natural grazing and renewable resources.

In 1984 Adamski decided to strike out on his own as a farmer. Though he wanted to go organic from the get-go, the process took time. Now he sells everything he produces to Organic Valley Cooperative.

Rick and Valerie hosted a pasture walk this summer, which drew several hundred people. Along the way the crowd stopped at the foot of Adamski's 110-ft.-tall wind turbine, the newest sustainability feature at Full Circle Farm, where they heard Rick highlight two key factors that made this installation possible: Focus on Energy incentives for small wind systems and We Energies expanded net energy billing program for wind generators under 100 kW.

Q. *Is your dairy farm typical of those in your community?*

It is typical because it is what used to be representative of this community. This area has a strong history of dairy farms owned and operated by families. Our farm is certified organic since 2003. There are three organic dairy farms in the township.

Q. *How does owning a 35 kW wind generation system add value to your farm?*

I think it diversifies the source of income for us. At current conditions the cost effectiveness is marginal. However, as climate change, diminishing fossil fuels, competition for these limited fossil fuels, and an ever-growing world population put more upward pressure on these traditional nonrenewable resources, the energy generated by our wind turbine will only increase in value.

Q. *Since June 2005 Shawano County has had one of the most onerous wind ordinances in the state. You walked into the county's wind-permitting buzzsaw with your eyes wide open. What made you think you could succeed in obtaining a permit?*

I watched the entire process of the Shawano County wind turbine ordinance develop, and I knew that it is built upon a house of cards. Those who claimed to be protecting our health and safety only looked at the exaggerated claims of wind turbine problems. They did not have a comprehensive view of the negative effects of climate change. They taught people to fear the evil wind farm developers as if they were going to take over the township. The committee that was appointed by the town board to create an "informational meet-

ing" did not allow Mick Sagrillo to be on the panel because he was "too positive" about wind energy. The list of prejudices that led to the Shawano County wind ordinance could fill several books. I felt that I could get a favorable ruling with more objective review at the county level than which I could receive here at our town level.

Q. *Because the ordinance classifies a 135-foot V-15 as a large turbine, it specifies a multitude of data requests that must be submitted and tests that must be performed - testing for groundwater contamination and signal interference, preparing agricultural impact and avian wildlife studies, and calculating ice "throw" distances. How many of these conditions were waived and how many did you have to comply with?*

Most of these tests were waived for the conditional use permit for this wind turbine. I requested 14 variances from the ordinance and essentially received all of them. Several variance requests were modified, and all were accepted but one. I had to have a sound test completed at the closest residences with the turbine running and then with the turbine turned off. At these three places there was no decibel reading difference with the wind turbine on or off. I sent letters of information to livestock producers within one mile of us to let them know that WE Energies would do stray voltage investigations on their premises at no expense to them. I am supposed to report any dead birds or bats found within one hundred feet of the wind turbine. We hosted a nest of killdeer this spring at the base of the tower and enjoyed watching the little killdeer run around the legs of the tower.

Q. *How helpful was the installer (Seventh Generation) in supporting you through the application process?*

Seventh Generation helped us with

technical assistance for the permitting process, the base construction and the turbine construction. They helped complete the interconnection agreement with We Energies and with our electrical contractor.

The resource that I used to wade through the county's permitting process was Mick Sagrillo, the lead Focus on Energy staff person for small wind systems. Mick attended several of the first meetings with me. He provided technical data and explanations of specifics beyond my understanding. He helped explain details about the safety issues based upon his vast experiences.

Q. *What were your impressions of the turbine installation process?*

I was impressed with how quickly the turbine was installed. From arrival of the turbine (Monday, January 26) to commissioning of the turbine (February 10) was 15 days! This was all done with few complications; the greatest of these was that the temperatures were seldom above 15 degrees Fahrenheit!

Q. *Since its commissioning, how well has the turbine been operating?*

I think that it is doing well. We have had to adjust the set points and the bias voltage several times, and the hydraulic pressure fault keeps coming back. We are making progress on these and it seems to be working better all the time. As of July 5 it has generated 19,000 kWh after almost 21 weeks of operating. The wind site assessment estimated that this turbine at this site should be able to generate 60,000 kilowatt-hours. I believe that we will be able to accomplish this most years.

Q. *Do you think the example you set will encourage others in Shawano County to install farm-sized wind turbines?*



Rick Admaski worked along with installers from Seventh Generation Energy to complete turbine installation in the frigid days of February 2009. Focus on Energy granted approximately \$30,000 toward the turbine project and approximately \$2,000 for the solar hot water installation on Admaski's residence.

There sure is a lot of interest in this. Many, many people ask me about the details of the turbine's performance. They say that they would like to do the same. They realize that the economics are not great at this time, but I am certain they now see this as an option for the future.

Q. *Do you believe your installation will prompt Shawano County to revise its ordinance to accommodate small wind turbines?*

I do not think that Shawano County will revise its ordinance because of our installation.

Throughout this process the Shawano County board was a follower. They did not lead the process. That was done by the activists that wanted to create a protectionist ordinance for the status quo of electrical generation.

The public sentiment is that this ordinance is extremely restrictive, but the sentiment does not motivate many to want to work to bring about its change.

Q. *It took you about four years to see this project through. Were there times when you considered abandoning this initiative?*

Yes, there were times when I considered quitting. I thought about selling the farm and moving to a new environment that was more favorable to change. I found inspiration in the realization that this is my home and that all of our children will be paying the price for the continued dependence upon burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels took hundreds of millions of years to create and we are on track to use them up within a few hundred years! This wasteful stewardship of our resources needs to be changed soon!

Q. *Have you always been this persevering?*

Yes, this is a virtue and a vice of mine. In this case I used it as an ally to see me through the six hearings of being called names. I relied upon the quiet assurances from many that did not need a public forum to support me.✧

Educating School Districts on Solar Air Heating

by Michael Vickerman
RENEW Wisconsin

How much of a building's space heating load can the sun provide? To answer that question with hard data and real-life experience, Focus on Energy began a search in late 2008 for business customers eager to host solar air preheating systems, monitor their performance, and disseminate their results. After reviewing several proposals, Focus on Energy selected two locations for showcasing this particular solar energy application.

One of the Focus on Energy-funded demonstration sites is the Cooperative Educational Service Agency, located in Chippewa Falls. Better known as CESA 10, this agency provides energy management services to 30 school districts in northwest Wisconsin. A low-rise building with plenty of unshaded roof space, the CESA 10 office presents an ideal setting to test a solar application that could very well be a good technology fit for the schools served by this agency.

"We hope this installation will enable us to practice what we preach," said Todd Wanous, an energy manager at CESA 10 and the driving force behind this demonstration.

Placed in service in August 2009, CESA 10's innovative installation features Wisconsin's first example of a modular rooftop air heating system called SolarDuct®.

On the roof are three banks of corrugated collector panels, each connected to the building's air handling system. The dark-colored panels are covered with ventilation holes that draw in outside air. Sunlight striking the panels warms the air passing through the holes. Through the ducts running behind the arrays, ventilation fans draw the preheated air into the building's air handling system.

CESA 10's SolarDuct® unit is designed to supplement, not replace, the natural gas furnaces that used to be the sole source of space heat. However, this system does not necessitate additional fans

or blowers to move the preheated air throughout the building. As a result, there is no parasitic energy loss to factor in.

Air temperatures along the corrugated surface can vary widely when the sun is low in the sky. In the morning, the east-facing ridges run about 30 degrees warmer than the west-facing ridges. The phenomenon is reversed in the late afternoon. About two hour's worth of direct sunlight can produce a 25 degree difference between outside air and the preheated air feeding into the air handling units.

The system is equipped with bypass dampers that are activated whenever the interior temperatures reach a certain preprogrammed level. On a cool autumn morning, the preheated air will warm the building interior to a comfortable temperature by mid-morning. To prevent overheating, the bypass dampers kick in to direct the preheated air into the atmosphere instead of the air handling system. When outside air temperatures drop below a certain point, all of the preheated air gets used inside the building.

Wanous and his colleagues laid out and assembled the three modular collector arrays in just one day. An HVAC contractor then connected each array to the existing air-handling system and put in the bypass dampers and control system. The entire installation and commissioning process lasted about a month.

The arrays are not bolted into the roof. Instead, they are anchored by concrete patio tiles that Wanous purchased at a nearby Menards. With the patio tiles in place, each six-foot section weighs about 200 pounds. Between the heavy concrete tiles and the shallow pitching of the collector panels, CESA 10's system is well-protected against wind damage.

But CESA 10's experiment with solar energy is not limited to space heating. Some time after learning that its solar

proposal was approved, Wanous and his colleagues decided to integrate photovoltaic (PV) panels with two of the three rooftop arrays, totaling 1.4 kilowatts of generating capacity.

The close proximity of the PV arrays to the SolarDuct system sets up an intriguing research opportunity. As a rule, when ambient temperatures rise, PV efficiency declines. With the current configuration, however, the heat radiating from the PV panels will be drawn into the SolarDuct system, potentially increasing electrical output. If the hypothesized efficiency gains are confirmed, we are likely to see many more of these hybrid configurations installed in the future.

When the metering equipment is installed, CESA 10 will begin posting real-time performance data on line at <http://www.cesa10.k12.wi.us>, under the Facilities Management link. The results should help Focus on Energy and CESA 10 confirm the accuracy of RetScreen's analysis of this technology. For the CESA 10 system, RetScreen estimated a simple payback of 16 years with incentives.

News of CESA 10's solar air heating system spread quickly throughout its service territory. In September 2009 representatives from area school districts flocked to CESA 10's open house to see the solar systems for themselves. Wanous is optimistic that the rooftop demonstration will inspire many school districts to follow CESA 10's example.

"Every school has the same or more roof space than we have," Wanous said.✪

SOLAR THERMAL 2009 Madison, WI - December 3-4

A national conference and expo for the solar thermal professional. Installers, manufacturers, site assessors, dealers, distributors, state agency representatives, and policy makers will not want to miss this *one-of-a-kind* conference. Sessions on solar hot water, solar hot air, and solar space heating. Complete details at www.the-mrea.org.✪

RENEW Slams Isthmus on Antiwind Article

Less than a week before the Legislature began taking up SB 185, the wind energy siting bill backed by RENEW and other Wind for Wisconsin coalition members, *Isthmus*, an independent newsweekly based in Madison, chummed the political waters with an unambiguously negative treatment on wind projects in Wisconsin.

Titled “The War on Wind,” the *Isthmus* article, regurgitated a laundry list of antiwind talking points without attempting to assess the factual foundation supporting them. Closer to a kneecapping than fact-based reporting, the article also insinuated that RENEW and Clean Wisconsin had become bought-and-paid-for mouthpieces for wind energy developers and that we had forsaken our guiding environmental principles in promoting a bill that would establish uniform standards for permitting wind generators.

Fortunately, the article had no bearing on SB 185’s road through the Legislature. Because the *Isthmus* article set a new low in reporting on windpower development, we believed it necessary to send an equally unambiguous message back to the newspaper. Reprinted below are two letters penned by RENEW Board members.

Link to article: www.thedailypage.com/isthmus/article.php?article=26856.

Dear Editor,

McCombie’s article brought the fear-mongering, myth-based, ultra-wacky hysterics of Wisconsin antiwind activists to the front page of an otherwise reputable publication.

“Wind turbine syndrome” is the latest attempt to halt the installation of clean, renewable energy in our state. Those opposed to wind power projects have historically voiced concerns of annoying shadows, noise, and a ruined view shed of their otherwise perfect neighborhood. But about a year ago, Internet stories of wind turbines making people sick began

to surface, and it caught the public’s attention. Your reporter was duped into believing these outrageous claims and proclaiming them as fact.

The fact is that there are thousands of wind turbines installed all over the world, and in many places they’ve been operating for decades without any evidence of “wind turbine syndrome.” Wisconsin is finally starting to install renewable energy, but that progress has been harmed by a handful of extremists more concerned about their property value than the economical and environmental benefits of wind power.

I am a teacher. As such, I expect my students to be able to separate fact from fiction. Clearly you do not require the same from your reporters. Didn’t anybody check the article for accuracy or journalistic integrity? There were many factual mistakes – names of companies, the state’s renewable energy portfolio of 10% by 2015 (not 25% by 2025), the attempted explanation of “spinning reserve” and how the electrical grid works – that should have been caught before publication. The article had a strong antiwind sentiment and said next to nothing about the benefits of wind power. It named pro-wind lobbyists but no antiwind lobbyists. Why?

I have spent many hours on and underneath wind turbines of all sizes, and have never felt sick. Nor have any of the systems’ owners/hosts that I’ve met. What makes me sick is the profound hatred these near-sided, selfish, wind opponents have towards change and progress. Did McCombie visit a wind farm? Did he hear jet engines?

I wouldn’t have been at all surprised if I read an article like this in the Manitowoc *Herald Times Reporter* or Calumet County’s *Tri-State News*. But this is the *Isthmus*! How in the world did this make front-page “news?” I’m absolutely disgusted and no longer consider this a publication worthy of my patronage.

I am one of the many people who have worked endless hours for many years trying to educate the public about the benefits of renewable energy and wind power, and McCombie’s article is the perfect example of why my job can be so challenging. His final report merely repeated the voodoo-science spewed on antiwind websites. Unfortunately, his words were printed on the front page, and presented as “truth” and/or “news” to your readers. This should have been printed in the “opinion” section, if at all.

Jenny Heinzen

President, RENEW Wisconsin
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Dear Editor,

Brian McCombie’s article spent a lot of time quoting wind opponents, including Linda Barry’s artless, unfunny cartoon, and gave no perspective on how we got here.

Ten years ago, new state legislation allowed independent wind developers to get approval through the local community rather than the PSCW. During this window of opportunity for local control, many elected officials let themselves be bullied into shunning wind projects. A vocal minority used every means possible to delay and prohibit projects. In these communities, that minority denied farmers and landowners the right to reasonably use their land to make a living. Ten years of revenue and jobs in those communities: lost.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of wind turbines operate throughout world, hundreds in our neighboring states, and several dozen in Wisconsin. Wind power development is a premium source of energy and economic development.

Enough already with fake controversy, egged on with stir-the-pot journalism. Time to act on our state motto: Forward.

Alex DePillis, EcoEnergy Wind
Madison, Wisconsin✧

Renewable and Energy Efficiency Events

December 3-4, 2009	Solar Heating & Cooling Conference. Madison, WI. A national expo for the solar thermal professional. Conference will highlight solar water and space heating technologies, and will feature keynotes, workshops, and exhibitors. More details at http://www.the-mrea.org .
January 6, 2010	Conservation Lobby Day. Madison, WI. Citizens from across Wisconsin descend on the Capitol to ask legislators to address the threats of global warming in Wisconsin through clean, renewable energy jobs and energy conservation. For details see www.conservationvoters.org .
March 24-27, 2010	7th Annual Green Energy Summit. The New Green Economy: Opportunities and Challenges. Milwaukee, WI. March 24: Green Business Day; March 25, Green Energy Day; March 26, Green Career Pathway/Sustainability Day. More information at www.greenenergysummit.us .
June 15-16, 2010	Small Wind Power Conference. Stevens Point, WI. Sixth annual conference for the small wind professional. Hosted by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. For details see www.the-mrea.org .
June 18-20, 2010	The Energy Fair. Custer, WI. The nation's premier sustainable energy education event. Three days of workshops, demonstrations, and exhibits highlighting renewable energy and sustainable living. For details see www.the-mrea.org .

Recycled paper

Address Service Requested

RENEW Wisconsin
222 South Hamilton St.
Madison, WI 53703