



Legislature to Tackle Wind Permitting

by Michael Vickerman
RENEW Wisconsin

With the introduction of Senate Bill 185 (SB 185) in the State Legislature on April 30, the organizations and companies arrayed under the Wind for Wisconsin banner will have another opportunity this spring to make the case for instituting a more stable and sensible permitting environment for wind turbines.

In the final hours of the 2007-2008 legislative session, SB544, a similar bill backed by RENEW and the wind industry, cleared the Senate Energy and Utilities Committee on a 4-3 vote. However, when the Senate approved a weakening amendment, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jeff Plale, withdrew it from further consideration.

This time around, deliberations on legislation backed by the beefed up Wind for Wisconsin coalition will occur early in this session, following a concerted outreach effort that led to meetings with virtually every legislator. Since March 2008, a number of new associations and organized labor groups have enlisted in the Wind for Wisconsin initiative, most notably Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Farmers Union, and unions representing operating engineers, steel workers and carpenters.

This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by a Democratic and Republican legislator in each house (Sen. Plale, Sen. Randy Hopper, Rep. James Soletski and Rep. Phil Montgomery), would:

- Establish, by rule and after opportunity for public input, permitting standards to be applied by local or state governments to wind energy installations, regardless of size and location;
- Create an appeal procedure to the Pub-

lic Service Commission (PSC) on decisions rendered by local jurisdictions on wind energy installations.

The permitting standards would cover all matters that relate to public health and safety, including sound, setback distances, shadow flicker, and electronic signal interference.

Even though wind generating capacity in Wisconsin has increased by a factor of nine from January 2008, and the number of operating commercial turbines jumped from 55 to 306, the permitting landscape still remains a minefield where few developers and utilities dare to tread. Since March 26, 2007, not a single wind turbine siting request has been approved by a local government. Work on several other prospects has been stopped due to a combination of restrictive ordinances and moratoria adopted by local governments, usually at the urging of citizen groups opposed to wind development.

Going into this spring, at least six counties—Calumet, Grant, Manitowoc, Rock, Shawano, and Trempealeau—are effectively off-limits to wind projects. In the meantime, the developers working in those areas have suspended their operations, in hopes of resuming work once state-issued standards for permitting wind projects take effect.

The latest setback occurred in Manitowoc County in January and involved a project strongly supported by RENEW Wisconsin and Clean Wisconsin. There, a local board denied Emerging Energies' application to construct a seven-turbine project in the Town of Mishicot. The board's rejection sent a chill through the fabricating floor at

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Manitowoc-based Tower Tech, a manufacturer of wind turbine towers located only 15 miles away from the installation site. Such made-to-order local economic development opportunities are few and far between.

Sen. Plale's memo on the bill draft goes straight to the heart of the problem. "Currently, over 600 megawatts of proposed wind projects are stalled in Wisconsin due to the absence of clear, predictable regulations. This figure doesn't include potential projects that have been abandoned because wind developers are discouraged from constructing these important projects in our state. These delays and deterrents lead to a loss of jobs and investment in Wisconsin, while the rest of the country moves forward with the creation of green energy solutions."

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New RENEW Members

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

Nancy Gloe • Steven Kerr • MSA Professional Services • Richard Schroeder

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

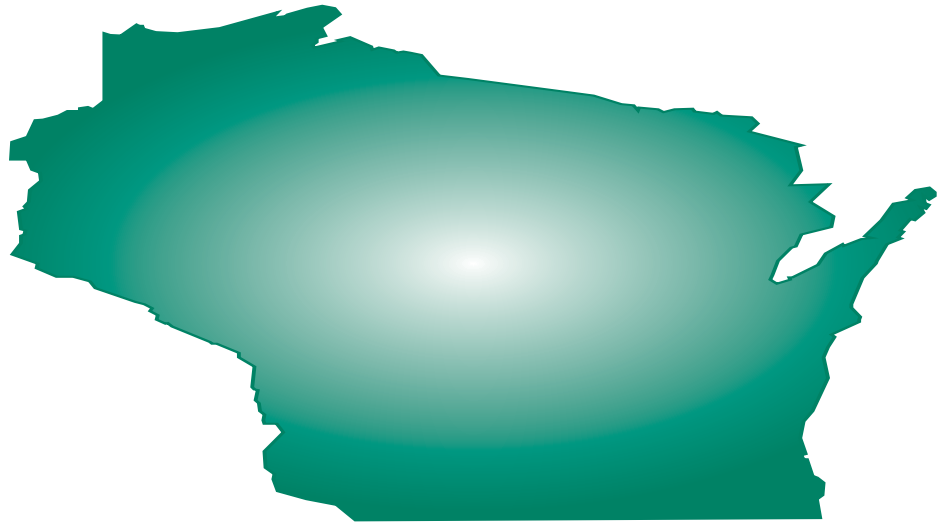
Commentary: The Importance of Doing the Math

by Michael Vickerman
RENEW Wisconsin

The average American adult exhibits some proficiency with basic arithmetic—the adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing of numbers. With these tools we are able to calculate a baseball player's batting average, the amount of interest income earned on a three-month certificate of deposit, the service tip on a \$50 dinner, and the duration of a driving trip from Madison to Minneapolis. Very few motorists need a calculator to figure out the total cost of a fill-up when the per-gallon price of gasoline goes up by a dime.

Yet, when the subject turns to America's energy future, a subject where some facility with number-crunching is essential for understanding the issues at stake, our native competence seems to desert us. How else to explain the preponderance of newspaper articles, radio and television programs and Internet sites that either fumble the numbers that represent reality, or simply ignore them altogether.

If, as participants in a democratic process, we believe in the concept of informed consent, it is incumbent on ourselves to acquire some familiarity with the numbers that matter. Absent a grounding in the realm of quantities, durations



Solar electric installations, like the 39.6 kW system serving the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center near Baraboo, may be small in comparison to a coal-fired generation plant, but they can be easily scaled to match a utility's load requirements.

and physical properties, public discussions on energy cannot help but devolve into exercises in magical thinking.

Consider a recent article in *The New York Times* titled "Cost Works Against Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources in Time of Recession." Reporter Matthew Wald states that solar and wind electric generating capacity sources are more expensive than new coal, natural gas or nuclear power plants. The yardstick Wald uses to compare the cost-effectiveness of different energy sources is their estimated kilowatt-hour

cost, which is the same measure used to calculate a monthly electric bill.

However, Wald makes no mention of the size of the generating stations being compared, a critical omission. Coal and gas are relatively inexpensive fuels if an electric utility is looking to build one large power plant, say, 500 megawatts (MW). But what if the utility only needs 100 MW of additional capacity? In those situations, the size of a typical coal plant becomes an economic liability, unlike a wind power plant, which can be easily adjusted to fill any gap up to 200 MW.

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RENEW Wisconsin is a nonprofit membership organization advocating 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.

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

Doing the Math

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This isn't rocket science, just simple math. Even if a kilowatt-hour (kWh) generated at new wind power plant costs 40% more than one produced by a new coal plant four times the size, the wind project will put less pressure on electric rates because the utility spent less money overall to build it. This is an important benefit from relying on a resource that comes in multiples of 2 MW increments instead of one 500 MW unit.

Too Risky to Overbuild

In this era of trillion-dollar bailouts, it is impossible to overstate the risk of building too much capacity that's not needed. Utility loads have leveled off in the last nine months, caused by the economic contraction that has wreaked havoc in the industrial sector. In some utility territories with large industrial loads, the demand for electricity is falling. Indeed, the recent shutdowns of the General Motors plant in Janesville and the Domtar paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids are certain to depress this year's sales at Alliant Energy's Wisconsin utility below last year's totals.

Given the above, one has to wonder if Alliant is still disappointed with the Public Service Commission's decision in late 2008 not to let it build a new coal-fired plant in southwest Wisconsin. I dare say it would not have been possible to amortize the \$2 billion project over a shrinking revenue base without asking for permission to raise rates. Perhaps Alliant will thank the agency later for stopping this undertaking before ground was broken. Compared with coal, nuclear and even natural gas, solar and wind energy are the energy world's equivalent of Treasury bills—a safe haven offering steady and reliable returns. Much recent economic carnage would have been avoided if the trillions of dollars that were heedlessly plowed into McMansions and zero-interest car loans had been redirected in-

stead into renewable energy production.

Niether did Wald address job creation. Part of the reason renewable energy costs more is that the labor comprises a larger share of the expense. The economies of scale that come with central station generation results in fewer job-hours per kWh generated. Nations like Germany, however, have deliberately tailored their energy policies to support solar electric, community-scale wind power, and on-farm methane digesters. For what reason? To build up a renewable energy economy employing hundreds of thousands of people.

Earlier in the spring, over 600 people, many of them small manufacturers and commodity suppliers, crowded into a hotel ballroom in Appleton to take part in a one-day seminar on the wind energy supply chain.

The turnout surpassed the seminar organizers' most optimistic expectations. What were the attendees looking for? A chance to establish a business relationship with an industry with reasonable prospects for long-term vitality, in contrast to the automobile sector.

All these lines of inquiry and avenues of research could have been explored in writing this article. Instead of digging into the details and doing the math, Wald chose to skim along the surface and frame this story around the talking points that were prevalent 10 years ago. The result is stale journalism that neither enlightens or edifies. No wonder the print journalism industry is losing money hand over fist—they can't seem to do the math.*

Wind Permitting

Continued from page 1

As *The Country Today* wrote in its January 28 editorial: "We can't ask for projects that stimulate the economy but then always expect them to be built somewhere else."

Note: Updates on the bill will be posted on www.renewwisconsinblog.org. Letters of support can be sent to legislators through the Legislature's web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us>. *

Renewables Profile

Stimulus Package Packs Punch for Renewables

Editor's note: A letter from Senator Russ Feingold provided most of the summary of the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Additional material came from summaries prepared by Godfrey & Kahn and Focus on Energy.

The economic recovery package included a provision authored by Senator Feingold to help create jobs by supporting energy efficiency projects.

The provision, part of Feingold's E4 Initiative to fuel job creation and spur economic development, will boost job growth and help businesses and homeowners go green by expanding the types of projects that are eligible for the Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) program. This change will ensure that programs throughout Wisconsin and nation – such as Milwaukee's proposed Me2 program that supports green-collar jobs installing energy efficiency upgrades in buildings – are eligible for these bonds. Projects eligible for the bonds include heat-fuel saving measures like insulation, electricity-saving measures like lighting and appliances, water-saving measures like low-flow shower heads and toilets, renewable energy generating devices like photovoltaic solar installations, storm water management like rain barrels, or other measures that also result in reduced energy use.

Feingold also supported the successful effort to increase the funding for the QECB program in the recovery package from \$800 million to \$3.2 billion, more than a 300 percent increase, a funding increase comparable to the one he proposed in his E4 Initiative.

Wisconsin's State Energy Program

Wisconsin will receive approximately \$55.5 million to support energy priorities and emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The state energy program (SEP) can promote energy efficiency programs for schools,

hospitals, small businesses, farms, homes and industries. The SEP provides hundreds of millions of dollars in direct energy cost savings annually and leverages significant non-federal funds.

Weatherization Program

Wisconsin stands to gain approximately \$141.5 million to help reduce the energy bills of low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled by improving the energy efficiency of low-income housing. By reducing energy costs of low-income families, weatherization also frees up funds that can be used for other pressing family needs and supports the economic development of low-income communities. Energy efficiency measures typically include insulation, sealing and repairing ducts, and repairing heating and cooling units.

ENERGY STAR rebate program

The ARRA set aside funding for an ENERGY STAR rebate program for appliances. The federal guidelines have not yet been written to specify which appliances, what rebate levels, the application process, and other details. Focus on Energy will probably administer the rebate program through its existing relationships with appliance retailers.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

Wisconsin will receive a portion of the \$3.2 billion included in the economic recovery package for grants that help state and local governments reduce fossil fuel emissions and total energy use and improve energy efficiency in transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors. Feingold successfully modified the program in the 2007 energy bill to ensure that it supports environmentally sustainable solutions and maximizes benefits for local and regional communities.

The Clean Cities Program

Wisconsin can compete for a portion of \$400 million in grants that encourages the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles, fuel cell vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, or other emerging electric vehicle technologies. This grant program may provide up to 30 nationally, geographically dispersed project grants. Grant recipients include state governments, local governments, metropolitan transportation authorities, air pollution control districts, and private or nonprofit entities.

Green Jobs Training

Wisconsin can compete for \$500 million in grants to states for green jobs training that prepares workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. The funds can be used to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program

The bill provides \$6 billion to support more than \$60 billion in loans for eligible projects for renewable technologies, transmission technologies, and biofuel projects. Projects can include:

- Renewable energy systems that generate electricity or thermal energy and facilities that manufacture related components for those technologies;
- Electric power transmission systems, including upgrading and reconducting projects;
- Leading edge biofuel projects that will use technologies performing at the pilot or demonstration scale that are likely to become commercial technologies and will produce transportation fuels that substantially reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to other transportation fuels.

Advanced Batteries

The bill has \$2 billion for grants for advanced batteries and components to

help move toward a new generation of vehicles in our nation by incentivizing the domestic manufacturing of advanced batteries.

This program will help build a globally competitive battery manufacturing workforce as we work to ensure we don't have to rely on foreign-made technology for batteries.

Transportation Electrification

The ARRA authorized \$400 million for transportation electrification to be implemented in a grant program to states, local governments, and metropolitan transportation authorities for qualified projects that significantly reduce emissions, including shipside electrification of vessels, truck stop electrification, battery-powered auxiliary power units for trucks, electric airport ground support equipment and cargo handling equipment, electric or dual-mode electric rail, upgrades to supply electricity to the

qualified project and ancillary infrastructure, including panel upgrades, battery chargers, in-situ transformers, and trenching.

The Smart Grid Investment Matching Grant Program

This program will help achieve significant energy savings by supporting cutting-edge electrical distribution systems that allow for the flow of electricity information in two directions (from utility to homes and buildings and back).

Smart grid technology will include, for example, thermostats that provide real-time information on constantly changing electric rates so consumers can make informed decisions and appliances that can be turned off during periods of high electrical demand and cost.

A portion of \$4.5 billion designated for the Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability program will go toward the smart grid program.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Research Development, Demonstration and Deployment

The bill contains \$2.5 billion to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects such as biomass, geothermal, solar, batteries, and industrial and commercial energy efficiency. The Department of Energy estimates this investment will create 12,000 jobs.

Tax Relief

The economic recovery package includes \$20 billion in energy-related tax relief.

- **Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds.** The bill authorizes an increase to \$3.2 billion for qualified bonds to finance state, municipal, and tribal government programs that help expand renewable energy use and increase energy efficiency.
- **Extension of Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit.** The bill extends by three years the tax credit eligibility period for wind, closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal, small irrigation, hydropower, landfill gas, waste-to-energy, and marine renewable energy facilities.
- **Clean Renewable Energy Bonds.** The bill authorizes an increase to \$2.4 billion for bonds to finance facilities for generation of electricity from qualified renewable sources.
- **Tax Credits for Energy-Efficient Home Improvements.** The bill extends tax credits for energy efficiency improvements, such as new windows and insulation, made to existing homes through 2010.
- **Plug-in Electric Drive Vehicle Credit.** The bill modifies and increases a tax credit for qualified plug-in electric drive vehicles placed in service during the tax year.

Wisconsin Web Resources

The State of Wisconsin maintains a Web site on ARRA program updates at recovery.wisconsin.gov.

Policy Drives Solar Hot Water Marketplace

If last year's installation activity is any guide, solar hot water (SHW) is becoming an increasingly appealing technology for Wisconsin residences, schools and businesses, reports a soon-to-be-released Focus on Energy White Paper. In 2008, Focus incentives and market support activities leveraged 28 new SHW systems serving businesses and institutions and 101 serving residential customers.

The report, "The Competitive Advantage of Solar Hot Water in Wisconsin," found that energy delivered by a commercial-scale solar hot water system over a 25-year period will be significantly less costly than the default option, i.e., hot water from natural gas.

But the report attributes the improvement in installations and infrastructure more to policy drivers such as state incentives and federal tax credits than to pure market forces. Considering how low fuel prices are right

now, the State would be well-advised to consider additional policy mechanisms to support the SHW marketplace.

The report also examined the potential of third-party ownership of SHW systems. Under this arrangement, facility owners would not own the system that is installed on their property. Instead, they would buy the energy from the installation owner at a price below what they would otherwise have paid for conventional fuel. This would eliminate the initial cost barrier that has limited the market appeal of solar hot water. The State recently solicited bids to buy hot water from third party-owned systems atop university, veterans' homes and correctional facilities.*

Correction to Osceola Solar Article

A sentence on page 3 of the last newsletter (Vol. 13, No. 4) should have read "Osceola's \$170,000 investment in solar energy should be fully recouped in 18 years."*

PSC Mulls Statewide Buyback Rates

In response to a Public Service Commission investigation into Advanced Renewable Tariffs (ART's), Clean Wisconsin and RENEW submitted comments in February calling for a more uniform approach to setting the rates through which utilities buy back renewable energy produced by their customers.

The comments, which were prepared by long-time RENEW Board member Larry Krom, noted that the deployment of ART's in Germany, France and Spain has propelled these countries to the forefront of renewable energy development worldwide, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process. Where established, ART's have fostered extraordinary growth in locally owned renewable energy installations. Other terms describing these buyback rates are Renewable Energy Producer Payments and Feed-In Tariffs.

What are ARTs?

ART's are premium buyback rates that fix a payment stream over a specified term based solely on the production costs of the renewable energy installation. The rates will differ from one resource or technology type to the next. Projecting a revenue stream over time is made possible when generation sources rely on zero-cost fuel sources like sunshine, wind, dairy cow manure and flowing water.

ART's do not require adjustment with each rate filing. Within a particular fuel category and generator size, installation and operating costs will be similar irrespective of their location. Therefore, ART's have the capability of being uniformly applied throughout Wisconsin.

Even though some utilities now offer fixed-rate, technology-specific buyback rates for qualifying renewable energy systems, they do not meet the definition of ART's. Consider the example of Madison Gas & Electric's 25 cents/kWh solar buyback rate, which a system

owner can lock into for 10 years. On the plus side, this offering is twice MGE's retail electric rate. However, it does not qualify as a true ART, because the revenue stream it generates falls short of what's needed to achieve a reasonable return on most installations, even with the 30% federal tax credit and Focus on Energy incentives, which are capped by technology category.

Next Steps

To ensure that ART's move forward in Wisconsin, RENEW and Clean Wisconsin urged the Commission to begin modeling the impacts of such an undertaking on rates and technology deployment, using the expertise that has been developed in Wisconsin since the issue first surfaced in 2005.

In their comments, the two groups recommended that the Commission structure a statewide program around the following four guiding principles:

- The tariff design should focus on removing barriers to smaller renewable distributed generators;
- The tariffs should balance Wisconsin's renewable generation targets (RPS) and the value of renewable electricity to the ratepayers;
- All energy procured by utilities under these tariffs shall be fully eligible to be used to comply with the Wisconsin RPS (or to supply energy to a utility green pricing program, but not both);
- The price elements of the tariffs should be kept simple.

In addition to the four building block principles enumerated above, Clean Wisconsin and RENEW Wisconsin supported the following program design elements:

- Inflation adjusted tariffs ranging between 10 and 15 years in duration;
- An initial program cap of 3% of total electric retail sales, with a solar electric cap of 0.25%;¹
- Individual ceilings of 15 MW for bio-gas, wind, biomass and hydro installa-

Wide Support for Higher Rates

Several utility and renewable energy stakeholders submitted comments, including these from WPPI Energy, a utility which supplies electricity to many municipal electric companies in the state. WPPI Energy testified:

... the development of distributed renewable resources nevertheless ... valuable as a means to accelerate installations, increase the diversity of renewable resources, and gain a better understanding of emerging technologies. ... We therefore believe the Commission should encourage and facilitate the development of distributed projects. WPPI believes the development of projects is best achieved by programs that are simple, straightforward, easily understood and predictable. Consumers need such characteristics if they are to successfully understand, use and finance the development of such projects.

Others commenting included Wisconsin Farmers Union, Distributed Resource Collaborative, MGE, Wisconsin Public Service, and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.*

tion, and a 1 MW ceiling for solar electric installations; and

- A built-in process for resetting tariffs on new projects every three years.

The complete statement of RENEW and Clean Wisconsin is posted under Public Service Commission Testimony & Fil-

¹ Annual retail electric sales in Wisconsin are approximately 70 billion kWh. Under a 3% program cap, ART's could yield an additional 2.1 billion kWh of renewable energy per year, with up to 180 million kWh derived from solar. For comparison purposes Wisconsin utilities sold 2.7 billion kWh of renewable electricity in 2007.*

RENEW's President Answers Manitowoc Wind Critic

Note: Rep. Zielgelbauer represents the 25th Assembly District, including Manitowoc County, and also serves as the Manitowoc County Executive.

Dear State Rep. Zielgelbauer, This letter is in response to your comments made in *The Daily Reporter* concerning the Manitowoc County Board of Adjustment's recent rejection of a seven-turbine wind farm. I am for many reasons baffled and disheartened by your statements, and ask for a few moments of your time to consider my words.

I am the lead instructor at Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) for the Wind Energy Technology program, a 2-year associate degree for aspiring wind turbine technicians. It is the only such program in the state, and we have worked very hard to make LTC nationally-recognized for its efforts in promoting conservation and renewable energy. Our 65 kW wind turbine started producing electricity for the campus in August of 2004, and nearly 30 students have climbed the tower since then. Two more wind turbines will be erected at LTC by 2010. Construction for the first will begin in just a few months.

As a state-certified master electrician and technical college instructor, I have a strong interest in keeping jobs at home. Promoting renewable energy in Wisconsin encourages conservation, efficiency and environmental stewardship. It also opens an exciting new market for a plethora of "green" jobs in the commercial, industrial, agricultural, and residential sectors. I work with the Department of Commerce, International Association of Electrical Inspectors, Wisconsin Distributed Resources Collaborative, and the Rural Energy Management Council to provide training for electricians in renewable energy. These classes and seminars fill up quickly and are in high demand statewide.

Manitowoc supports wind power in many respects. Companies like Tower Tech and Manitowoc Crane are prosper-

ing because of their connections to the wind industry. Orion Energy Systems recently obtained a permit from the City of Manitowoc to erect a large wind turbine at their new facility, and Manitowoc Public Utilities will likely be adding wind power to their energy portfolio. It's ironic that this county, while supporting wind energy in so many ways, has also become notorious for writing ordinances that may as well say "no wind turbines allowed."

I was a member of the Manitowoc County Wind Energy Systems Advisory Committee from 2005-2006. I had been asked by the county board chair to join this committee because of my experience with wind systems and my position at LTC. I accepted, believing naively that simple education was the remedy to the controversy. I thought the committee would only need certain fears eased, myths dispelled, and questions answered.

Unfortunately my attempts to help the committee write a reasonable ordinance were thwarted by the relentless storytelling and fear-mongering tactics used by the WINDCOWS, the Manitowoc-based wind energy opposition group. I underestimated their passion and dedication to the cause of essentially outlawing wind energy. As a result, the group created unrealistic and highly restrictive ordinances for wind farms, as well as small, privately-owned systems.

My defeat was both frustrating and inspiring. I dove into energy policy and legislation, and I am now president of the board of directors for RENEW Wisconsin. As you know, RENEW is a Madison-based, nonprofit organization that promotes clean energy. We have been working diligently on a statewide siting campaign that will hopefully end these expensive and extravagant local battles. (This seven-turbine project has been debated for nearly five years!) We have strong support from a wide vari-

ety of stakeholders and are confident that the legislation for uniform siting will pass this year.

Please believe our intent is in no way to belittle local communities or imply that anyone is "dumb," as you stated in the article. But when irrational and unfounded fears are propagated and allowed to infest the minds of our local decision-makers, the madness must be stopped.

State Statute 66.0401 outlines local governments' authority to restrict wind and solar energy systems. Those opposed to a project must prove legitimate health and safety concerns. That's hard to do, considering no civilian has ever been physically harmed by a wind turbine. Therefore, anecdotal tales of "wind turbine syndrome" run rampant on anti-wind Web sites, but the "evidence" is nothing more than a conglomeration of exaggerations, misrepresentations, and outright fabrications.

Wisconsin currently has a renewable energy portfolio standard of 10% by 2015, and Governor Doyle is recommending 25% by 2025. The recent extension of the federal production tax credit emphasizes our commitment to make renewable energy systems cost-competitive with the highly subsidized world of traditional electrical generation.

I have lived in northeast Wisconsin my whole life, and I plan to stay and remain politically active. I hope you will reconsider your views on wind power here in our own back yard. The fuel is clean, renewable, abundant, and free. The concept is simple and the technology is readily available. Wind turbines are beautiful! They represent ingenuity, wisdom, forward-thinking, sustainability, and energy independence.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views. I would be happy to speak with you more on this subject if and when you are interested.

Sincerely,
Jenny Heinzen,
President, RENEW Wisconsin*

Renewable and Energy Efficiency Events

<p>May 20, 2009</p>	<p>Blue Sky Green Fields Open House. Malone, WI. A public open house and tour of the Blue Sky Green Field Wind Energy Center, located in the towns of Calumet and Marshfield in northeast Fond du Lac County. The 88-turbine project was placed in service on May 19, 2008. For details see www.we-energies.com.</p>
<p>June 10-11, 2009</p>	<p>Great Lakes Wind Collaborative 2nd Annual Meeting. Milwaukee, WI. Features offshore case studies, transmission and supply chain issues, and avian and wildlife issues research. Sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission. For details see glc.org.</p>
<p>June 16-17, 2009</p>	<p>Small Wind Power Conference. Stevens Point, WI. Fifth annual conference for the small wind professional. Hosted by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. Sponsored by Focus on Energy, American Wind Energy Association, and others. For details see www.the-mrea.org.</p>
<p>June 19-21, 2009</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>July 21-23, 2009</p>	<p>Farm Technology Days. Crave Brothers Farm, Waterloo, WI. Wisconsin's premier agricultural technology exposition is the state's largest outdoor agricultural show. The annual three-day event showcases the latest technology in production agriculture, including the Crave Brother's bio-digester. More details at http://www.dodgefarmtech.com.</p>
<p>Oct. 2-3, 2009</p>	<p>Wisconsin Solar Tour. Homeowners and businesses all across Wisconsin open their doors to let people see renewable energy installations. Sponsored by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. More information at www.the-mrea.org.</p>

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