

# Wind Development in Ohio: the Planner's Role



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# Ohio's Wind Future

- Ohio has incredible wind potential: 66,000 MW
- A landmark energy policy
- A project review process that provides for predictability and accountability
- Vast technical resources
- Interest from the nation's top wind developers

# Ohio's AEPS

- S.B. 221, requires that by year 2025 electric distribution utilities located in Ohio supply 25 percent of their electricity from advanced energy sources.
- Bill establishes benchmarks for installation for each year of the RPS

# Ohio's AEPS

- 2009: 82 megawatts
- 2012: 557 megawatts
- 2015: 1,320 megawatts
- 2020: 3,099 megawatts
- 2025: 4,240 megawatts
- Ohio currently has 7.2 megawatts installed

# Ohio HB 562

- Until June, siting of facilities below 50 megawatts was left to local zoning
- HB 562 directs the OPSB to adopt certification rules for the construction, operation and maintenance of wind-powered electric generation facilities. The new law extended OPSB siting authority to include wind facilities capable of generating between 5 and 50 megawatts of electricity.

# The Ohio Power Siting Board

- Process for project review and certification is identical to other generation sources
- Rules adopted on October 28, 2008
  
- Two-part minimum setback
  1. Equal to 1.1 times the total height of the turbine from the wind farm property
  2. 750 feet from the nearest habitable structure

# OPSB Rules



# The Planner's Role: Small Wind

- Draft zoning that balances the rights of participating and non-participating landowners
- Establish setbacks that are based on the height of the turbine: don't zone out wind turbines
- Do not reinvent the wheel—examine zoning language you already have that may be applicable to wind

# The Planner's Role: Small Wind



# The Planner's Role: Utility Wind

- Wind turbines are only similar to communication towers in height
- Utility sized turbines face siting considerations that residential turbines do not
- Consider met towers!
- Zoning will still need be drafted for utility sized turbines that produce less than 5 MW. Ex: churches, schools, industrial facilities

# The Planner and the OPSB

- Pre-emption does not leave the planner powerless
- OPSB invites comments at several stages during the project review process
- Inform your constituents or residents of public, OPSB meetings for projects being developed in your townships/counties

# Recommendations

- Beware of false information or articles that have not been peer reviewed
- Carefully review templates from other states
- Share information with each other
- If you are unsure about the legality of including something in zoning language, contact your county prosecutor or commissioner

# Resources for Planners

- The Ohio Wind Working Group:  
[www.ohiowind.org](http://www.ohiowind.org)
- The American Wind Energy Association:  
[www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)
- The Ohio Power Siting Board:  
[www.opsb.ohio.gov](http://www.opsb.ohio.gov)
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