

TOWN OF STRATFORD - COUNCIL POLICY			
Name:	Wind Energy	Policy Number:	2008-PH-01
Committee:	Planning & Heritage	Approval Date:	December 10, 2008

Introduction and background:

The Town of Stratford recognizes that access to variable renewable sources of energy for the generation of electricity will allow environmentally friendly energy to be produced in the town and reduce the amount of fossil fuel consumption. The Town is also very keen to pursue the Provincial Renewable Energy Strategy and Legislation, as well as to respond to Stratford residents and businesses requesting development permits for establishment of a wind energy system in their own properties.

It is also understood that wind energy is a pollution-free, infinitely sustainable form of energy; it doesn't require fuel; it doesn't create greenhouse gasses; and it is safe and clean and doesn't produce toxic or radioactive waste. The Town of Stratford recognizes that each megawatt-hour of electricity that is generated by wind energy helps to reduce the 0.8 to 0.9 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions that are produced by coal or diesel fuel generation. In addition, according to the Provincial Renewable Energy Act a portion of the Town of Stratford has been designated as an appropriate location for operating a wind energy system.

Furthermore, from a socio-economic perspective, ownership of wind turbine generators by individuals and the community allows people to participate directly in the preservation of our environment and building our sustainable future. The fast growing technology of wind energy, during the last decade, shows that it will be one of the most efficient and cost competitive type of electricity generator very soon.

Stratford's Wind Energy Policy Statement:

Whereas Prince Edward Island is the only province in Canada without substantial resources of hydroelectric power, fossil fuels or nuclear energy, this has required the province to import virtually all its sources of energy; and

Whereas considering PEI's electrical demands and the Provincial Renewable Energy Strategy, wind power would be an ideal solution to enhancing the role of renewables in the energy mix; and

Whereas On-site Small Wind Turbine Systems will contribute public benefits such as reduced pressure on the local utility grid, increased local energy independence, and reduced dependence on polluting forms of electric generation;

(On-site Small Wind Turbine System refers to a system, which is designed for on-site use rather than for commercial production, distribution or sale of electricity and its energy production capacity is less than 100 KW/Hour.)

Whereas a portion of the Town of Stratford is located in the Hillsborough Bay zone of inclusion which has been designated by the provincial Renewable Energy Act as a zone with a higher potential of wind energy source; and

Whereas the Town of Stratford is developing the Wind Energy Policy to:

- Achieve the Town's sustainability principles and to Improve the residents' quality of life;
- Preserve the natural resources and reduce fuel fossil consumption and green house gas emissions;
- Protect the environment and contribute in global response to climate change; and
- Respond to the Town's residents and businesses who wish to establish wind energy systems in their own properties for on-site use.

Be it resolved that:

- Erecting an On-site Small Wind Turbine would be permitted in all Stratford's land zones subject to meeting all requirements of the related bylaw and regulations;
- The Town of Stratford encourages establishing community wind energy systems for residential subdivisions, multi-unit residential buildings, institutional and organizational buildings, parks and open spaces;
- The Town of Stratford shall make representation to the Province requesting appropriate rules and regulations to facilitate establishing community wind energy systems within the Town's boundary;
- Any wind energy system shall be constructed and operated in a manner that minimizes any adverse visual, safety and environmental impacts.

To implement this policy, the Town of Stratford shall amend the development bylaw to allow the operation of small wind energy turbines in the Town boundaries.