

[LOGIN](#)
[Create new account](#)
[Login problems?](#)

Network



Search:

Search in:

[BROWSE THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)

Find a business:

The News-Gazette

SERVING EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Community](#) | [Opinions](#) | [Classified](#) | [Shop](#)
[Subscribe](#) | [Help](#)

Unable to connect
Firefox can't establish a connection to the server at ad.doubleclick.net.

[Home](#)

South Farms may get wind turbine

Tue, 07/12/2005 - 1:00pm | [Jodi Heckel](#)

URBANA – The University of Illinois may put a wind turbine on the South Farms, with the help of money generated from a student clean energy fee.

The turbine will not only generate electricity for the UI. It will also serve as a demonstration site for farmers interested in having a wind turbine on their land.

"It's starting to get considered as a new crop in areas that have enough wind energy for it to be feasible," said Lee DeBaillie, a UI engineer who is overseeing the technical aspects of the project.

The impetus for the project came from a student group, Students for Environmental Concerns, that campaigned for a student clean energy fee to help pay for the project. Students approved the fee in a referendum in the spring of 2003 and began paying the \$2-per-semester fee in the fall of 2003. The fee has generated \$280,000 so far.

Students want the UI to develop sources of clean-energy and to be a leader for other universities interested in wind energy, said Jen Walling, a UI law student who is a member of Students for Environmental Concerns and chairwoman of a committee that allocates the money from the student fee.

"We can really be a pioneer in the renewable energy field," Walling said.

She also said the UI can help determine if wind turbines are a good investment for farmers.

The UI is applying for a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to help pay for the project, which will cost an estimated \$2 million. DeBaillie said the foundation has shown interest in the project, in part because farmers have sought information about wind energy from the UI's agricultural college. Also of interest is studying how wind turbines would work in a rural area bordering on an urban one, he said.

DeBaillie said the UI is also looking into a partnership with a private corporation that might want to take advantage of federal tax credits for wind energy production. The UI hired a consultant, Dirk Andreas of Navigant Consulting, a UI graduate who has done feasibility studies for other wind farms in Illinois. He is being paid \$8,750, with the money coming from the provost's office.

Andreas is looking at possible sites for the wind turbine; the cost of the project, including construction, operation and maintenance; how much energy it might produce; what the noise level of the turbine will be; and environmental issues.

DeBaillie said the site must be near the UI's electrical grid, at the highest elevation possible to get the most wind, and some distance away from neighbors. The Federal Aviation Administration must also approve the site.

"A very large consideration is to keep it away from neighbors physically as much as possible," DeBaillie said. "They don't make a lot of noise, but they are very tall."

He said the turbines can be up to 400 feet tall to the tip of an extended blade.

He said the UI is considering sites in an area bordered by Windsor and Old Church roads, and First Street and Philo Road. He said one possible site is on a rise southeast of the new beef and sheep complex at South Race Street and Old Church Road.

"One of the main benefits to the public is the wind turbine will be located on public land that the public can go tour," DeBaillie said. "A lot of people who have concerns about them might feel better if they can go walk up to one."

UI officials have talked informally with city and county government officials about the project and received mostly positive feedback, DeBaillie said. The Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals last year approved a special-use permit for a company that proposes putting a wind turbine along U.S. 150, east of Grandview Memorial Gardens.

Brad Uken, manager of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, said the bureau supports research and incentives to develop wind energy sources, but he hasn't talked to any area farmers interested in putting wind turbines on their land.

DeBaillie said the UI intends to put up one turbine, but is leaving open the possibility of adding more in the future. He said one turbine could produce about 3.5 million kilowatt-hours per year, or 1 percent of the UI's electricity.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments



Categories (2): [News](#), [Other](#)

Location (3): [Champaign County](#), [Local](#), [Urbana](#)

Comments

News-Gazette.com embraces discussion of both community and world issues. We welcome you to contribute your ideas, opinions and comments, but we ask that you avoid personal attacks, vulgarity and hate speech. News-Gazette.com reserves the right to remove any comment at its discretion, and we will block repeat offenders' accounts. To post comments, you must first be a registered user, and your username will appear with any comment you post. Happy posting.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

Search News Stories

More Like This

- [Wind turbine project gets new life in climate plan](#)
- [Urbana council to take up wind turbines, 1875 home](#)
- [Wind turbine plan brings more debate to Urbana council](#)
- [Grant to help pay for three wind turbines](#)
- [Urbana council, residents hit UI over wind turbine plans](#)
- [Time is tight for wind turbine plan in Urbana](#)
- [Meeting set on wind turbines in Urbana](#)

News by Date

« **December 2010**

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

[Delivery4U](#)

[Buy a \\$11.98 certificate for only \\$5.99](#)



(Updated every 5 minutes)

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Advertiser Index](#)

- [Subscriber services](#)
- [General services](#)
- [Advertising services](#)
- [Reader services](#)
- [Job listings](#)
- [Online services](#)

- [IlliniHQ](#)
- [Business Directory](#)
- [WDWS](#)
- [WHMS](#)
- [Pulse](#)
- [Central Illinois Business](#)
- [idomagazine](#)

 Search in:

- 
- 
- Social Networks:

Contents of this site are © Copyright 2010 The News-Gazette, Inc. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Contact Us](#)

CLOSE 