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North Olmsted schools continue to pursue plans for wind turbine

Posted by [Ellen Jan Kleinerman/Plain Dealer Reporter](#) December 23, 2008 09:00AM

Categories: [Education](#), [Environment](#)

NORTH OLMSTED — Capturing the wind and turning it green are the goals of city and school officials, who are mapping plans to build a wind turbine.

Green to help the environment and green to save money on the school's electric bill.

"In terms of dollars and sense, this is a no-brainer," city schools treasurer Robert Matson said.

The school district has been working for about a year on a proposal to erect a 150-foot-high turbine behind the middle school off Butternut Ridge Road. The turbine will reach 50 feet higher in the sky when the blades are whirling.

The 250-kilowatt turbine, which will cost about \$850,000, would be tied into the power grid, Matson said. Projections show the turbine initially could cut in half the \$110,000 yearly electric bill for the middle and high schools, he said.

Over 20 years, the district could save \$600,000, factoring in energy price increases, and also pay off the turbine's cost, he said.

If the turbine generates more electricity than needed, that energy would go into the grid and the district would get credit, he said.

Wind studies show that North Olmsted is an ideal location for the turbine, he said. The district would borrow the money to build the turbine and pay it off over 11 years, he added.

Matson said the turbine could be in operation by 2010. If the project is successful, smaller turbines could be built to power some of the primary and intermediate schools, he said.

First, the city must develop zoning regulation plans, which Mayor Thomas O'Grady said are in the works. The city also is interested in a turbine to power the town hall and the library, he said.

Others are embracing the idea of turbines as a source of renewable energy. The Great Lakes Science Center and Lake Farmpark each have one, and a public commission is considering plans to raise five to 10 turbines in Cleveland near Lake Erie.

In Middleburg Heights, the Cuyahoga County Fair Board has asked that city for a zoning variance to build a wind turbine. Kenston High School plans to build one, and a developer in Ashtabula is attempting to erect turbines there.

O'Grady said embracing the idea could result not only in renewable energy but also in jobs.

"It's the right idea for the environment and the right idea for the economics of the city and region," O'Grady said.

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COMMENTS (3)[Post a comment](#)

Posted by [DunlopReggie](#) on [12/23/08 at 9:40AM](#)

Towering wind turbines are the current, trendy flavor of the month, but unless you erect a whole wind farm with dozens or hundreds of the things they really aren't cost efficient. If the school wants to create a science project for the kids, they should focus on something that would

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have less of an impact on the community, like solar or hydrogen fuel cells.

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Posted by **whadyaexpect** on [12/23/08 at 10:01AM](#)

Or potatoes with electrodes...

Is this the district that wanted \$100 million of federal bailout money? If so, was it for this use?

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Posted by **dyingcity** on [12/23/08 at 11:28AM](#)

soo... there going to add a 30meter windmill. and pray the wind stays at or above 27mph all year, since in a 1 *maybe* 2 rated wind zone (6 is best) they might get full power for the few winter months.

General Specifications 250 kW WES Wind Turbine
 Life expectancy: minimum 20 years
 Service maintenance: twice a year
 Nominal Power: 250 kW
 Cut in wind speed: Cut out wind speed: 25 m/s - 56 mph
 Nominal wind speed: 12 m/s - 27 mph
 Survival wind speed: 60 m/s - 134 mph
 Yawing: active yawing / yaw motor
 Passive power regulation: blade angle adjustment
 Active power regulation: fully variable back-to-back system
 Hub height: 31 - 51 m
 Number of blades: 2
 Rotor diameter: 30 m
 Noise emission at 8 m/s: 45 dB(a) at 300 m.

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