

## What is "Sustainable Energy"?

"Sustainable Energy" means providing for our energy needs without depleting our planet's natural resources (like oil). Another related term is "renewable energy". That means being able to generate energy with resources that are naturally regenerated (like wind).

Sustainable energy has two arms; one is energy generation from renewable sources and the other is energy conservation. Both are required to close the gap to our goal of "sustainability" in our energy needs.

Each potential process of helping us attain our goal has both positives and negatives. Solar power is great and uses the sun, but solar panels are expensive and create some waste and consume natural resources in the manufacturing processes. Nuclear power can provide significant power with the use of a small amount of uranium, but has obvious drawbacks. Even the use of fluorescent lamps, although they use less power may create additional mercury contamination if they are improperly disposed.

We have established a PEDC Sustainable Energy Subcommittee. Their charter is to continually look at "the next best thing" that can provide near-term energy payoff for the Town. As technology provides better alternatives, like affordable Light Emitting

Diode (LED) lamps or tidal current energy systems, the subcommittee will review them for potential implementation.

For the past two years the Sustainable Energy Subcommittee has focused on Wind Power as the most promising near-term technology that will help us toward that "sustainable" energy goal.

## Description of the Wind Energy Project

The project the Town is considering is to construct wind turbine(s) the town Middle School and/or the High School.

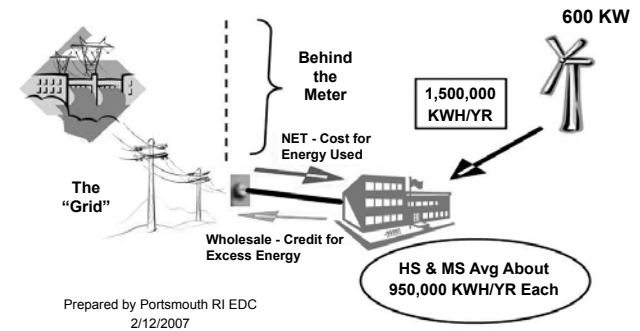
The reason we chose the schools is that, due to current regulations about using and "selling back" power from and to the power company, it is most economical to provide wind power "behind one electric meter". The two Town large electricity "consumers" that are behind single meters are the Middle and High Schools.

Our application, in April 2006, for a zero-interest Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) was approved in October 2006. The application process required us to be specific on a project site. So, we decided on the two schools as the project sites. To use the CREB to pay for the turbine project, we must do it at one or both of those sites.

The school property offers the advantage of open space controlled by the Town, indications of sufficient wind and enough power consumption behind an electric meter to make the economic model better.

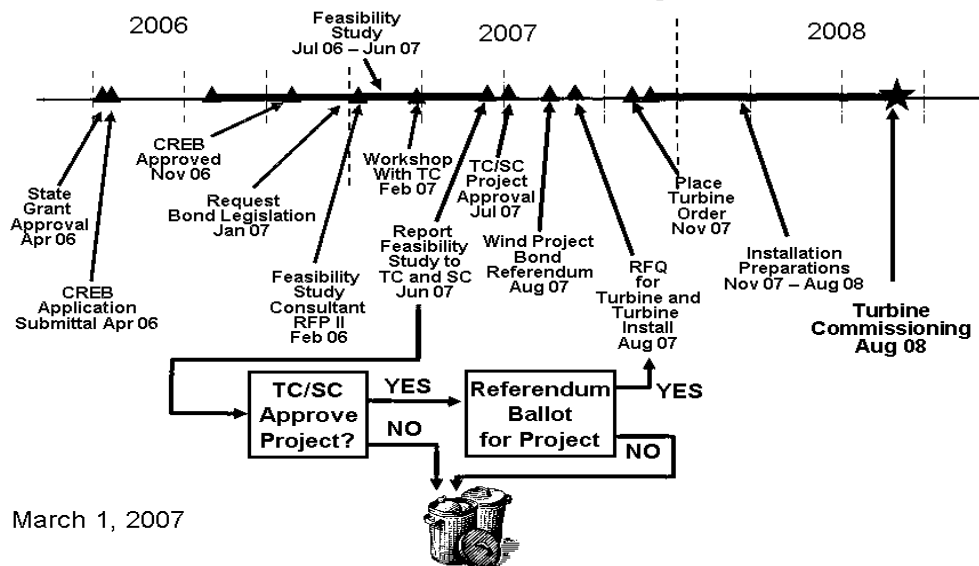
**No decision has yet been made on going forward with the project.** Three things need to happen first. (1) We need to complete a feasibility study to provide us the confidence that the project is right for the Town. It will include expert analysis to ensure we have enough wind, an economic model to ensure positive return on our investment, and assurance that there are no insurmountable engineering or environmental issues. (2) The study and the project must be approved by the Town Council. (3) Even though not strictly required by law, we decided to place a referendum on a November ballot so that citizens have the opportunity to accept or reject the project.

## Power Generation and the "Grid"



Power is normally supplied by the power company through the "Grid". When a wind turbine is installed, it can supply power to the school "behind its electric meter" without having to "buy" electricity from the power company. Based on the current regulations, when there is a lot of wind, it will send power to the "Grid" (and get paid a wholesale price); when the wind does not blow, it must "buy" power from the "Grid" (at a retail price). Since we have to have the "Grid" available for power, we cannot cut ourselves from the "Grid" permanently. And, since the power company maintains power lines and generators, they can't just sell us electricity back at "wholesale". The State is working on new regulations that will provide the Town a better economic payback and also allow the power company to recoup their costs for maintaining the "Grid".

## Portsmouth Schools Wind Project Timeline



# WORKSHOP RULES

- No question or comment will be considered "bad" or "dumb"
- ALL comments and ideas will be documented
- No personal attacks
- ONE person talks at a time
- EVERYONE gets a chance to speak
- NO decisions will be made here

# WORKSHOP PLAN

## ***PART 1***

### ***INFORMAL INFORMATION GATHERING***

During the first 30 minutes, please walk around to the various stations in the room.

- Discuss your concerns with each other.
- Write down your thoughts on the pads.

## ***PART 2***

### ***FORMAL PRESENTATION***

We will take about 20-30 minutes to give you an informative presentation on the facts concerning our project. PLEASE HOLD YOUR QUESTIONS UNTIL PART 3.

## ***PART 3***

### ***PUBLIC INTERACTION***

We will take your questions and discuss the things you talked about and wrote down on the large pads during Part 1.

We may not be able to answer all your questions. However, it will provide us a lot of things to do "homework" on and get back to you either on our website or in our final feasibility study.

NOTES:

**Economic Development Committee  
Sustainable Energy Subcommittee  
TOWN of PORTSMOUTH**



## **WIND ENERGY PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, June 14, 2007 — 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 16, 2007 — 9:00 a.m.  
Portsmouth Abbey School "Winter Garden"**

### ***Welcome to our workshop***

This workshop is part of a feasibility study for constructing wind turbines at the Portsmouth Middle and/or High School. Your comments and questions will provide valuable information about what you think of the project. This will help us provide a complete information package to the Town citizens so they can make an informed decision on the project

### ***Our Workshop Goals:***

- **Provide you information about our wind energy project.**
- **Gather as much information as possible on the concerns of our citizens.**
- **Ensure we have a complete set of data and questions for our study.**

### ***This workshop is divided into 3 parts:***

1. Informal thought gathering (30 minutes)
2. Formal presentation (15 Minutes)
3. Audience interaction (about 30 minutes)

More information on the conduct of these three workshop parts are inside this brochure

**If you are unable to attend the workshop a summary will be on our website:  
[www.portsmouthRIenergy.com](http://www.portsmouthRIenergy.com)**

**Send questions to:  
[questions@portsmouthRIenergy.com](mailto:questions@portsmouthRIenergy.com)**

**Town of Portsmouth  
Economic Development Committee  
Sustainable Energy Subcommittee**