

Where we've been,
Where we are now,
Where we're headed...



WIND SITING IN WISCONSIN

A brief history:

- Energy Priorities Act, 1994
 - Renewable energy considered first; fossil fuels last
- State Statute 66.0401
 - Wind energy systems shall not be restricted directly or in effect by cities, towns or villages unless it is a means to protect **public health & safety**
- Act 141, 2006
 - 10% Renewable energy by 2015

2001 stats = 52.9 MW of wind

- Brown County (WPS) 1.2 M
 - Glenmore - 2 Tacke 600 kW
- Fond du Lac County (WE) 1.3 M
 - Byron - 2 Vestas 660 kW
- Iowa County (FP&L) 30 M
 - Montfort – 20 GE 1.5 MW
- Kewaunee County
 - Lincoln (WPS) – 14 Vestas 660 kW 9.2M
 - Red River (MG&E) – 17 Vestas 660 kW 11.2M

Montfort

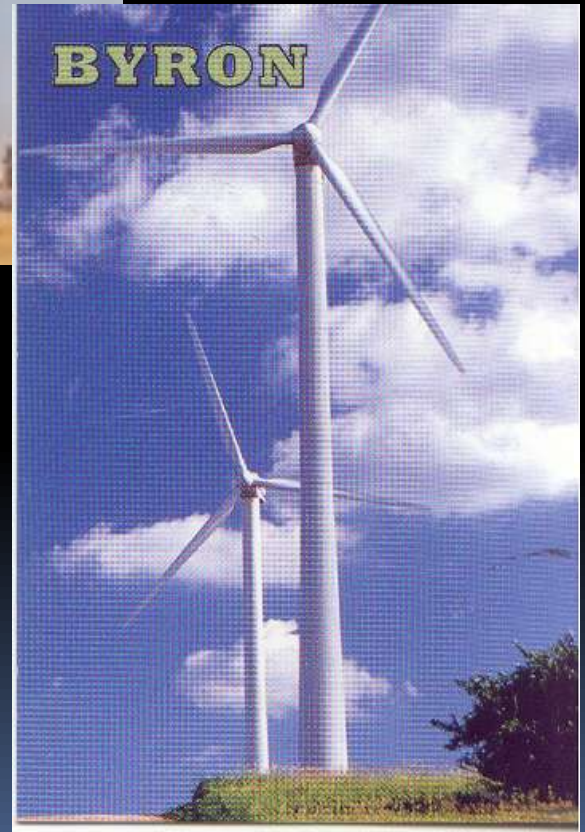


Kewaunee

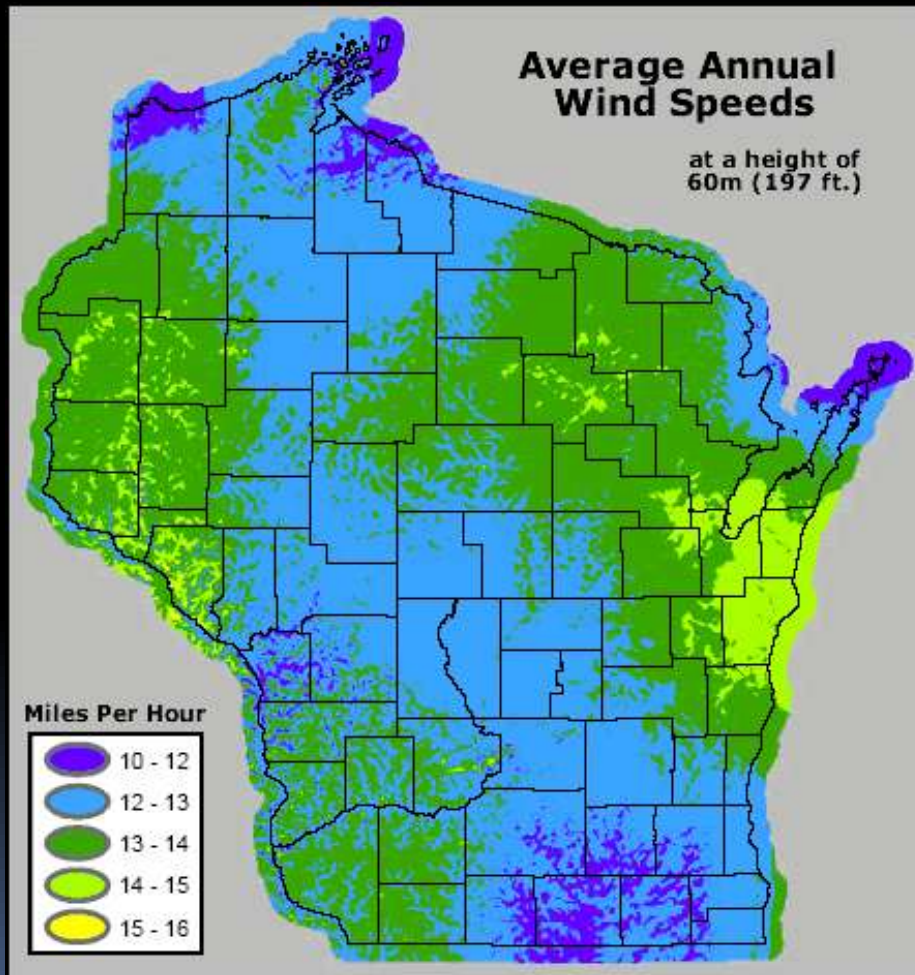


CHADDAVIS

BYRON



What we knew then:



- Winds are best along the Lake Michigan shore
- Niagara Escarpment
- Highest population density
- Existing transmission lines

Proposed projects, just a few:

- Manitowoc Co.
 - Twin Creeks
- Fond du Lac Co.
 - Blue Sky & Green Field
- Calumet Co.
 - New Holstein, Chilton
 - Stockbridge, Brothertown
- Dodge Co.
- Monroe Co.
 - Cashton Greens
- Lafayette Co.
 - Quilt Block, Seymour
- Dane Co.
 - Springfield
- Kewaunee Co.
- Brown Co.
 - Morrison, Wrightstown

And so began the grassroots anti-wind movements

YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR?

He has issues.

- Property value loss
- Noise
- Stray voltage
- Health & safety
- Ice fling
- Well & groundwater concerns
- Asthetics
- Expense & inefficient
- Decommissioning costs

471 feet high

Public Meeting
Mon., Feb. 28th
7:00p.m.
Park & Planning Office
4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc

For more information about Wind Farms go to www.windcows.com or call **686-2961**

CPCN vs CA; 100 MW threshold

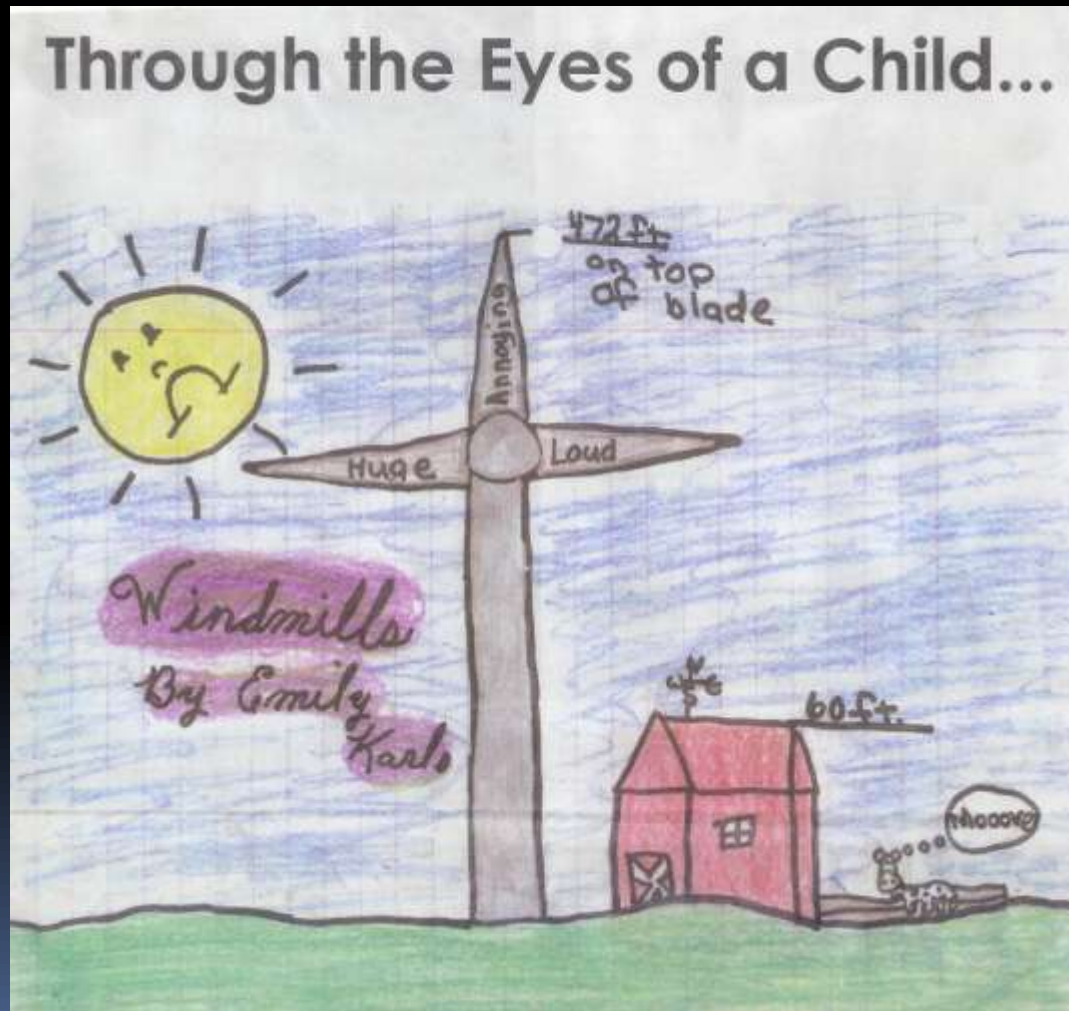
- Many proposed developments were below 100MW to avoid lengthy & costly permits
- Local ordinances apply (CA)
- Environmental Impact Study, DNR, FAA, public hearings required for larger projects (CPCN) and PSC determines final rules

≤100 MW = Local ordinances

- Calumet Co – Moratoriums galore
- Manitowoc Co – Advisory Committee appointed by County Board voted for 1000' setback from a property line
- Shawano Co – Public citizens (volunteers) created lengthy ordinance
- Trempealeau Co – Lawsuits
- Washington Co (Addison) – Bomb threats!



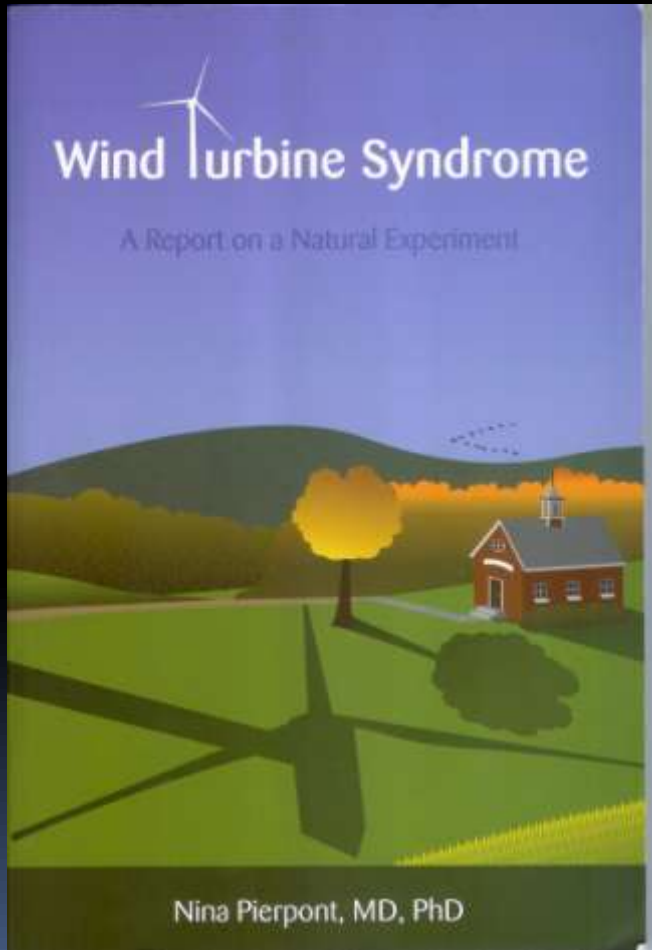
Calumet Co. newspaper ads



Success stories: +578 MW

- Blue Sky Green Field (WE) – 2008 145 M
- Butler Ridge (NextEra) - 2009 54 MW
- Cedar Ridge (WP&L) - 2008 68 MW
- Forward Wind (Invenergy) – 2008 129 M
- Glacier Hills (WE) – 2011 162 M
- Shirley Wind (Em. En.) – 2010 20 MW

The Controversy Intensifies



- Handful of residents complain about headaches, dizziness, sleep disorder, tinnitus, panic attacks, irritability
- Dr. Nina Pierpont's self-published book follows the story of 10 families
- Refuted by many as symptoms of annoyance

Public Health & Safety

- 66.0401 reference
- Wind opponents cite Wind Turbine Syndrome literature
- Stories & pictures of mechanical failures, fires & accidents circulated



The list of complaints:

- Wind Turbine Syndrome
- Noise
- Shadows
- Ice “fling”
- Groundwater contamination
- Stray voltage & animal health
- Cell phone service
- Leaks & fires
- First responders & Flight-for-Life
- Lightning
- Sleep interruption
- “Sensitive receptors”
- Leprosy (falling parts)
- Doppler radar interruption



WARNING:
HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS

www.bccrwe.com

KEEP TURBINES WHERE THEY BELONG
1/2 Mi. FROM OUR HOMES
WINDCOWS.COM



LOWERS OUR PROPERTY VALUES

www.bccrwe.com



The Internet – an amazing tool

- Local opposition groups network & strategize with websites:
 - www.windcows.com
 - <http://betterplan.squarespace.com>
 - www.bccrwe.com
 - www.wind-watch.org
 - www.aweo.com
 - www.you-tube.com – “exploding wind turbine”

Act 40 – Forms Wind Siting Council & directs PSC to write standards

- 2 landowners
- 2 wind developers
- 2 utility reps
- 2 real estate agents
- 1 medical expert from UW
- 2 county board members w/ ordinances
- 2 members of the public

PSC 128 – Wind Siting Rules

- Submitted to state legislature Sept. 2010
- Senate called public hearing & sent draft back to PSC for changes
- Returned to Senate with changes, never brought to a vote before Dec. 24
- Assembly took no action
- PSC 128 scheduled to automatically take effect March 1, 2011

PSC 128

- 1250' setbacks (or 3.1 x total height) from a non-participating residence or occupied building
- Noise limits of 50 dBA (day) and 45 dBA (night)
- Shadow flicker limited to 30 hrs/year; mitigation required at 20 hrs
- Lifetime signal interference mitigation
- Compensation for neighbors within 1/2 mile

Just when things were looking good...

- Scott Walker called Special Session of Congress in first month of office
- Wind siting legislation on list of issues that need revisiting
- Governor introduces bill that changes PSC 128 to include 1800' setbacks from a property line, licensed real estate agents making lease agreements, and strikes all references to public health & safety

New priority: Real estate

- Walker's bill requires permission from all neighbors within ½ mile, and compensation
- Wisconsin Realtors' Association memo to all legislators, 1/14/11:
 - "For every home that is not built, approximately 3 jobs will not be created and \$89,000 in tax revenues will be lost."
 - "...the real estate industry is clearly THE most important sector in our state's economy."

Walker's bill defeated, but...

- Senate left revised PSC 128 alone
- Concurrently, the Joint Committee to Review Administrative Rules (JCRAR) held a public hearing and can vote to suspend the rules before March 1
- JCRAR scheduled to meet 3/1 at 10:30 am
- PSC 128 will likely be suspended...

Now what?

- JCRAR has up to 18 months to introduce a bill to both houses
- If nothing is submitted, PSC 128 takes effect
- In the meantime, we're back to CPCNs and local ordinances
- Scott Walker will likely appoint new Commissioners at the PSC; they can suspend the rules at any time...

The irony

- The Energy Priorities Act (1994) was a movement of the Tommy Thompson Administration, and today renewable energy is portrayed as a “lefty” issue
- We were one of only 2 states to enact a statewide statute that limits the local authority’s ability to restrict wind & solar installations, and today all references to “health & safety” have been stricken

Outlook: Bleak



- Are property values more important than renewable energy or farmers' rights??
- Opponents are organized, passionate & loud
- Wind developers tired of dealing with WI

For more info:

- Wisconsin Wind Information Center – www.wiwindinfo.net
- RENEW Wisconsin – www.renewwisconsin.org
- Wisconsin Public Service Commission – <http://psc.wi.gov>
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