

5.5 SITING OF LARGE-SCALE WIND TURBINES

With the political, economic, and ecological pressure to lessen dependence on fossil fuels for energy supply, communities throughout Atlantic Canada are looking at alternative sources of energy. Wind energy is expected to become an important source of renewable energy, as it has become an increasingly viable and abundant source of energy, particularly in Nova Scotia. Through the Municipality's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Council has made a commitment to sustainability principles, in particular, the promotion of renewable energy development.

In seeking to provide opportunities for economic development, Council recognizes the benefits that large-scale wind development can have on individual property owners as well as the Municipality as a whole. By permitting large-scale wind development within the rural areas of the County, Council intends to strengthen the economic base of Kings County while also contributing to the Provincial renewable energy target. Large-scale wind turbines, also known as utility-scale wind turbines, are those turbines with a rated output capacity greater than 100 kW per year. These wind turbines can be developed in groupings or individually and are generally connected to the local transmission or distribution grid.

Council's aim is to provide opportunities for large-scale wind development where there is a known wind resource and where large-scale wind development is compatible with the surrounding land uses. The wind resource in Kings County is greatest in areas along the North and South Mountains. Therefore, Council will allow large-scale wind development in these rural areas of the County where the focus is on the protection and enhancement of natural resources and the encouragement of primary resource development. Council intends to encourage wind development in a way that limits safety, noise and visual impacts on neighbouring uses. This will be achieved by requiring minimum setbacks and separation distances between large-scale wind turbines and neighbouring dwellings.

5.5.1 Large-Scale Wind Turbine Objectives

- 5.5.1.1 To promote the development of large-scale wind turbines in an effort to reduce the Municipality's dependence on non-renewable energy.
- 5.5.1.2 To respond to the Provincial call for increased sources of renewable energy.
- 5.5.1.3 To minimize the potential negative impacts of large-scale wind turbines on neighbouring land uses and to ensure an acceptable standard of safety and compatibility.
- 5.5.1.4 To maintain consistency with and support for the rural goals of the Strategy.

5.5.2 Large-Scale Wind Turbine Policy

5.5.2.1 Council shall provide for the siting of large-scale wind turbines within certain zones in the Agricultural (A), Forestry (F), Country Residential (CR), and Shoreland (S) Districts.

5.5.2.2 Notwithstanding Policy 5.5.2.1, Council shall not allow large scale wind turbine(s) within the Grand Pré and Area Plan boundary.

5.5.2.3 Council intends to regulate the placement and appearance of large-scale wind turbines to mitigate any potential negative impact they may have on surrounding uses. Therefore, the Land Use Bylaw will include the following provisions:

- a. minimum required setback from property lines, public rights-of-way and coastlines;
- b. minimum required separation distance from dwellings on neighbouring properties;
- c. other minimum requirements focused on ensuring the safety of the development;
- d. controls for signage and turbine appearance; and
- e. requirement of an emergency response plan and a decommissioning plan.

5.5.2.4 Council shall include provision in the Land Use Bylaw to regulate the use of wind monitoring (meteorological) towers. These regulations shall include limits on the location of the towers and requirements for a development permit to ensure safety and mitigate conflict with neighbouring uses.

PART 5	ENACTED DATE	SECTION
	June 2, 2011	5.5