



WIND FACILITIES

The new Renewable Energy Approval will support the Green Energy Act and the Ontario Government's climate change action plan that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy generation and conservation and create thousands of green jobs in Ontario.

Wind Energy

Wind turbines can come in various sizes depending on the energy they generate. Wind speed increases with height above the ground, so most wind turbines are mounted on tall towers.

Renewable Energy Approval (REA)

Wind facilities generating **less than or equal to 3 kW** do not require an REA. These turbines typically generate enough energy to power your dishwasher and fridge.



1.5 kW wind turbine

Wind facilities generating **over 3 kW** but less than 50 kW require an REA, however, the requirements are simplified and there are no mandatory setbacks. These facilities are sometimes called "small wind" and could support from 2 to 38 households, or supplement a small commercial operation.



Large scale wind turbine



50 kW wind turbine

Wind facilities generating **50 kW and over** require an REA. These facilities could supplement larger scale industrial needs or a minimum of 38 households. Wind facilities over 50 kW generating a noise level of 102 dBA or louder must meet a minimum 550 metre setback from buildings used by people, such as a residence. Where roadway noise exceeds 40 decibels, a noise study can be done to determine the appropriate distance. All turbines over 50kW must be set back the height of the tower from properties where the land owner is not involved in the project. This can be reduced to a distance equal to the blade length plus 10 metres where there are no surrounding land use concerns. These facilities must also be set back a distance equal to blade length plus 10 metres from the right of way for roads and railways.

Offshore Wind Turbines

Offshore wind facilities require an REA. They do not have province-wide standard setbacks at this time; each application will be reviewed based on the local situation. Applicants need to conduct noise studies, demonstrating they can meet a 40 decibel (approximately the noise level experienced in a quiet office or library). They must identify any negative impacts to the natural environment that the project may have and explain how they will mitigate any impacts.



To learn more, visit:

Ministry of the Environment

www.ene.gov.on.ca

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