

The following resolution was passed at the 2011-01-04 meeting.

**A RESOLUTION THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO ESTABLISH
SCIENCE-BASED REGULATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL ENERGY-
GENERATING WIND FACILITIES TO ENSURE PUBLIC HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING**

WHEREAS there is well-recognized need for renewable energy resources to lessen our use of and dependency on fossil fuels and thereby increase our sustainability;

AND WHEREAS there is no intention by the Township of Ashfield Colborne-Wawanosh to unduly restrict the use of industrial energy-generating wind facilities, but rather to promote their use in a responsible manner that does no harm to health or to our ability to develop sustainable communities;

AND WHEREAS literature reviews by the Canadian and the American Wind Energy Associations ([*Wind Turbine Sound and Health Effects*](#), 2009-09) and by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health ([*The Potential Health Impact of Wind Turbines*](#), 2010-05) acknowledge that there is not sufficient scientific evidence to prove that these facilities have a direct negative impact on human health and well-being;

AND WHEREAS there is a growing body of case evidence that they do, and the [*precautionary principle*](#) states if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm, then in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking the action;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's [regulations](#) do not cite any scientific proof that the 40 dB(A) hourly-average value used as the basis for setbacks in rural areas is sufficient to guarantee the health and well-being of 100% of the people in proximity to these facilities;

AND WHEREAS Council has heard from a number of the Township's citizens that they believe that Ontario's regulations are not sufficient to protect their health and well-being or to prevent the devaluation of their properties;

AND WHEREAS this devaluation of properties will have an undesirable effect on the tax base and hence on our sustainability;

AND WHEREAS the concerns over adverse effects on health and well-being are divisive and damaging to the social and cultural fabric of the community;

AND WHEREAS a number of other municipalities in the Province of Ontario have also enacted measures to address similar concerns (e.g.: [Arran-Elderslie by-law](#), [West Grey resolution](#));

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh requests that the Province of Ontario declare a moratorium on all current and future projects for on-shore and off-shore development of wind-energy facilities until it has commissioned properly-designed independent third-party scientific research into their long-term effects, released the findings for public comment, and incorporated those comments to enact science-based maximums for wind-facility emissions at all octave-band frequency midpoints from 1hz to the limits of human and animal perception, and for electrical emission from all related electrical facilities, and can therefore guarantee to Council's satisfaction that the health and well-being of 100% of the Township's human and animal populations are protected from the direct and indirect negative effects of being in proximity to those facilities.

AND FURTHER THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Premier and all members of the Legislative Assembly, the MP for the federal riding, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Huron County Council, the Ontario and the Huron County Federations of Agriculture, and the local media.
