



The Power of Human Connections



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives of Iowa

innovation

reliability and safety

environmental responsibility

Wind Generation: Interconnecting with your co-op

Today's changing energy landscape is bringing more attention to renewable energy resources, including wind. Iowa's rural electric cooperatives support generation that is safe, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally responsible.

When you are considering the installation of a wind generator on your property, key issues are **safety, reliability and integrity of the power grid** and **fairness in terms of cost** to other member-consumers.

Whenever generation is connected to the transmission grid, the safety of cooperative employees, member-consumers and the general public must be given top priority. In addition, the member-consumer must meet certain requirements to allow your cooperative to maintain the reliability of the power grid and to ensure any associated costs are not imposed on other member-consumers.

Investing in a wind turbine

Before investing in a wind turbine or connecting it to the power grid, you should meet with the appropriate cooperative representatives to gain an understanding of the expectations for both the cooperative and member-consumer.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative will work with you to establish a written agreement, which will address these expectations as well as each party's responsibilities. The agreement will also cover the terms and conditions of the interconnection, including such things as rates paid for the power you deliver to the grid, insurance and metering requirements.



Recommended process for member-consumers

Step 1

Contact your cooperative to arrange a meeting.

Step 2

Meet with your cooperative to verbally express intentions.

Step 3

Work with your cooperative to develop a written agreement.

Step 4

Proceed as outlined in the written agreement.

Member-Consumer/Cooperative Responsibilities

Cooperative's responsibilities

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative is your partner in providing you with safe, reliable electric service. We have requirements in place to address issues of safety, grid integrity and cost fairness. Those requirements (1) protect the safety of member-consumers and cooperative employees (2) maintain the integrity and reliability of the grid and (3) ensure cost fairness.

Cooperatives must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws when working with a member-consumer to connect wind generators to the grid. A written agreement between the cooperative and the member-consumer typically is developed to ensure proper communication and protections are in place prior to connection of the facility to the grid. Consideration must also be given to established requirements for installation, maintenance, metering, switching and liability insurance.

Member-consumer's responsibilities

The general requirements for a member-consumer to install and interconnect wind generation include paying for any



interconnection devices that are necessary to protect the safety of the cooperative representatives and to maintain the integrity of the delivery system. The member-consumer is also expected to carry liability insurance. Individuals must also pay for the necessary metering equipment used to measure kilowatt-hours (kWhs) delivered back to the grid by the member-consumer.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find more information about wind energy?

The Iowa Energy Center may be a good place to begin.

Iowa Energy Center

2521 Elwood Drive Suite 124

Ames, IA 50010-8229

Phone: (515) 294-8819

Fax: (515) 294-9912

e-mail: iec@energy.iastate.edu

Home Page: <http://www.energy.iastate.edu/about/index.htm>

Is a wind turbine worthwhile to build?

Installing your own wind turbine is an individual decision for each member-consumer. Your cooperative's role in this process is to help educate you regarding the cooperative's expectations. The cooperative, together with the member-consumer, is also responsible for compiling a written agreement. First and foremost, we must protect the safety of our member-consumers and employees, maintain the integrity and reliability of the grid and ensure cost fairness.

We will help you obtain information you deem relevant to your decision-making process. However, the decision is one you must make on your own or with the assistance of consultants.

What does a wind turbine cost?

The price of a wind turbine varies depending on factors such as size or capacity of the turbine, type of turbine, manufacturer, and supply and demand for such turbines.

Which vendors should I work with regarding my wind turbine?

The cooperative does not endorse one particular wind turbine vendor. There are several resources on the Internet which may give you additional background information.

What rebates or other incentives do entities such as the state or federal government have for wind generators?

Incentives can come in the form of tax credits, low interest loans or other delivery mechanisms. Your tax accountant or tax attorney can advise you about tax credits or other tax incentives relating to the installation of a wind turbine. The Iowa Energy Center may be another source of information.

What rate will the cooperative pay for kWhs generated from a wind turbine?

The cooperative will purchase excess power that the member-consumer generates over and above what is consumed. The cooperative will purchase excess power at rates comparable to what the cooperative's power supplier would incur if comparable power were generated by the power supplier or purchased from another source.

Why do I have to carry \$1 million or \$2 million of liability insurance?

It is very common for businesses and individual homeowners to carry liability policies to insure against losses or claims. Customers should not view carrying liability insurance on a wind turbine any differently than the liability insurance on any other personal property. Insurance provides coverage for damages to others and their property. It is up to the owner of a wind generator to assume responsibility for insurance coverage.