



**CENTER FOR  
RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
*Illinois State University*

## **ILLINOIS WIND WORKING GROUP (IWWG)**

The group is administered by Illinois State University's Center for Renewable Energy, including David G. Loomis, Ph.D. (Director of the Center and Associate Professor of Economics), J. Randy Winter, Ph.D. (Associate Director of the Center and Professor of Agricultural Economics), and David Kennell (Associate Director of the Center and Instructional Assistant Professor in the Department of Technology). Now 170 members strong, IWWG hosts conferences and forums in Illinois, including:

### **Illinois Wind Working Group – Monthly Conference Calls**

The group meets monthly for conference calls featuring a speaker on topics of interest to the wind industry. Recent speakers and topics have included Marnin Lebovits, of the Illinois Finance Authority presenting on “The State of Illinois Energy Finance Initiative,” and Fred Iutzi of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, at Western Illinois State University, discussing the “Results from their County Wind Ordinance and Wind Zoning.” The next conference call will feature Sharon Segner of LS Power, speaking about their “New Transmission Line to Facilitate Renewable Energy Development in Illinois and Indiana”.

### **Landowner Forums**

IWWG organized a collaboration between the University of Illinois Agriculture Extension offices, Illinois Farm Bureau, Electric Co-operatives, and various community organizations to have a series of landowner forums to educate landowners who have been approached by wind developers to sign land leases for proposed wind developments. These landowners have many questions and have been coming to extension offices, co-ops and local farm bureau looking for answers. In order to respond to these questions in an organized and informed way, locally-based forums were developed featuring wind experts familiar with the Illinois experience. The forums are held once a month, in locations that have expressed a need for this type of event, and attendance has ranged from 25 to 150. In the last year, forums were held in Chicago, Lemont, Freeport, Monmouth, Champaign, Pontiac, Onarga, Jacksonville, and Manito.

### **Siting, Zoning & Taxing of Wind Farms Conference**

On February 24, 2010, IWWG presented the third Siting, Zoning and Taxing Conference for 250 registrants, including representatives from 32 counties across the state of Illinois. This full day conference features speaker panels to discuss “Responsibilities and Best Practices of County and Zoning Boards Regarding Wind Developments”, “Taxation of Wind Farms”, “Roads and Decommissioning”, and “Property Value Guarantees”. The conference is designed for county board members, zoning officials, assessment supervisors, city managers, members of the wind energy industry.

### **Advancing Wind Power in Illinois**

The fourth annual conference will be held July 21-22 at the Peoria Civic Center. Over 440 people attended the event last year. The two-day conference will include plenary speakers, breakout seminars, and speaker panels. Topics will include many aspects of wind energy including large wind, community wind, and small wind. Sessions will cover “how to’s”, policy recommendations, case studies, and more. The conference brings to Illinois nationally recognized experts and local policymakers to discuss the means to encourage the growth of wind energy.

### **Wind for Schools**

The IWWG is working with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University to create a Wind for Schools program in Illinois.

## **STATE OF THE WIND INDUSTRY IN ILLINOIS**

Illinois already has more than 1560 megawatts (MW) of wind energy capacity, with 646 MW installed in 2009 alone. Interest in wind energy continues to grow across the state.

## **CENTER FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY**

IWWG is administered through the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University. The Center was approved by the Illinois State University Board of Trustees in November of 2007, and by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in August of 2008. The Center has three major functional areas: supporting the renewable energy major at Illinois State University; serving the Illinois renewable energy community by providing information to the public; and encouraging applied research on renewable energy at Illinois State University and through collaborations with other universities.

### **Research**

Recent research projects regarding the wind industry include:

- **Economic Impact of Wind Turbine Supply Chain** - Loomis/Carlson
- **Wind Energy Public Attitude Research** - Winter/Theron
- **Impact of Wind Farms on Property Values** - Loomis/Hinman
- **An Assessment of the Renewable Energy Markets in Illinois** - Loomis/Ohler
- **Optimal Wind Energy Portfolios in Illinois** - Chupp