

Date: May 29, 2010; Section: Local and Region; Page: A6

How would community wind work?

One company takes a look

By DAILY RECORD STAFF

Cascade Community Wind Co., based in Bellingham, has proposed to a number of Kittitas County landowners a business plan for using the power from future community wind energy system (CWES) projects on their property.

The business plan is dependent on Kittitas County government having land-use rules and a permit system that allows the use of industrial-sized turbines and towers in limited numbers at rural sites.

Terry Meyer, the principal in the company, outlined a plan that the company will follow with local landowners:

Harvest the wind

! It starts when a landowner comes to Cascade Community Wind Co. (CCWC) with an interest in generating wind on his/her land.

! CCWC evaluates the site for wind, access to the power grid and potential environmental or neighbor issues.

! If it looks good and CCWC is going to pay for the development of the turbine, it will obtain a lease from the landowner to have the right to develop the turbine. If the landowner covers the development costs, no lease is necessary.

Come together

! CCWC forms a limited liability company for each project with ownership shared by the landowner, investors and others who help make the project happen (If the landowner is providing the investment he/ she may be the only owner of the LLC).

! CCWC applies for interconnection with the local utility and grants. It registers with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communication Commission and the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System.

! Local government landuse and other permits are applied for.

! CCWC also performs wind studies, performs environmental and cultural reviews, does neighbor outreach, soils testing and engineering.

Local power

! CCWC may gather subscribers from the community who pay an up-front fee to get a portion of the turbine output for the 20-year life of the project (saving money in the long run while being powered by a local turbine).

! Once the turbine is up and paid for, running well and subscribers begin receiving payments against their power bill, then CCWC gets paid by the Turbine LLC.

! CCWC typically stays on as manager of the LLC and receives part of the profits (CCWC's main profit is from profitability of the project which ensures it does a good job).

! At the end of the 20-year project life, CCWC has the responsibility to decommission or re-power the project.



Terry Meyer