

Small Scale Wind Energy: Next Steps

Evaluate your Site:

An interactive web site that can help you evaluate potential sites for wind energy, including wind speeds, land use, and aerial photos is <http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/wind/>

Costs and Paybacks:

Installed costs (before financial incentives) can range from \$4,000 - \$8,000 per kW depending on several factors such as the site and permitting requirements. A contractor will be able to give you specific information on costs and paybacks on a small-scale wind system that suits your needs.

Rebates, Grants and Tax Incentives:

A good website for financial incentives is <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

To learn about state incentives, click on *Massachusetts*.

To learn about federal incentives, click on *Federal*.

Contractors and Consultants:

For information on consultants and installers, visit the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's Sustainable Yellow Pages: <http://www.nesea.org/syp/>

Zoning and Permits:

Check with your Town or City Hall to see if there are zoning or permitting regulations or restrictions in your community that pertain to wind turbines or tower construction. Plan on needing a tower somewhere between 80 and 120 feet tall. If your turbine is connected to the grid you will also need to work with your utility company to apply for an interconnection agreement. Your contractor will be able to help you with this step. You can see a model amendment to a zoning ordinance or by-law for a small wind energy system here:

<http://www.mass.gov/Eoca/docs/doer/renew/model-allow-wind-small.pdf>

Specific Turbines:

The American Wind Energy Association website has a good section on wind turbine manufacturers:

<http://www.awea.org/smallwind/smsyslst.html>

Additional information about small-scale wind:

Fact sheets and information are available from the UMass Renewable Energy Research Lab:

<http://www.ceere.org/rerl/>

Small Wind Electric Systems: A Massachusetts Consumer's Guide.

<http://www.mass.gov/doer/programs/renew/sm-wind.pdf>

General information about small scale wind power.

<http://www.awea.org/smallwind/smsyslst.html>



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