



RESIDENTIAL WIND TURBINES



Are You Planning to Install a Residential Wind Turbine?

(as defined by the Ontario Building Code)

A **Residential Wind Turbine** is a wind power generator serving a private residence. It is not connected to the public power grid.

Do I need a Building Permit?

- A Building Permit is required for a residential wind turbine and its supporting structure only if it has a rated output of more than 3 kilowatts (Ontario Building Code Division B, 1.3.1.1.(g)).

Where can I get information regarding the Ontario Building Code requirements?

- Homeowners and builders are welcome to call the Building Department and talk to a Building Inspector. Simcoe @ 519-426-4377 or Langton @ 519-875-4485.

Will I need to hire an engineer?

- According to the Ontario Building Code, the supporting structure must be reviewed by a person who is competent in the field of structural design. This can be either a Structural Engineer or a designer who has a BCIN (Building Code Identification Number) for Structural Design.

Are there setback regulations from property lines for Residential Wind Turbines?

- YES, any wind turbine, regardless of size, ownership, or permit requirements, must meet the required property line setbacks for the zone in which it is contained (contact the building department to determine property zoning).
- If you are not serviced by a municipal sewer, the following minimum setbacks apply:
Minimum clearance for treatment units (septic tanks) is 1.5 meter from any structure.
Minimum clearance for distribution piping (tile bed) is 5.0 meters from any structure.

Are there height restrictions for Residential Wind Turbines?

- No. Under local municipal by-laws, power structures are exempt from the requirements for height restrictions (1DE-80 clause 6.23.(c), 1NO-85 clause 6.22.(c), NW 1-2000 clause 3.10.(e), NO. 1-1999 clause 3.10.(e))
- In addition to this, under the Green Energy Act, 2009, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, designate goods, services and technologies in order to promote energy conservation. Any designated goods, services and technologies are exempt from the requirements of municipal zoning by-laws.

How far do I have to be from hydro lines?

- There are specific clearances required from both overhead and underground distribution lines. Contact Hydro One Networks to determine required clearances from any lines on or around your property. 1-888-703-9403.

How do I apply for a building permit?

- Complete and submit a building permit application, include 2 copies of your construction drawings and 2 copies of a survey or site plan detailing the location of the residential wind turbine including the setback dimensions from all property lines and the septic system. Include building fee payment at the time of application.

For more information about Residential Wind Turbines,
Please contact the Building Department:

Simcoe - (519) 426-4377 Langton - (519) 875-4485