NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Climate Smart Communities

PE4 Action: Wind Energy Installation

9 Points | 14 Points | 17 Points | 20 Points

A. Why is this action important?

By displacing energy from fossil fuel sources, the use of wind energy reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Small wind systems are suitable for a broad range of locations. They can generate up to 100 kilowatts of electricity via turbines mounted on 30- to 140-foot towers. Such turbines can be used in standalone applications or connected to the public energy grid. As the technology improves, wind power grows more viable, with systems that are quieter, more efficient, and less expensive. When local governments install wind technologies, they increase the demand for renewable energy and set a positive example for residents and businesses in the community.

B. How to implement this action

The first step in this process is to perform a feasibility study to determine if a wind installation is appropriate for the jurisdiction and identified location(s). This feasibility study will consider possible locations, winds, costs, permitting and other restrictions, and other related factors to implementing the system. Such assessments may be part of implementing *PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies*.

If the study concludes that a wind installation is feasible, the local government will want to select a suitable site for the installation. This can be on a new or existing public building or public property. Many local governments elect to install the wind technology in a prominent location, to demonstrate to the public the government's commitment to renewable energy sources. Local governments should check if the incentives available through the NYSERDA Small Wind Turbine Program might apply to their project.

Local governments should select and work with a reputable contractor who can assist in determining the size of the system and how it will interact with the grid, particularly if the installation produces a surplus of electricity for the building or property. Find qualified installers on NYSERDA's list of small wind turbine installers.

Maintenance, operation, public trust requirements and insurance should also be taken into consideration when planning the installation. Local governments are advised to consult their municipal attorneys to ensure that all issues related to this use on public lands, including effects on resources held in the public trust are resolved.

Points for Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action are awarded for installing wind technology at new or existing facilities owned by the local government. As long as the system is currently in use, the installation may have been completed at any time to be eligible for points.

In addition, for each installation, local governments must display signage describing the installation and must announce the installation(s) to help build awareness in the community of the benefits of wind technology. The signage can be a simple, low-cost poster that describes the technology and informs visitors to the facility that it utilizes that technology. At minimum, a press release announcing the installation must be issued as part of the effort to educate the community about the local government's investment in renewable energy.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame, project costs, and resource needs depend on whether the wind technology is implemented in a new or existing facility, and the size or output of the system.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action is applicable to any local government that owns and operates property where a wind installation is feasible. Environmental departments, or departments of facilities or public works would likely implement this action.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Points for this action are tiered based on the nameplate capacity of wind installation(s) at facilities owned by the local government and implemented in a manner consistent with the requirements described above. Nameplate (or peak) capacity is the official power production rating given to the equipment. It is typically measured in a kilowatt (kW) rating.

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Installation(s) totaling 1 to 24.9 kW	9
Installation(s) totaling 25 to 99.9 kW	14
Installation(s) totaling 100 to 199.9 kW	17
Installation(s) totaling 200 kW or more	20

F. What to submit

Submit a brief description of the wind installation(s), including nameplate capacity in kW, location, installation date, specification or purchase documents, and, if available, estimates of energy savings. Provide evidence that a qualified installer was employed. Show that the installation is actively in use at the time of application.

For each installation, also submit one photograph of posted educational signage and a description of activities announcing the installation for public education.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- NYSERDA Small Wind Turbine Program

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.