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NEBRASKA SCHOOLS OFFERED \$5,000 GRANTS FOR WIND TURBINES Nebraska Energy Office Will Provide Partial Funding

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Energy Office is seeking up to four public schools that would like to install 2.5 kilowatt-hour wind turbines next to their school buildings. These grants of \$5,000 provide partial funding of a wind turbine that offers a unique educational experience for students, while offsetting some of the electricity the school uses.

“The Energy Office has already provided grants to six schools,” said Energy Office Director Ginger Willson. “Wind turbines have been installed in small towns and urban areas – from Bancroft -Rosalie to Papillion- LaVista as well as Creighton and Norris. We’re hopeful four more schools want to add a turbine and learn more about wind energy as a renewable resource.”

Interested school staff members can quickly check wind speeds in their area with the Energy Office’s 30 meter wind speed maps at <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind.htm> . The maps are zoomable, allowing viewers to get reliable and local wind speeds quickly. Another resource, the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, is collecting real time wind production data from participating Wind for Schools turbines, including those in Nebraska. The Center maintains a database at http://wind-for-schools.caesenergy.org/windforschoolsweb/CAES_Turbine.html , and the data may be helpful in providing estimates of actual energy production.

December 9 Deadline for Applications

For more information and to sign up for the program, contact Jerry Hudgins, Director of the Nebraska Wind Applications Center, at 402-472-3771; jhudgins2@unl.edu or Michaela Meisner, Nebraska Energy Office, at 402-471-3347; michaela.meisner@nebraska.gov prior to **December 9, 2011**.

These grants are being paid for with U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program/*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* funds received by the Nebraska Energy Office.

The Nebraska Energy Office was created in 1977 to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy. It is an authoritative voice and comprehensive resource center for energy issues in the State of Nebraska. In addition, the energy office plays an important role in fostering new growth in our renewable energy industry and helping Nebraska lead the way in the new clean energy economy. For more information, please visit www.neo.ne.gov.

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