



October 22, 2010

*(This is the twenty-second in a series of updates on zoning in Kenton County. The series is intended to keep city and county elected officials abreast of issues being addressed by NKAPC in the **2020 Sourcebook**, new model zoning provisions for Kenton County's local jurisdictions. We hope you find it timely and thought provoking and encourage you to contact us using the link below if we can provide more information or answer any questions.)*

Wind Energy Systems offer savings if located correctly

Almost everything we do requires ENERGY. It's an integral part of our lives from the moment we wake up in the morning until the time we go to bed, and even while we are asleep. In recent years, increased overhead and environmental costs of traditional fossil fuel burning energy production has translated into higher utility bills, causing many Americans to examine the viability of Wind Energy Systems as a way to decrease the amount of money they spend on energy.

Many recent technological advances in the Wind Energy industry, coupled with federal and state tax incentives, have made smaller residential, commercial, and industrial applications not only physically possible, but also financially rewarding to the owner.

Each day, thousands of turbines are being installed across the country by home and businesses owners looking to cash in on the benefits afforded by Wind Energy Systems. These benefits include the following.

- **Efficiency.** Wind Energy Systems produce 17 to 39 times the amount of power they use to generate energy, compared to 16 times for nuclear energy production, and a mere 11 times for traditional coal / fossil fuel energy production.
- **Renewability.** The earth provides an endless supply of wind for energy production, unlike fossil fuels which require thousands of years to be formed and whose supply is finite.
- **Financial Reward.** Once the upfront installation costs have been repaid, the owner of the system can enjoy years of free energy production with minimal maintenance costs.
- **Eco-Friendliness.** Wind Energy Systems do not release any harmful or toxic byproducts into our air, soil, and waterways. They also do not produce radioactive byproducts whose storage and transfer can be dangerous as well as costly.

When compared to many traditional energy production methods, Wind Energy provides a number of benefits to the individual owner as well as to society. However, like other land uses, it is important that Wind Energy Systems be properly designed and developed so they do not interfere with the health, safety, and welfare of the general public in the surrounding areas.

No jurisdiction in Kenton County has any regulation—zoning or otherwise—pertaining to Wind Energy Systems. The *2020 Sourcebook* fills that vacuum. One of the priorities during the update process was to create provisions for Wind Energy which will:

- promote and encourage responsible use of Wind Energy Systems;
- identify appropriate areas for installation;
- ensure that the systems are compatible and properly integrated into the surrounding areas; and
- protect existing and potential land uses in surrounding areas from possible conflicts.

Continued technological advances and continued mass production of Wind Energy Systems will continue to drive down the price of owning a wind turbine making them an increasingly affordable source of energy for many Americans.

As the popularity of Wind Energy continues to grow and systems become more ubiquitous across the landscape, it's essential to the well-being of our residents to provide standards which ensure that Wind Energy Systems are developed in a competent manner which integrates them into the surrounding community.

To contact a staff member who can answer your questions about the issues covered in this update or on the *2020 Sourcebook* in general, click [here](#).

To view past editions of this update series, visit our [website](#).