

Lancaster County  
Commercial Wind Text Amendment  
March 12, 2015 -- Public Process

The Lincoln/ Lancaster County Planning Department has established a Working Group to help staff revise the current regulations regarding Commercial Wind Energy projects. The Working Group of 12 people will include persons with various viewpoints and interests, including industry representatives, environmental interests along with landowners and residents of various viewpoints about wind turbines. The Working Group will be joined at each meeting by 6 or 7 members from Gage County who are working on the same topic.

The goal of the process is to develop a text amendment that permits commercial wind energy projects provided there is adequate protection of adjacent property owners and residents.

DRAFT List of Discussion Topics

1. Description of typical commercial wind turbine projects and characteristics of good wind energy locations
2. General map of Lancaster County in terms selected characteristics of good locations for wind projects
3. Economic implications for land owners, adjacent property owners and surrounding community
4. Environmental implications of wind turbine projects
5. Shadow flicker and ice throw
6. Noise and health concerns about wind turbines
7. Enforcement and regulations issues
8. Potential text amendment addressing previously discussed topics

Each meeting of the Working Group will have presentations on the one or two topics that are the focus of the meeting. Then Group members will then offer their viewpoints, questions and discuss the various topics. Meetings will be held in the evening every one to two weeks starting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at a location in southern part of the County, such as the Roca Community Center or in Gage County. In order to accommodate various schedules, meetings would begin in early evening and last no more than two hours. The timeline for the Working Group is to meet frequently so that a draft amendment is complete by the beginning of June. The first meeting will be an introduction and organizational meeting allowing time for Working Group members to introduce themselves and express their interest in the topic. It will also include an overview of a commercial wind energy facility by a current operator and current regulations in Lancaster County.

The Planning Department will organize and lead the meetings. Working Group meetings will be open to the public with time allotted at the end of each meeting for comments on the meeting's topic by others attending. Written comments and information will also be welcomed.

Staff from the Lincoln/ Lancaster County Health Department will also be an integral part of the meetings. Presenters from other fields and interests may be invited to attend working sessions. The proposed text amendment will be drafted by the Planning Department based on the input received by the Working Group and comments made by the public. The draft amendment will be reviewed and discussed by the Working Group prior to public hearing before the Planning Commission and County Board tentatively planned for the summer of 2015.