

Saskatchewan communities selected for wind power demonstration project

The communities of Central Butte, Eatonia, Shaunavon and Strasbourg have been selected as locations for a wind power demonstration project. The SaskPower Self-Generated Electricity Demonstration Project for Rinks will explore the potential economic and environmental benefits of using the wind to partially power municipal ice rinks in the province.

“More than 150 communities expressed interest in participating in this demonstration project,” said Rob Norris, Minister Responsible for SaskPower. “We’re pleased that so many communities are interested in going green by working with our government and SaskPower to examine the feasibility of developing future wind power projects in Saskatchewan.”

With the wind power from the Green Options Plan and the Green Options Partners Program, SaskPower is in the process of doubling the province’s wind capacity to more than 400 megawatts. Wind power will soon make up about 8.5 per cent of SaskPower’s total generating capacity, which is among the highest percentages of installed wind capacity in Canada.

Through the SaskPower Self-Generated Electricity Demonstration Project for Rinks, wind turbines will be installed in each of the four locations to determine if self-generating electricity helps reduce the electricity bills associated with operating municipal ice rinks in each of the communities. The data SaskPower obtains will help guide future programming decisions around customer self-generation and energy efficiency, for ice rinks and other commercial operations.

“In Saskatchewan, it’s easy to understand why there is so much interest in wind power,” said Robert Watson, SaskPower President and Chief Executive Officer. “The performance of the turbines at these locations will be monitored and evaluated so that municipalities – and anybody else that may be considering a self-generation project – will have the most accurate information possible before making a decision.”

WorleyParsons – an independent engineering, procurement and construction company managing the project for SaskPower – performed the technical evaluation of all the proposed sites. The wind turbines are expected to be installed and operational at each of the selected sites by late summer. The sites will then be monitored for up to five years.

More information about the demonstration project is available at saskpower.com.