

Great Lakes Wind Collaborative Project:

Best Practices to Accelerate Wind Power In the Great Lakes Region and Beyond

Project Workplan and Timeline

A. Project Objectives

The goal of this project is to impact the market for wind energy by engaging the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative (GLWC), a multi-sector coalition of wind energy stakeholders, proposes to through the development and strategic dissemination of information tools on the best practices that can overcome barriers to and promote the benefits of wind development in the 8-state Great Lakes region and beyond.

Specific project objectives include:

1. identify best practices and policies for wind development in the Great Lakes region;
2. build awareness and knowledge among all Great Lakes wind stakeholders about best practices and policy options for wind development in the Great Lakes region; and
3. build capacity among state policymakers to create policies based on an assessment of the benefits of wind power projects in the Great Lakes region.

In the Great Lakes region, there is a significant need for information that can advance wind development in complex siting scenarios – both onshore and offshore – by informing public understanding and public policy of the real costs, benefits and tradeoffs of wind. The information generated from this project will showcase benefits from wind associated with economic development, energy independence, price stability, and environmental protection (including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions), water savings and improved human health from reductions in air emissions.

B. Workplan (Tasks to Be Performed)

Budget Period 1 (Year One)

Task 1: Refine and publish an analysis of wind policies in the Great Lakes region.

The GLWC will produce and publish a document highlighting the summary and analysis of state policies for wind siting. The document will likely be 4-8 pages in length, with supporting graphics and images and professionally laid out for online and print formats. It will be published on the GLWC web site and available for public download and distribution. A small number of hard copies (fewer than 50) will likely be produced for the GLWC to distribute in person at key meetings or events. This analysis will be a foundational document upon which the investigations and production of best practices and policy options materials will be based (Tasks 2, 3 and 4 below).

Target completion date for initial analysis of wind policies: December 2009

Task 2: Identify best practices and policy options from within the Great Lakes region that can enhance market acceptance of wind in the Great Lakes region and beyond. Engage Wind Powering America's Wind Working Groups (WWG) in the region to identify best practices in those states; where no WWG exists, work with state and provincial members of the GLWC.

Subtask 2a: Determine what is considered a "best" policy or practice. The GLWC will engage its membership along with members of state wind working groups to form a "best practices" workgroup that will provide substantive input and guidance in the development of a suite of criteria that will be used to evaluate policies and practices and rank them in a way that the group can systematically identify which policies and practices are "better" or "best" and merit being profiled and promoted as part of this project. The criteria developed by the workgroup will be "tested" among a broader group of wind stakeholders through a series of phone and/or email interviews, or possibly through a focus group. Examples of such criteria might be:

- Strength/level of environmental protection provided
- Predictability and timeliness of regulatory review and approval process
- Financial viability of implementation, such as costs versus benefits
- Level of engagement with local communities and stakeholders

Importantly, the GLWC will consult with partner organizations, such as the Clean Energy States Alliance and/or the Midwestern Governors Association and state wind working groups that may already have well-developed criteria for best practices and policy options that could be applied to this project. In addition, federal agencies involved in wind siting policy and procedures will be consulted to determine the criteria they use to guide wind projects, (e.g., the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) subcommittee which is currently working on revisions to the USFWS Draft Guidelines for wind energy siting and developing guidance for states).

Target completion date for evaluation criteria: March 2010

Subtask 2b: Compile the suite of prospective best policies and practices that will be evaluated and ultimately selected for publication and promotion. The list of potential policies and practices will be drawn from several areas: the state profiles and analysis already completed by the GLWC and to be produced and published under Task 1; through the course of developing the evaluation criteria under subtask 2a; and through additional consultation with individual GLWC member agencies/organizations, state wind working groups, and other external partners and related organizations (e.g., CESA, AFWA, AWEA, NWCC). The GLWC understands that CESA was awarded funding to address market acceptance of wind energy under this same DOE announcement. The GLWC and CESA have agreed to coordinate and partner to advance policy and siting best practices. Indeed, the director of CESA's Wind Siting Project, Mr. Mark Sinclair, also serves as a co-chair of the GLWC Advisory Committee. This will further ensure that the work being done by CESA and that of the GLWC is well-coordinated and not duplicative. This project will also draw upon the expertise from our Canadian Great Lakes provincial partners in Ontario and Quebec and examine their siting policy options and best practices that might have benefit or transferability to the eight states on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes.

The GLWC best practices group will work with staff to evaluate candidate best practices and policy options using the criteria established in Subtask 2a, and develop a list of recommended best policies and practices. This list will feature innovative approaches that minimize negative impacts and maximize environmental and economic benefits, including job creation. Focus groups will be held with relevant stakeholders to provide necessary peer review and help refine the candidate list of best practices and policies. We envision 2-3 such focus groups, likely with each one focusing on a particular subset of policies and practices such as those related to the environmental review process. A refined list of recommended best practices and policies shall go back to the best practices workgroup for review and

approval. The larger multi-stakeholder GLWC Advisory Committee will be asked for their feedback on the final list of candidate best practices and policies prior to being fully developed. A write-up of interview and focus group results and outcomes will be produced to feed into Task 3.

Target completion date for final list of best practices and policy options: September 2010

Budget Period 2 (Year 2)

Task 3: Develop, publish, and disseminate information on best practices, including case studies of success stories and lessons learned, as well as policy options for wind development and siting in the Great Lakes region through existing GLWC communication networks and creation of a virtual toolbox.

Subtask 3a: Develop informational materials describing the best practices and policy options identified in Task 2. These materials will include a series of fact sheets that feature case studies of success stories and lessons learned associated with complex wind siting scenarios, highlighting the processes and outcomes that contributed to the successes of the policy or practice. The materials will showcase the real costs, benefits and tradeoffs of wind, including benefits from wind associated with economic development, energy independence, price stability, and environmental protection (including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions), water savings and improved human health from reductions in air emissions. The materials will be designed help overcome barriers to market acceptance of wind and accelerate sustainable wind development in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

Examples of the material to be discussed in these factsheets include:

- Case studies of successful state permitting and permit review processes
- Wind planning and siting that is protective of habitat, fisheries and wildlife
- Improvements the wind industry might bring to transportation and vessel traffic
- Addressing aesthetic issues using visually-pleasing planning and siting
- Community and socio-economic benefits (e.g., jobs, local revenue, energy price stability)
- New clean and green form of industrial development
- Environmental protection and water savings offered by transitioning from our dependence on carbon-producing forms of energy
- Enhancements to the regional energy balance through more sustainable wind power coming online
- Improvements to the regional transmission infrastructure as best wind practices and policies become more widely used.

These materials, largely developed from Great Lakes jurisdictions with a more robust wind scenario, will help other jurisdictions in the region benefit from existing knowledge and provide a quick and easy means for learning the pros/cons and costs/benefits of wind energy development based on real projects and policies. Documenting the benefits these projects have brought to local communities and areas within Great Lakes jurisdictions will have cultural and political relevance and be more likely to be successful in enhancing market acceptance of wind energy in the Great Lakes region.

Subtask 3b: Publish materials created in Subtask 3a in the form of a virtual toolbox of best practices and policy options on the Internet. Documents will be formatted for online and hard copy production. Project deliverables will be widely disseminated through multiple channels – including web sites, listservs, video clips, RSS feeds, and GLWC members, as well as federal, state, and local stakeholder agencies.

Target date for completion of publishing and disseminating products created in Task 3a: September 2011

Task 4: In coordination with project partners, and utilizing the Great Lakes Commission’s network of high-level state/provincial agency contacts, conduct a strategic outreach plan to state and local decision-makers by cooperating with in key regional organizations, including: the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC) , the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA), Great Lakes states’ wind working groups, the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI), and Canadian partners and agencies. The outreach will focus on sharing information on best practices and policy options and lessons learned identified through this project by working with key regional organizations/agencies.

First, the GLWC will work with the GLLC to conduct 2-3 briefings for Great Lakes state legislators. A small subgrant to the CSG/GLLC will support their efforts to coordinate the timing and logistics of the briefings to take advantage of regularly-scheduled GLLC or related meetings.

Second, the GLWC will work with the MGA to conduct 1-2 briefings or presentations at relevant MGA events. As with the GLLC, presentations/briefings will be planned in conjunction with the regularly-scheduled meetings to maximize the use of existing forums without creating additional travel/meeting burden on stakeholders. The briefings will give state policy makers a first-hand opportunity to gain knowledge and ask questions on wind best practices and to help them decipher which policy options might work best in their jurisdiction.

Third, the GLWC will coordinate with the Clean Energy States Alliance to engage in shared outreach and information dissemination to states. This will involve sharing relevant findings from this project with CESA members outside of the Great Lakes region, as well as coordinating outreach and information dissemination efforts to states that are both members of CESA and the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative (IL, MN, NY, OH, PA, and WI).

Fourth, the GLWC will coordinate with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) to conduct a presentation at a relevant GLSLCI meeting and/or include materials developed through the project in mailings/emails to GLSLCI membership to inform regional municipalities of the availability of the toolbox and to share information on best practices and policy options and lessons learned identified through this project.

Finally, the GLWC will showcase and disseminate project products to individual state wind working groups in the region and Canadian partners. Commission staff will work with GLWC members who are also on these state wind workings groups to provide presentations and/or webinars to the wind working groups as well as disseminate hardcopy briefings.

Great Lakes jurisdictions have a long-standing tradition of information sharing and cooperative policy development. Sharing success stories and information about what Great Lakes wind projects have brought to local communities and areas within the Great Lakes will have cultural and political relevance and be more likely to be successful in enhancing market acceptance of wind energy in the region.

Target completion date: September 2011

C. Project Timeline

Tasks	Project Quarter							
	Q1 Oct.- Dec. 2009	Q2 Jan.- March 2010	Q3 April- June 2010	Q4 July- Sept. 2010	Q5 Oct.- Dec. 2010	Q6 Jan.- March 2011	Q7 April- June 2011	Q8 July- Sept. 2011
Task 1: Refine and publish an analysis of state wind policies in the Great Lakes region.	X							
Task 2a: Form a “best practices” workgroup that will help develop a suite of criteria to evaluate policies and practices. Test criteria among a broader group of wind stakeholders through a series of phone and/or email interviews, or possibly through a focus group.	X	X						
Task 2b: Compile the suite of prospective policies and practices that will be evaluated and ultimately selected for publication and promotion. Evaluate candidate best practices and policy options using the criteria established in Subtask 2a, and develop a list of recommended best policies and practices.		X	X	X				
Task 3a: Develop informational materials (fact sheets) that contain descriptions of the best practices and policy options identified in Task 2.				X	X	X	X	
Task 3b: Publish and disseminate a virtual toolbox of best practices and policy options on the Internet. Documents will be formatted for online and hard copy production.							X	X
Task 4: In coordination with project partners and utilizing the Great Lakes Commission’s network of high-level state agency contacts (see Qualifications & Resources section for further detail), conduct a strategic outreach plan to Great Lakes state legislators, the Midwestern Governors Association, Great Lakes states’ wind working groups, members of the Clean Energy States Alliance, and members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.							X	X