

# Elton Energy



Capturing Community Energy

# Where I'm Coming From!

- **Currently I operate a mixed farm in the Justice area.**
- **I do not like working in the wind!(who does??)**
- **As the St. Leon project was in the news, I began to think about the concept of wind energy in Elton Municipality (Spring '05).**
- **Our municipality has three large transmission lines running through the area from the Brandon generating station.**
- **So I began to think, we have wind, we have transmission lines, why not pursue a project in our area?**

# Development Process

- **In most instances a developer(prospector) will approach community members or council to see if there is local interest in a wind power project.**
- **If the response from the community is favorable, the developer would start securing land, with contracts.**
- **The first legal step would be to have landowners sign an options contract, which commits your land to a specific developer for a potential project.**
- **Once the land base is secured the developer will install a metering tower(s) (MET) to determine the areas wind regime.**

- **This stage of the process can take anywhere from 6 months to two years.**
- **If there is not enough wind, they will pull out of the area and the project will not proceed.**
- **If there is enough wind they will proceed with the project and begin to pursue long term contracts with land owners who have signed options contracts.**
- **The developer will create a plan for tower locations and other infrastructure. Landowners may have some say in location, however, the developer will most likely choose the site locations.**

# Elton Energy's Approach

- I found out that a developer had already discussed wind power with our Reeve. (Elton Municipality does not have a development board).
- At this time the developer was not considering our area.
- In the fall of '05, I contacted Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association (ManSEA) and posed the question, "How do I develop wind energy in my area?"
- Carl Cunningham and Laurence Lafond from ManSEA responded by supplying information, contacts and a suggestion of submitting an expression of interest to Manitoba Hydro.

# Involving The Community

- **Over the next few months we developed a reply to the expression of interest (EOI).**
- **In February '06, I called our first community meeting to see if there was support for a wind energy project and the EOI.**
- **This meeting lead to the formation of a coop called: “Elton Energy”.**
- **The next few months involved informal community discussion.**
- **In July 06, I met with a potential developer. They expressed an interest in our area and working with our community.**

# Most Commonly Asked Questions

- Am I getting a turbine?
- What do they pay?
- How long do I sign for?
- Why wind energy it only works 40% of the time?
- What does this do to Environment?
- When I sign with a developer what is my commitment?

# Getting Community informed

- **November '06:**
  - I called another community meeting to present the information I had gathered to this point.
  - Also speaking were:
    - Jeff McConnell – Lawyer
    - Rick Halas – Energy and Mines Manitoba
    - Les Routledge – ManSEA
- My question: “How do I develop wind energy in my area?” Was beginning to be answered.

# Getting Organized as a Business

- We have had a couple of coop meetings in February, we were overly enthusiastic but discovered we had to do some organization as a business.
- Establish bylaws.
- Inaugural meeting.
- Establish a board of directors.
- Figure out how to raise money legally (without putting our farms at risk); MAFRI huge help here.
- Hosting a open house March 19, from 5-7:30pm to inform the Elton residents of the proposed project.

# The Future for Elton Energy

- The Manitoba Government has announced they want to develop 1000 mw of power in stages. 50mw has been designated for community projects.
- This places our potential project right on schedule for the next stage in development. BUT have some major hurdles to overcome.
- It is our hope we can build our 10 mw project with a developers 100mw project at the same time creating a saving for both parties.

# What are The Numbers?

- How many dollars does a wind turbine produce per year?
- How much do they cost?
- How many dollars in taxes per turbine?
- How much is our 10 MW project? Paid for in approx 10 years. Then have to figure out how to split profits. There are presently 1700 residents in Elton.

# Getting School Involved

- As this project grows, we are looking at a constructing an Elton Energy website, in order to keep residents and other interested parties informed.
- Last week I sat down with a Teacher from Elton Collegiate. His class will be working on designing a web page for Elton Energy, this will get the youth informed and involved in the project as well.
- Looking at getting them to create business cards and Logo's as well.

# What is a Community Project?

- There are several definitions of community projects. The fact is these projects can be so massive that they impact the whole community. This is why developers are calling wind projects “community projects”
- You have seen our definition of what Elton’s community project will look like, however, maybe you have a different one. The St. Leon project is also known as a community project, but set up in a very different manner.
- There is no right or wrong, just what your community desires to achieve.

# Policy and Wind Energy Projects

- Financing community projects is an issue (what security is used?) government policy is needed
- Clean up after project is done, who? No policy yet.
- What about the environment, birds, airplanes etc.
- Wind rights: who owns the wind?
- We don't want a moratorium on wind projects, so a methodical planned approach by the province is necessary, but no approach is irresponsible.

# Less than 10 mw projects

- Policy is currently being developed for these projects.
- These projects will need a higher than standard hydro rate to be competitive.
- This may open up the potential for landowners to develop their own projects.
- I think that these smaller projects will provide landowners with an opportunity to benefit by investing in their own wind energy projects.
- These projects can be wind power, solar, bio gas capture, bio mass etc. Ontario is way ahead of us. Why?

# Want to develop on your own?

- If community projects are not in your interest, you can build your own wind generation tower for your own farm. This allows you to “net meter”
- You can still do your part in “Green Energy”.
- I recommend checking out the following websites:
  - ManSEA at: <http://www.mansea.org>
  - Windustry at: <http://www.windustry.org>
  - CanWEA at: <http://www.canwea.org>
  - Elton Energy at: [EltonEnergy@Yahoo.com](mailto:EltonEnergy@Yahoo.com)

# Questions?



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