

Problem Statement on Wind Turbines, Rev. 1: 11/4/09

Issue: (Describe the issue being addressed and why/reasons change is needed.)

Current Estes Valley Development Code does not regulate installation of residential wind turbines by individual property owners. It is not immediately obvious whether regulation of these turbines is needed, and if so, what regulations would be appropriate. Community opinion is divided, with some residents supporting installation, and others concerned about the impact of these turbines on views, noise, and wildlife.

Purpose: (State problem to be solved in 2-3 sentences.)

Identify the needs and issues associated with potential regulation of residential wind turbines. Recommend appropriate code language, if necessary, to the Town Board and County Commissioners.

Scope: (Explain: 1. What is and is not to be considered. 2. Any other constraints or boundaries within which the work is to be kept. 3. Desired timing. 4. Suggested priority for this change.)

1. Collect community input on potential benefits and problems associated with residential turbines (includes on-line survey and two public hearings in November).
2. Assess the current state of residential wind turbine technology and economics.
3. Summarize key findings.
4. Recommend any action needed to regulate these turbines, and reasons why.
5. Provide recommendations to the Town Board before expiration of the current wind turbine moratorium.
6. If the Town Board concurs with these recommendations, work with Staff to develop specific code language (if required) for presentation to the Town Board in December 2009.
7. If meaningful recommendations cannot be developed before the moratorium expires, request an extension of the moratorium.

Desired Outcomes: (Describe the benefits to be gained by solving this problem.)

- Clear understanding of the community's views on this issue.
- Understanding of the current state of wind turbine technology and economics, in order to provide a sound basis for recommendations.
- A recommendation on whether these turbines should be regulated, and why or why not.
- A list of any specific recommendations for regulations, the reasons for these regulations, and benefits to the community for having them.
- A list of any potential adverse consequences of these regulations, and how they can be avoided or mitigated.
- Public awareness of any proposed regulations, reasoning, and benefits.