



Hometown WindPower: The Name Says it All

Bringing wind energy directly to MMPA member cities is the idea behind MMPA's Hometown WindPower initiative.

"By locating small wind turbines right in MMPA member cities, we're bringing wind energy directly to the point of power use – which is incredibly efficient," said Dave Boyles, the project manager of Hometown WindPower for MMPA and Avant Energy.

Boyles said the wind program is both practical and symbolic of the future of generating electricity. "We can create up to about 160 KW of power in each city with these community-sized turbines, enough to power about 200 homes, and at the same time show our communities that MMPA and its members are committed to clean, green, renewable energy," Boyles said.

Boyles outlined a series of relevant facts about Hometown WindPower:

- The footprint for a turbine tower is between a quarter and a half of an acre.
- Each turbine will be roughly 115 feet tall – the size of many water towers.
- The cost of each turbine, about \$300,000, will be financed through Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) issued by MMPA.
- Each city in the program will work with Avant to determine the best location for each turbine.
- After regulatory approval, construction could begin as early as 2009.

- Because the turbines operate cleanly and quietly, good community support is anticipated.
- A goal for MMPA is that each turbine can be used as an educational tool for area schools.

"Hometown WindPower will help MMPA meet its renewable energy requirements under state law, while producing energy that will serve the people who own their municipal utility. It's a win-win opportunity," Boyles said. Dave can be reached at Dave.Boyles@avantenergy.com.

Look for more information about MMPA and wind power in future issues.



An example of a 160 KW wind turbine

2008 Annual Meeting Sets Tone for the Future

It's good to celebrate accomplishments, but it's more important to stay focused on the future. That could be considered the theme of the 2008 MMPA annual meeting held this summer in Anoka.

There was plenty for the Agency to celebrate. After all, the Faribault Energy Park had its grand opening in the year since the previous annual meeting. That event was a milestone event in achieving MMPA's mission of providing competitively priced, reliable and sustainable energy to its member municipalities. The opening of a clean-burning, highly efficient natural gas power generation facility was a leap forward for MMPA members.

As for keeping an eye on the future, Derick Dahlen, executive manager of MMPA and president of Avant Energy, provided context. Dahlen predicted a year of uncertainty for many factors related to MMPA's operations, including unstable financial markets, increasing construction costs, volatile fuel prices and challenges to new transmission lines in the region.

Dahlen communicated to elected officials and others from member communities that a steady hand on the tiller is needed in these turbulent times. He noted that MMPA managers will maintain a prudent path of two forms of risk management -- contracting for power from outside sources such as Manitoba Hydro and Rochester Public Utilities' Silver Lake Plant; and limited fuel cost hedging.

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Steve Wilker Begins Transition, Aims Toward Retirement



Steve Wilker, Chaska Assistant Electrical Director

Steve Wilker of Chaska, a constant contributor during the entire 16-year history of MMPA, has stepped down from the board of directors as part of his retirement transition plan. Steve has begun transition of his Chaska utilities duties to Dan Geiger, who succeeds him as Electrical Director.

Steve will serve in a scaled-back role as Assistant Electrical Director as he moves toward retirement in the next 24 to 48 months. His career as Electrical Director has been distinguished. According to former Chaska City Administrator Dave Pokorney, "During Steve's tenure, the electric utility business increased from a \$6 million per year business to \$25 million per year."

Pokorney credits Steve for his leadership on what is now called the Minnesota River Station, a joint business venture between the city of Chaska and MMPA that was the city's first power generation project.

Despite being a nervous flier, Steve was part of the delegation that traveled to Sweden to purchase a \$30 million gas turbine. (And team member Derick Dahlen says he made the trip overseas without visible panic.)

Commenting on the Sweden purchasing trip, Steve said, "We came away knowing we bought the right machine at the right time."

At his final meeting as a director, the board thanked Steve for his outstanding contributions as a founder and board member.

"Everybody in this business knows Steve Wilker, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude," said Pokorney.

Congressman John Kline Visits Faribault Energy Park



Chamber Member Todd Markman, Avant Energy President Derick Dahlen, Congressman John Kline, and Faribault Chamber of Commerce President Kymn Anderson pause for a photo before concluding their meeting.

MMPA's Faribault Energy Park hosted a visit from Congressman John Kline on July 21, 2008. The meeting consisted of a public forum followed by a tour of the facilities. Congressman Kline's stop in Faribault was the latest in a series of visits of energy production facilities around the 2nd District.

During his visit Congressman John Kline answered questions from the Faribault Chamber of Commerce and FEP employees at a public round-table discussion hosted by Faribault Energy Park. After the forum, Congressman Kline toured the Faribault energy plant. Avant

Energy manager Derick Dahlen, who oversees the Faribault Energy Park operations, gave Congressman John Kline the latest updates on the plant's combined use of natural gas and steam to generate electricity.

This summer, Congressman Kline has been visiting numerous energy production facilities in Minnesota's 2nd District which include a wind turbine, a nuclear plant, a hydropower plant, an oil refinery, and an energy-from-waste facility. His tour is in support of increased production on all fronts to help move America toward becoming more energy independent.



Congressman Kline points to a piece of equipment, as Derick Dahlen leads him on a tour of the plant.

2008 Annual Meeting

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Dahlen recently said, “In November of 2008, as I look back at the past few months of wildly fluctuating prices, where the price of a barrel of oil has bounced from \$150 to \$50 and everywhere in between, I’m glad we are taking a steady, conservative course with MMPA. We will continue to manage energy price and supply to protect MMPA members and their customers. In the meantime, we will also continue to develop MMPA owned and operated generating capacity – including renewable power projects – to protect our customers from the roller-coaster prices of fossil fuels as well as protect the environment.”

Who Are We?

Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) is committed to providing our 11 Minnesota member communities with competitively priced, reliable and sustainable energy. The Agency is owned by our member cities and governed by a Board of Directors with representatives from each community. MMPA is an innovator, pursuing forward-thinking solutions in the areas of power generation, energy conservation and renewable energy.

Our Communities:

Anoka
Arlington
Brownton
Buffalo
Chaska
East Grand Forks
Le Sueur
North St. Paul
Olivia
Shakopee
Winthrop

“The Power of Your Hometown” — A New Public Profile for MMPA



The new faces on the MMPA.org homepage that users will see when they visit the website

“We want people to understand us.” That has long been a request from within MMPA.

With a new logo and Website, that understanding is being created one click at a time. The Website launched in August (at www.mmpa.org, a new, simplified address) and exemplifies the face of the organization. The agency’s services, values and achievements are communicated clearly with a sharp, modern design.

“The Power of Your Hometown” was chosen as an umbrella theme for the Website to convey that all the 11 MMPA member communities are connected and need each other to build a reliable, stable and reasonably-priced power supply system. In addition, each member community utility is featured on the site and each utility’s service offerings are listed.

The “We Save” energy conservation program is also featured on the Website. The “We Save” section will serve as a resource to customers to help them access and understand conservation rebate programs or audits, and to find tips about ways to save on energy costs.

An electronic copy of MMPA’s first Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), filed in August, can also be found on the website. The IRP describes the Agency’s long term planning approach during a time of unprecedented uncertainty in the electric utility industry. Unique to the IRP is MMPA’s approach to maintain flexibility by developing a large number of resource prospects. The resource plan also highlights the Agency commitment to sustainable energy projects.

Be sure to visit www.mmpa.org to check out this new resource.