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## *Wind Powered Education in Southwest Wisconsin*

In October 2011, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville began operating a 20 kW wind turbine outside of the campus's Southwest Hall. The installation is part of the university-wide energy conservation initiative that began in 2010. Planning for the turbine began in 2009 when H&H Solar Energy Services of Madison conducted a site assessment to determine the most optimal locations for wind energy generation on campus. The university funded the project with the help of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, which facilitated a performance contract with McKinstry, a company specializing in renewable energy options for buildings. The turbine was manufactured and installed by Renewegy, an Oshkosh company specializing in designing, manufacturing, and installing small wind turbines. Nearly two dozen Renewegy turbines are clustered in the Fox Valley between Oshkosh and Kaukauna and recently, the company has installed projects in other Midwest states, including Michigan and South Dakota.

The turbine is expected to produce about 14,000 kWh per year, which will supply a portion of Southwest Hall's electrical needs. The wind turbine will save the university approximately \$1,000 a year in energy costs, but the true value of the project is derived from its educational capabilities. As explained by Peter Davis, Director of Facilities Management; "In addition to reducing the university's reliance on fossil fuels, the wind turbine will provide on-campus learning opportunities for students." UW-Platteville is one of a handful of state colleges that currently offer a renewable energy curriculum. Observing the turbine's performance will provide students enrolled in the program with a hands-on educational resource.



### Wind Turbine Specifications

- Turbine Model: Renewegy VP-20
- Capacity: 20 kW
- Hub height: 98 feet
- Average output: 14,000 kWh/yr
- Utility: Alliant Energy
- Year of installation: 2011
- Installers: Renewegy
- Incentives: Focus on Energy

### Other Renewegy Turbines in Wisconsin (in kW)

- Menasha Packaging 100
- Corrim Company 100
- SCA Tissue North America 80
- J.J. Keller & Associates 60
- Kaukauna High School 40
- Little Chute High School 20
- Bergstrom Automotive 20
- WAGO Corporation 20
- Orion Energy Systems, Inc. 20
- Renewegy Headquarters 20
- Maple Lane Nursing Center 20

<http://renewegy.com/installmap/>

### Further Information:

#### UW-Platteville

Daily Pioneer – Online News

“UW erects new wind turbine outside Southwest Hall”

<http://www2.uwplatt.edu/news/2011/11/08/uw-platteville-erects-new-wind-turbine-outside-southwest-hall/>

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The turbine also attracts the attention of current and prospective Platteville students. For now, it stands as a symbol of the university’s growing interest in clean forms of energy, but it might not hold that status much longer, as plans for larger projects gain momentum. For instance, construction is scheduled to begin next year on an anaerobic digester at the university’s Pioneer Farm. The biogas produced by the breakdown of dairy cow manure and other organic feedstocks would be burned to generate electricity. There is also a meteorological tower at the farm collecting wind data to determine the viability of a large wind system there. At a decent site in Wisconsin, a typical commercial-scale wind turbine can produce 3-5 million kWh/year, several orders of magnitude more energy than the recently installed turbine. But when all is said and done, it will have been the 20 kW Renewegy turbine that provided the symbolic first step in UW-Platteville’s journey towards a sustainable future.

