

East Central Colorado RC & D, Inc.



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Four Schools Benefit from 'Wind for Schools' Program

'Wind for Schools' Program- A collaborative partnership providing funds for purchase and installation of a 1.8 kw demonstration sized wind turbine at school districts in Colorado for study by high school science students. Curriculum training is included for science teachers to expand educational opportunities in the classroom for renewable energy alternatives.

December 2008 schools interested in learning about the Wind for Schools program were visited by representatives of the Colorado Governors Energy Office (GEO), Colorado State University, and Wind for Schools facilitators to view potential sites for eligibility.

In **February 2009**, schools willing to commit \$5,000 matching funds are encouraged to apply for the program through the GEO. Due to uncertainty in school funding, schools were reluctant to commit \$5,000 for an 'extra' activity. Applications were submitted based upon fundraising assistance goal to offset school districts expenses. Estimated total project cost is \$15,000 per school.

East Central Colorado RC & D offered to coordinate one grant application that would incorporate the minimum funding needs of all four schools in the East Central region requesting \$4,000 per school; 80% of each school districts minimum match. In **March 2009**, grant submitted to a local foundation.

April 2009, four of the six Colorado schools accepted in 'Wind for Schools' program are in East Central Colorado region. Four successful applications are due in part to regional efficiency for delivery of turbine equipment, installation proximity of four sites, ease of collaboration with one local electric utility, and consolidation of curriculum training location for neighboring educators.

By August 2009, various funds are received by schools. Site preparation initiated. Site permit applications made and curriculum training delivered.

December 2009, four turbine installations; hands on experience gained by CSU college students. Programming and electricity generation successful.



Partnerships -

National Renewable Energy Lab – U.S .
Department of Energy

State of Colorado—
Governors Energy Office

Colorado State University-Engineering

Cooper Clark Foundation

Burlington, Flagler, Kit Carson, Stratton School Districts

City of Burlington

K.C. Electric Association

Crystal Springs Foundation

East Central Colorado RC & D

Local community businesses and Individual contributions of labor and materials.