

*CASE STUDY:****Pope County Windpower's 35kW Wind Turbine***

By: Melody Sakazaki, The Minnesota Project



In August 2003 Pope County Windpower received a USDA grant from the Renewable Energy/ Energy Efficient Program to install a 35 kW wind turbine. On October 25, 2003 Earl Hauge, a member of Pope County Windpower, flipped the switch to the turbine located on his farm, land set aside for the Conservation Reserve Program CRP, in southeastern Pope County.



After two decades of being a devoted fan of renewable energy Hauge, a farmer and former state legislator, decided to collaborate with Carl Nelson, a fellow Glenwood native, to investigate the possibility of installing a wind turbine.

Hauge plans to use the power for his nearby farm operation in the spring and fall and the rest of the year sell the energy to Agralite Electric Cooperative, the area power supplier. The energy the turbine generates offsets the burning of 35 tons of coal a year.

The cost of the wind project was \$65,000. A quarter of the cost was covered by the USDA grant. Hauge speculates that the system will be paid for within 10 years.

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The 80 ft tower, when spinning, generates 39 kilowatts per hour, which is enough to supply all the electrical needs to seven homes.

CERTs Partners: Minnesota Department of Commerce, The Minnesota Project, University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, The Rural Minnesota Energy Board, Metropolitan counties Energy Task Force, Resource Conservation and Development Council