

# Wind Wisdom Patch Program



## For Teen Girl Scouts



Northeast Sustainable Energy Association  
[www.nesea.org](http://www.nesea.org)



# Wind Wisdom Patch Program

## For Teen Girl Scouts



Northeast Sustainable Energy Association  
[www.nesea.org](http://www.nesea.org)



## **WIND WISDOM PATCH PROGRAM**

©Copyright 2007 Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)  
All rights reserved.

Project Director and Editor: Chris Mason, NESEA Education Director  
Written by: Susan Reyes, NESEA Education Consultant

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association developed this unit based on a two-weekend Wind Wisdom program developed for Massachusetts Teen Girl Scouts in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts and with guidance from an advisory board of the following Girl Scout and community energy leaders:

Elizabeth Brooke-Willbanks	Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts
Emily Bedaw	Girl Scouts of Pioneer Valley
Sara E.Campbell, PE	Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts
Dale Carnegie	Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts
Walt Congdon	TRISTATE SOLAR
Wendy Garf-Lipp	Girl Scout Council Southeastern Massachusetts
Barbara Malinoski	Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts
Ruth Morse	Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts
Melissa Ray	Renewable Energy Research Laboratory, UMASS
Sally Wright	Renewable Energy Research Laboratory, UMASS

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

NESEA would like to thank the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust for their generosity in supporting the development of this program. We appreciate the contributions of members of the original advisory board who brought their expertise from the fields of education, science, engineering, Girl Scouts and administration. Special thanks goes to all the Teen Girl Scouts and their adult mentors who participated in the pilot program and offered us feedback and encouragement.

Funded by:



Northeast Sustainable Energy Association  
50 Miles St.  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
[www.nesea.org](http://www.nesea.org)  
P. 413 774-6051  
F. 413 774-6053

### **NORTHEAST SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION:**

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) is the nation's leading regional membership organization focused on promoting the understanding, development, and adoption of energy conservation and non-polluting, renewable energy technologies. NESEA has worked successfully for more than a quarter century in the fields of transportation, building construction, and renewable energy.

NESEA grants permission to copy these materials for non-profit educational purposes as long as NESEA is acknowledged as the source. Photos, news clippings and/or descriptions of projects, presentations or displays resulting from use of these materials are greatly appreciated.

## **WIND WISDOM PATCH PROGRAM**

**To earn your Wind Wisdom patch, complete FOUR of the following eight activities.** Choose any four of the eight activities offered. Read the activity requirements carefully as there are also options among activities within each one. Document your work on the Wind Wisdom Patch Requirements Worksheet and Patch Order Form on page 25.

In this manual, you will find many suggestions, resources, and tips for each activity to help you fulfill the requirements for the patch.

<b><u>Introduction to Wind Wisdom</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><u>Activity 1: Why wind?</u></b> .....	<b>2</b>
Analyze costs, benefits, and alternatives to wind energy and take a look at your own energy use.	
<b><u>Activity 2: How can wind generate electricity?</u></b> .....	<b>4</b>
Experiment with magnets, wire and motion to generate your own electricity. Learn about Michael Faraday and electromagnetic induction.	
<b><u>Activity 3: What makes a good site for a wind turbine?</u></b> .....	<b>9</b>
Fly a kite, read wind maps, and decipher animal tracks and signs.	
<b><u>Activity 4: What is a wind turbine like up close?</u></b> .....	<b>12</b>
Take a field trip or watch a video and interview an expert.	
<b><u>Activity 5: What does the turbine look or sound like from a distance?</u></b> .....	<b>15</b>
Set up a scale model activity or observe a real turbine.	
<b><u>Activity 6: What makes a great wind turbine design?</u></b> .....	<b>18</b>
Build a model wind turbine and design experiments to improve its performance.	
<b><u>Activity 7: How can I spread the word about wind energy?</u></b> .....	<b>21</b>
Plant seeds of wind wisdom in your community with a project designed to educate.	
<b><u>Activity 8: What are some wind energy career options?</u></b> .....	<b>22</b>
Find out about different careers in the wind energy field.	
<b>Requirements Worksheet and Patch Order Form</b> .....	<b>25</b>

## **Introduction to Wind Wisdom**

Wind Wisdom means being knowledgeable about wind power as a renewable energy source and sharing that knowledge with others.

Teen Girl Scouts earning the Wind Wisdom patch go to the leading edge of technology as they learn about clean, renewable wind energy. The program is designed so that you can tailor the experience to your own desired interests and complete the program with a personalized, appropriate level of challenge.

Among the opportunities offered through this program, you can:

- Learn how we convert wind energy into electrical energy through the technology of wind turbines.
- Explore the costs and benefits of using wind energy, including how it can help reduce global warming and pollution levels when used to offset the use of fossil fuels.
- Develop ideas for wind energy school projects, displays, and presentations.

Each activity includes specific suggestions, tips and resources to help complete the required tasks.

By earning and wearing the Wind Wisdom patch, you can take the lead in initiating conversations about environmental issues and the potential role of wind power in putting the brakes on global warming and other environmental damage caused by conventional energy sources.

## **Activity 1: Why wind?**

**Analyze costs, benefits, and alternatives to wind energy and take a look at your own energy use.**

**Complete TWO from the following four choices, A, B, C, and D:**

**A. Make a poster of wind energy in the news to discuss with your troop.**

Spend a couple of weeks looking through newspapers, magazines, web sites, radio, television, and other news sources for mention of wind energy. Clip, record, or print a few and be prepared to share your findings. To get discussion started, here are a few suggested questions to apply to articles you find:

- What caught your attention in this article?
- How reliable is the source, and what makes you think so?
- Does the author or publisher have something to gain from this view?
- What might the opposite point of view be and why?
- What additional information is needed, and what new questions are raised?
- If not wind, then what are the alternatives, current and future?

**B. Take a closer look at the damage to our health and the environment from burning fossil fuels for energy.**

Find at least two good web sites, articles or books about one or more of these topics:

- global warming/climate change
- acid precipitation and acidification of waterways
- reduced visibility
- mercury pollution
- arsenic waste from coal ash
- destruction of forests through strip mining
- ozone pollution
- asthma and lung cancer

Share what you learned with someone else in a thoughtful, creative manner.

**C. Write a letter to the editor or opinion piece.**

Use your letter or opinion piece to evaluate at least one of the four main concerns people express about wind power—noise, visual impact, danger to birds or bats, or falling parts. Cite at least one reliable source for supporting information.

**D. Consider your own energy consumption.**

Look at your own energy consumption and contribution to global warming by completing one or more of the following carbon calculators and make a commitment to at least three changes you will make to reduce your energy consumption.

- [www.carbonfootprint.com/USA/calculator.html](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/USA/calculator.html). Simple calculator using your electricity bills and travel mileage.
- [www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator/](http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator/) This site includes an explanation of how the results are calculated.
- [www.resurgence.org/carboncalculator/index.htm](http://www.resurgence.org/carboncalculator/index.htm) For optimal detail, accuracy and a challenge, try out this United Kingdom version.

## Activity 2: How can wind generate electricity?

**Experiment with magnets, wire, and motion to generate your own electricity and learn how a wind turbine works.**

In 1831, Michael Faraday, an English chemist and physicist, discovered that moving coils of wire and magnets past one another would generate an electric current in the wire. This ability to generate electricity from coils of wire and magnets is the basis for most modern electric power generation. In modern power generators, coils of wire and a set of blades are connected to a common shaft. The wire coils, which are placed inside a ring of magnets, are spun when the blades are turned with an external power source.

Most modern power plants burn fossil fuels or use the heat of a nuclear reaction to boil water into high-pressure steam, which is then forced against a set of turbine blades. This action spins the blades, which spins the coils of wire inside the ring of magnets to generate electricity. Instead of steam, wind or moving water can also be forced against turbine blades to generate electricity.

**Complete TWO from the following three choices A, B and C:**

**A. Learn about Michael Faraday's discovery of magnetic fields and magnetic induction, and see how it applies to a modern wind turbine.**

Make a diagram on poster paper showing how a wind turbine generates electricity. Label all the key components of the system. If possible, observe the parts you can see in either a full-size or model working machine and be able to relate them to your diagram.

There are many web sites available that can help with your understanding of Michael Faraday's work, how electricity works, and how it is generated with a wind turbine. A few are offered at the end of this section to get you started.

**B. Generate your own electricity with coils of wire and a magnet.**

**1. Gather the following parts:**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Find it at a place that sells:</b>
Strong bar magnet, about 5 cm long	electronics, hardware, toys, hobbies or science equipment
10-20 ft. of thin insulated wire	electronics or hardware equipment
Multimeter	electronics or hardware equipment
Electrical or masking tape	hardware, electronics, general goods
Wire strippers	electronics or hardware equipment
Pencil or bamboo skewer	general goods

## 2. Take the electricity challenge:

Try to generate electricity by coiling some wire in a loop shape through which you can move the magnet. To see if you can do it, attach the two loose ends of wire to the multimeter and see if you can get a voltage reading by moving the magnet through the coils of wire you made. (See page x for instructions on how to use a multimeter).

Draw a diagram of what you did when you achieve success.

**Hints:** Be sure you have lots of loops in the coil. Hold the loops together with tape. Try affixing the magnet to the stick and then use the stick to spin the magnet inside the coil. Try moving the magnet faster inside the coil.

For more advanced students, or those wishing an extension for activity B., read through "Science Fair Wind Generators" for a wealth of information on projects, materials, tips, important links, and how it all works in some depth: [www.otherpower.com/toymill.html#vernuz](http://www.otherpower.com/toymill.html#vernuz)

You can build one of the more complex generators instead of the simple one above.

## C. Put a motor to work with wind.

**Materials:** Besides a multimeter (see choice B.), you'll need the following:

- A hobby motor. A motor converts electricity into rotational motion. In this activity, you will use a motor as a generator, converting rotational motion into electricity.

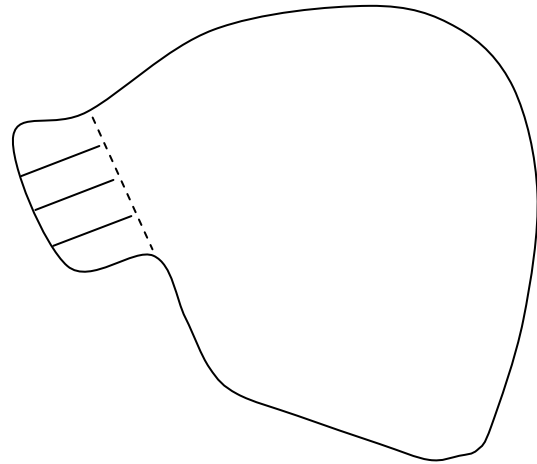
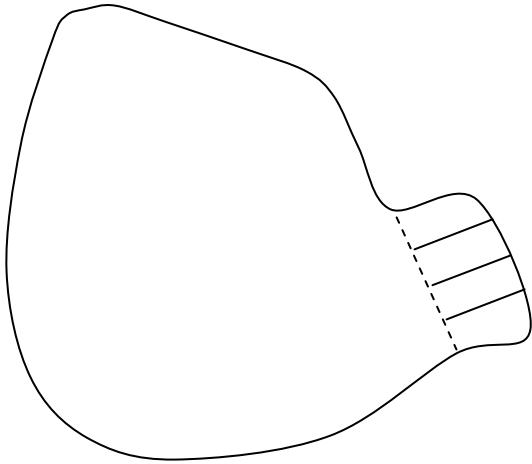
To make a good generator, look for a hobby motor rated a relatively high 5 to 9 volts DC input voltage and a relatively low 1,500 to 2,500 RPMs (rotations per minute) output rotation speed.

- Wide short double propeller blades to catch wind from a fan and make the hobby motor turn. (Or see page X for instructions on how to make your own.)

Put your propeller blades on your motor and attach it with two wire leads to your multimeter, which should be on the lowest range setting available. Blow hard on the propeller. Can you generate electricity? Can you find some friends and see who can generate the most wind power through their breath? Hold a contest and see who is truly the windiest young woman.

**Optional:** Hold your wind turbine in front of a strong fan and see if it can power an incandescent or LED (light emitting diode) flashlight bulb. Note: LED's will only operate with current flowing in one direction. You will need to switch which wire lead each leg of the LED is connected to for a fair test.

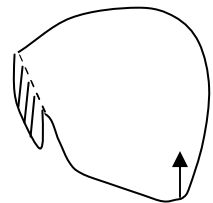
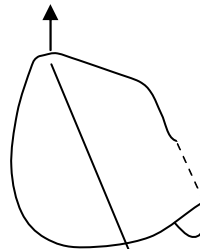
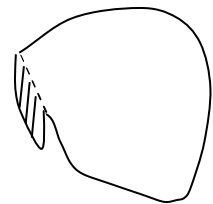
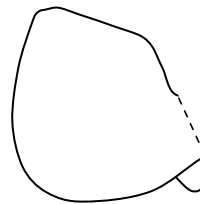
## MINI-WIND TURBINE BLADE CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONS



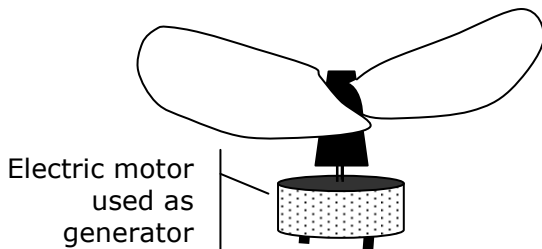
1. Cut out and trace the two turbine blades onto cardboard such as is used to back note pads.
2. Cut out the cardboard turbine blades and cut along the three lines on each tab.
3. Fold the tabs down as shown in the drawing.
4. Hot glue the tabs of the two blades to a rubber stopper. As you do this, tilt each blade about 15 to 20 degrees with the pointed sides tilted up.
5. Reinforce the hot glue by taping the tabs to the rubber stopper with electrical or duct tape.
6. Push the rubber stopper onto the shaft of the motor. You may need to start a hole with a pushpin.

### Materials

- Cardboard
- #1 rubber stopper (from hardware store)
- hot glue
- strong tape



Tilt pointed sides up when hot-gluing to the rubber stopper.



Electric motor used as generator

Wind turbine blades connected to motor

## HOW TO USE A MULTIMETER (MULTITESTER)

A multimeter, also called a multimeter, is an electronic instrument that combines several functions into one hand-held unit. Most commonly, a multimeter can measure voltage, current, and electrical resistance. For the purpose of this patch, we are using the multimeter to see if we can produce measurable DC (direct current) voltage or electric current from small electric generators.

***KEEP SAFE: Do not use your multimeter in a wall outlet.***

Most multimeters come with operating instructions that are more precise than the following, but these will help you get started.

1. Turn the meter on.
2. Turn the dial to measure either DC current or DC volts (often abbreviated DCA or DCV respectively).
3. Attach one pointed probe to one end of the wire coil (or lead from your motor) and the other probe to the other end (or lead). Make sure leads and probes are securely connected.
4. Turn the magnet inside the coil by hand or turn your motor with a wind source and see if the meter detects either voltage or current.
5. If need be, change the multimeter's current or voltage range. Some multimeters will adjust the range automatically. For those that don't, most have settings for microvolts ( $\mu\text{V}$ ), microamps ( $\mu\text{A}$ ), millivolts (mV), milliamps (mA), volts (V), and amps (A).

You can test your multimeter to see it working correctly by connecting its probes to either end of a fresh 1.5-volt battery, turning the dial to the appropriate direct current voltage (DCV) range, and check if you get a reading of around 1.5 volts.

You can also find out how to use a multimeter online. Here are a few sites that can help:

- [www.electronics-radio.com/articles/test-methods/meters/how-to-use-multimeter.php](http://www.electronics-radio.com/articles/test-methods/meters/how-to-use-multimeter.php)
- [www.doctronics.co.uk/meter.htm](http://www.doctronics.co.uk/meter.htm)
- View a podcast at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzjMIcER4EU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzjMIcER4EU)

## RESOURCES:

- 1. Find definitions of energy terms with an on-line glossary:**  
[www.nesea.org/education/ycleanenergy/glossaries.shtml](http://www.nesea.org/education/ycleanenergy/glossaries.shtml)
- 2. Gain a solid introduction to electromagnetism and electrical principles,** and see photos of some real items, including Faraday's models at the Virtual Museum of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) at [www.ieee-virtual-museum.org/exhibit/exhibit.php?id=159249&lid=1](http://www.ieee-virtual-museum.org/exhibit/exhibit.php?id=159249&lid=1)
- 3. A child-friendly introduction to electricity** can be found at the Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration  
[www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/electricity.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/electricity.html)
- 4. Learn about Faraday's discovery of Electromagnetic induction** at this Florida State University and National High Magnetic Field laboratory web site: <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/electromag/java/faraday2/index.html>
- 5. Find out what is inside a wind turbine and how they work:**
  - a. A labeled diagram of a wind turbine with definitions from the United States Department of Energy:**  
[www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind\\_how.html#inside](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind_how.html#inside)
  - b. A clear, accurate, printable and concise fact sheet on wind turbines can be found at the UMASS Renewable Energy Research Laboratory:**  
[www.ceere.org/rerl/about\\_wind/RERL\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_1\\_Wind\\_Technology.pdf](http://www.ceere.org/rerl/about_wind/RERL_Fact_Sheet_1_Wind_Technology.pdf)
  - c. Details about the insides of a wind turbine and how they work geared to kids or adults** can be found at the Danish Wind Energy Association: [www.windpower.org/en/tour/wtrb/electric.htm](http://www.windpower.org/en/tour/wtrb/electric.htm)  
  
There is also a fun and informative animated site which is child-friendly: [www.windpower.org/en/kids/index.htm?d=1](http://www.windpower.org/en/kids/index.htm?d=1)
  - d. A source of wind energy model turbine materials** is available at KidWind [www.kidwind.org/windshopfiles/partsbuildingmats.html](http://www.kidwind.org/windshopfiles/partsbuildingmats.html)  
  
Many items are available, including motors for wind turbines and interesting model turbine kits. Also find tips, explanations and experiments.

### **Activity 3: What makes a good site for wind turbines?**

**Find out by flying a kite, reading wind maps, and deciphering animal tracks and signs.**

**Complete ONE of the following, A or B:**

**A. Create an imaginary wind farm site on an 11" x 17" or larger poster paper.**

**1. Do a little background research to find out about the many factors that need to be in place for a great wind farm site.**

Here are two suggested sites to get started:

- The Union for Concerned Scientists offers information on the important geography, human and environmental considerations: [www.ucsusa.org/clean\\_energy/renewable\\_energy\\_basics/WPNE-Overview.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/renewable_energy_basics/WPNE-Overview.html)
- New York State Energy Research Development Authority offers a colorful and easy to read guide on wind site development. See p.4, "What makes a good wind site?" [www.powernaturally.org/Programs/Wind/WindGuide.pdf](http://www.powernaturally.org/Programs/Wind/WindGuide.pdf)

**2. Apply what you have discovered as you create your own ideal, imaginary site.**

Draw your map complete with icons to represent turbines and label the features of what makes this an optimal site based on your research. Share and discuss the details and thought you put into your site plan with at least one other person.

**These questions raise some of the considerations for a wind turbine site:**

- What qualities would you want in the wind flow at the location?
- What terrain features would be good and bad and why?
- What would make the project more or less costly?
- What existing electrical power infrastructure is present?
- What would the impact be on birds, trees, or plants?
- What would be some of the alternatives to wind energy?
- Who would benefit from the wind farm?
- How close are human dwellings and businesses located?
- What are the impacts on humans (day and night)?
- Who might benefit and who might not?

**Required features to show on map:**

- Basic terrain features, such as hills, ridges, water bodies, and rivers
- Buildings and other man-made structures and alterations
- Power transmission lines and power station
- Six wind turbines
- Short explanations for the non-visible site features

**B. Experiment with the wind.****1. Go fly a kite!**

See what the wind is like down low and up high. A turbine works best where the wind flow is straight, fast, and steady. What can you say about the wind at two sites based on kite flying observations?

***KEEP SAFE: Be sure where you fly a kite is safe from overhead wires and is not too close to an airport.***

**Preparation:** You will need a reasonably good quality kite and some lightweight and highly visible ribbon material, such as the brightly colored plastic ribbon available at hardware stores.

Find at least two interesting and different wind sites to compare (e.g., along a coast, a field surrounded by trees or buildings, or an open hilltop). Plan to go to both sites under the same type weather conditions, perhaps on the same day one after the other. If you have a handheld wind-meter, bring it along to read the surface wind speed and direction in a few different ground locations nearby to compare with what you observe aloft.

If you don't have a wind meter, bring along a Beaufort Scale chart, which provides descriptive observations of wind effects on land or at sea and how to interpret them to estimate wind speed.

[www.zetnet.co.uk/sigs/weather/Met\\_Codes/beaufort.htm](http://www.zetnet.co.uk/sigs/weather/Met_Codes/beaufort.htm)

**Procedure:** Roll out some kite string and tie ribbons on at intervals of about 10 feet. Start with three ribbons and, if you are successful in getting your kite up off the ground, try more. Have a helper hold the kite to help get it aloft.

When the kite is up high, note and record how your ribbons are flying. Are the ribbons straight out and flowing smoothly or rippled? Are they all streaming in the same direction?

Keep track of your observations for both sites. You may want to use a table such as the one shown below to keep track of your observations.

<b>KITE RIBBONS OBSERVATIONS</b>		
	Site 1	Site 2
Ribbon 1 (highest)		
Ribbon 2		
Ribbon 3		
Ribbon 4		
Ribbon 5		

What might your observations say about wind speed and turbulence at the different heights? Were your observations at both sites the same? What terrain features might affect the wind flow?

## **2. Interpret wind resource maps.**

At this AWS Truewind site, you can zoom in to see wind information in your region: [www.awstruewind.com/inner/windmaps/NewEngland.htm](http://www.awstruewind.com/inner/windmaps/NewEngland.htm).

You can find a Cape Cod, Massachusetts map if you visit the Cape and Islands Energy Clearinghouse at [www.cirenew.info/windEnergy.htm](http://www.cirenew.info/windEnergy.htm)

Looking at these maps:

- What is the wind like where you live compared to the ocean waters surrounding Massachusetts?
- Where are the good sites in Massachusetts for wind energy? Make sure to zoom into these online maps to view local conditions.

## Activity 4: What is a wind turbine like up close?

### Take a field trip and interview an expert.

To prepare for this activity, you will need to find a wind turbine or wind farm that you can visit and an individual knowledgeable about wind energy that you can interview. Visiting a wind-power site with a wind energy expert would be ideal and it is possible at several wind energy installations.

***Keep Safe: Adult mentors must accompany youth during all parts of site visits and take responsibility for all safety considerations.***

#### 1. Find a wind energy site to visit.

Here is a list of some of the wind turbine sites in Massachusetts and neighboring states. If you ask, some of these sites may have an expert available to join you for your field trip or be available for an off-site or phone interview. On the other hand, all of these sites are not always open to visits but contacting them may help you develop leads on who to interview and you might discover some interesting new information.

- **Barre, VT:** 100 kW turbine owned by Northern Power Systems [www.distributed-energy.com/contact.html](http://www.distributed-energy.com/contact.html) or call 802.461.2955
- **Beverly, MA:** 10 kW turbine at Beverly High School [www.solarnow.org/beverly.htm](http://www.solarnow.org/beverly.htm) or call 978-927-9786
- **Holyoke, MA:** 250 kW turbine on Mount Tom in Holyoke run by the University of Massachusetts Renewable Energy Research Laboratory [www.ecs.umass.edu/mie/labs/rerl](http://www.ecs.umass.edu/mie/labs/rerl) or call 413-545-4359
- **Hull, MA:** Two turbines, Hull Wind I, a 660 kW turbine at Hull High School, and Hull Wind II, a 1.8 MW turbine on the old landfill. [www.hullwind.org](http://www.hullwind.org) or call 781-925-0051
- **Newport, RI:** 1.5 kW turbine at Rose Island Lighthouse [www.roseislandlighthouse.org](http://www.roseislandlighthouse.org) or call 401-847-4242
- **Princeton, MA:** Several turbines run by the Princeton Municipal Light Department [www.pmltd.com](http://www.pmltd.com) or call 978-464-2815
- **Searsburg, VT:** Eleven 550 kW turbines owned by Green Mountain Power. Seasonal tours are offered by Vermont Environmental Research Associates. [www.northeastwind.com/whatwevedone/searsburg.html](http://www.northeastwind.com/whatwevedone/searsburg.html) or call 802-244-7522 or 413-498-2729

## **2. Find a wind-power expert to interview.**

If a wind-power expert is not available through your field trip to a wind turbine site, try contacting wind turbine installers, wind energy organizations, engineering and renewable energy departments at local universities and colleges, environmental centers, or local renewable energy organizations.

To help your search, try NESEA's Sustainable Green Pages ([www.nesea.org/syp](http://www.nesea.org/syp)) or use the Internet and phone book to find local contacts. Through your search, you may also find additional wind-turbine sites near you.

## **3. Plan your interview questions.**

Before you go, consider what interview questions you will ask. Some specific questions you might ask about your wind turbine site include:

- What is the power rating of this turbine (kilowatts or megawatts) and what does this mean?
- What was the community response before and after installation? What were or are the primary concerns?
- How many houses or businesses can be served by the output of this turbine or wind farm?
- Is it part of a local power plant, independent, or grid tied to a regional power network?
- Is there a cost saving or cost stabilization benefiting some customers directly?
- Could you tell me the story of how you got involved in using clean power?

Don't be afraid to ask about specific terms and for clarification of anything you hear!

### **On site tips for a successful and enjoyable visit:**

- Be sure to go out of your way to show respect for people, plants, animals, and property.
- Bring notebooks or clipboards to the interview and be prepared to jot down new questions to ask or possibly to follow-up on later.
- Consider bringing a tape recorder, camera, or video camera to the interview as a way to record of your visit. Just be sure to ask the host or hostess ahead of time if it's OK to record images or voices and let them know how the information will be used.

- To make your trip more meaningful, gain a deeper awareness of your own energy use. Do you know where energy comes from for your energy needs, where you use energy in your home, and how much you use for hot water, lighting, heating, travel, and appliances?

#### **4. Follow up your visit.**

Write a thank you note to the person you interviewed and also to the people managing or owning the wind turbine site. Photos, drawings and mention of specific things you learned and appreciated are the most meaningful to people who generously offered their time and knowledge.

Reflect on your visit and what you learned by discussing it in detail with another person, with a group, or by writing about it in a journal. Another great way to follow up is to complete Activity 7, "How can I spread the word about wind energy?"

## Activity 5: What does a turbine look like from a distance?

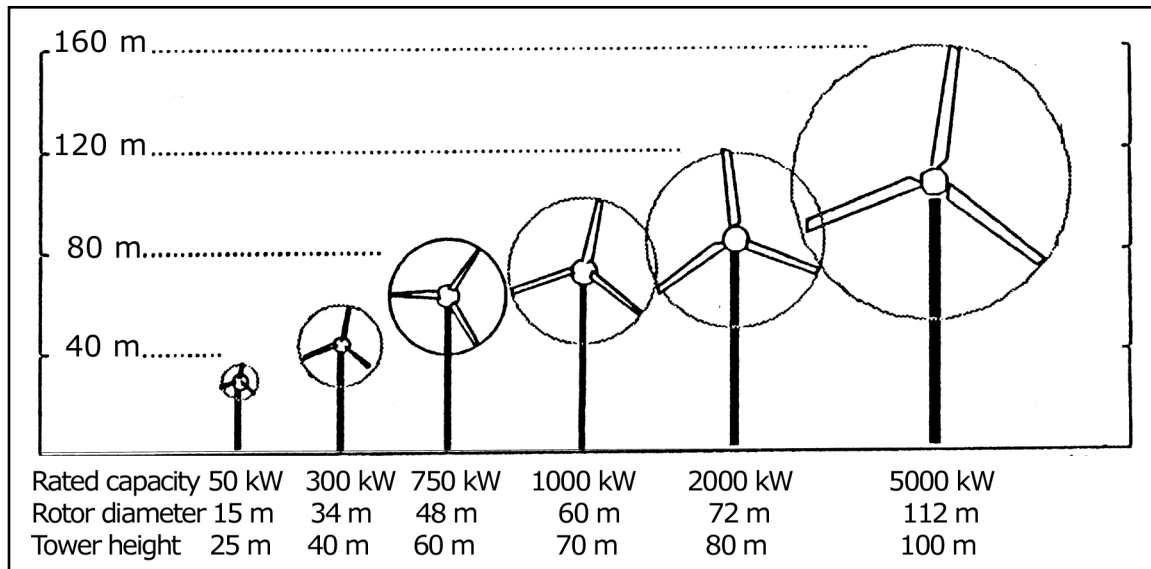
Set up a scale model activity or observe a real wind turbine.

Complete **ONE** of the following, **A** or **B**:

### A. Build a scale model wind turbine and look at it from a distance.

#### 1. Select a wind turbine size to model.

Consider constructing a model of a turbine you have seen or one that is proposed for a site near you. From Figure 5.1, select a wind turbine size to model. Or, if you wish to model a specific wind turbine, look up that turbine's specifications on the Internet or call the manufacturer or turbine owner to find out the turbine's rated capacity, rotor diameter, and tower height.



**Figure 5.1** Representative capacity, diameter, and height of wind turbines

#### 2. Construct a scale model wind turbine.

Use simple materials such as a dowel, a spool, and Popsicle sticks glued together for blades to construct a scale model wind turbine of the real turbine you selected.

For example, if you want to build a 40-centimeter (cm) tall scale model of a 40-meter (m) tall turbine, every centimeter of your model will represent one-meter of the real one. This will give you a 1 to 100 or 1:100 scale model.

You can use either the metric (meters, millimeters, etc.) system or the English system (inches, feet, etc.), but be sure to be consistent—use the same measurement system for the full size and scale model versions.

**Note:** This model turbine is not intended as a working turbine but to show scale. If you would like to make a model that works, see Activity 2.

### 3. See how tall your turbine looks from a distance.

Select two distances away from a real turbine that you wish to imitate (for instance, you may wish to select 5 km and 10 km away from an offshore turbine), and calculate how far away you need to be from your model turbine to imitate these distances.

For instance, if you wanted to know what a full size turbine would look like five kilometers away, you would need to look at your 1:100 scale model turbine from a distance of 50 meters. How did we get that, you ask? Multiply the distance away you wish to represent, in this case 5,000 meters, by your scale ratio, in this case 1/100.

$$5,000 \times 1/100 = 50 \text{ meters}$$

*Be sure to use the same system, metric or English, and the same scale that you used to construct your model turbine to calculate these distances.*

Make a prediction about how tall your model will look from each of these distances. Remember, this is how tall a full-scale turbine would look at the full-scale distance. You can do this by holding your hands apart from each other to demonstrate the height. To record your estimates, you can have someone take a picture of you, or you could hold a measuring tape between your hands and record the estimates.

Bring a lengthy measuring tape (at least 50 to 100 ft.) and your model wind turbine to a large, flat open area such as a playing field. Place your wind turbine where you will be able to see it while lying down on the ground from the scale distances away that you calculated.

Observe (or even photograph) your model turbine at the different distances you chose. Did it look larger, smaller, or the same as you imagined?

You can use this technique to estimate how big a proposed real turbine or wind farm will likely look from a distance. For example, how the Cape Wind Project (a proposed wind farm off of Cape Cod) would look from the nearest shore.

**Extension:** Use a software program to incorporate a picture of a real turbine into a picture of a proposed wind-power site. You will need to know how far from the site the picture is taken and use the technique you just learned to determine how tall the turbine(s) will look at that distance.

## B. Explore what an existing wind turbine looks like from a distance.

### 1. Find a wind-power site on a map.

For this activity, you will need to locate a wind-power site that can be seen from several locations at different distances, a map that includes the site, and a camera. The map should have a scale of between 1:62,500 and 1:126,720 and cover an area of at least five miles around the site.

Note: You could use a hand-held GPS device to aid in this activity, however, the process to do so is not described here.

Locate your wind power site on the map.

## **2. Take a drive with your camera.**

Once you have identified an appropriate site and found it on the map, take a drive with your camera to photograph the wind turbine(s) from several locations at different distances. One picture should be from as close as you can reasonably get to the turbine(s), preferably on-site.

Don't use a camera's wide angle or zoom features; you want the settings of your camera to be consistent and the photographs to best represent what you see with the naked eye.

Mark on your map where you take each photograph.

## **3. Tack your pictures to your map.**

Tack the photographs you took onto your map indicating where each picture was taken to create a set of visual images of what the turbines look like from different perspectives. Include with each picture a label stating at what distance from the turbine(s) the picture was taken.

## **4. Share what you learned.**

Share your map with at least one other person and discuss anything that surprises you about how wind turbines look from a distance.

**Extension:** Add the exploration of wind turbine sound to your images, using a video recorder instead of a camera. You can also compare a noise we are familiar with, such as a lawnmower, to a turbine if you can get permission to take such an item to a site for your project. Fire it up and compare—document with the video recorder.

## **Activity 6: What makes a great wind turbine design?**

**Build your own working wind turbine model and experiment to see what yields the most power.**

**Complete the following and then complete EITHER A or B:**

Review different wind-turbine designs and shapes in books, magazines, and on the Internet. Look for some close-up views, especially of the blades. Collect a few pictures or make a few sketches showing different designs that you find.

You can find photographs of wind turbines on the Internet at the following sites:

- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Photographic Information Exchange web site; look under the topic "wind:"  
[www.nrel.gov/data/pix/searchpix.cgi](http://www.nrel.gov/data/pix/searchpix.cgi)
- Search on terms such as "wind turbine," "wind turbine blade," or "small wind turbine" at commercial and amateur photograph image sites such as:  
[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)  
[www.fotosearch.com](http://www.fotosearch.com)  
[www.inmagine.com](http://www.inmagine.com)

Be aware that many of the photos at a commercial site require payment to be used.

Think about why the turbines might be designed the way they are. Consider the great many things designers think about during their design, such as economics, bird nesting, effects on wildlife, where the turbines will be located, balance, effects of weight, aerodynamics, and year-round weather conditions.

Why are the blades shaped the way they are? Why are the towers of many modern wind turbines smooth? Why are they painted certain colors? Keep your mind open to other questions that might arise. Can you see evidence of optimized features in the photographs you have reviewed?

**Complete ONE of the following, A or B:**

### **A. The Best Blade Challenge**

For this activity you will need a working model wind turbine, a large, strong box fan, thin balsa wood with tools to cut and shape it, at least three 3/8" dowels, hot glue or wood glue, and a multimeter.

#### **1. Borrow or buy a working model wind turbine.**

For this activity you will need a working model wind turbine such as can be found at the Kid Wind Project ([www.KidWind.org](http://www.KidWind.org)). Kid Wind's working

model wind turbines are designed for experimentation and come with suggested experiments. You can either borrow or buy a working model wind turbine.

**You can borrow a working model wind turbine from several Massachusetts Girl Scout Councils. The following councils have Kid Wind basic wind turbines or yawing and geared turbines in their materials lending libraries:**

- Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts  
Contact: Elizabeth Brooke-Willbanks, [ebwillbanks@gscwm.org](mailto:ebwillbanks@gscwm.org)  
or (413) 584-2602 x11
- Girl Scouts of Spar and Spindle Council  
Contact: Bonnie Batchelor at [bbatchelor@ssgsc.org](mailto:bbatchelor@ssgsc.org)  
or (978) 689-8015 x239
- Girl Scouts, Patriots Trail  
Contact: Janet Ricardi at [jrichardi@ptgirlscouts.org](mailto:jrichardi@ptgirlscouts.org)  
or (617) 482-1078 X212

To fund a purchase, you might consider asking if there is money available from your local library, a local business, parent teacher organization funds, or your school for you to buy the kit, complete your patch, and follow up by donating the kit to the library to loan out.

## **2. Test different blade designs.**

Design, construct, and test different turbine blades on the working model turbine to see which blade design produces the most power. You make the blades by cutting and shaping them out of thin balsa wood and then gluing them onto wooden dowels so that they can be attached to the hub of the wind turbine.

Use a large, strong box fan to create the wind needed to test the blades. Position the turbine a set distance in front of the fan with the hub of the turbine lined up with the hub of the fan blades. Measure the electrical output with a multimeter (see page x for how to use a multimeter) to see which blade design produces the highest DC current.

This is also an opportunity for a competition in a larger group where teams design blades and get two or three trials to improve designs.

**Alternative or Extension Activity:** Carry out any of the other experiments suggested in a Kid Wind model turbine kit.

## **B. The *Build Your Own Working Turbine* challenge**

This activity is an open-ended challenge to build your own wind turbine, possibly even including the electric generator! It's not as hard as you might think at first, but this is not a trivial task. There are some miniature wind turbine designs available, complete with instructions on what to order for parts. Some of these include building your own simple generator and, for advanced crafters, one that is large enough to produce usable power.

If you use a hobby motor as a generator, the specifications of the motor are particularly important, as it must produce an adequate amount of power under relatively low RPMs (rotations per minute). To make a good generator, look for a hobby motor rated a relatively high 5 to 9 volts DC input voltage and a relatively low 1,500 to 2,500 RPMs output rotation speed.

Here are three web sites to help guide your design efforts.

[www.re-energy.ca/t-i\\_windbuild-1.shtml](http://www.re-energy.ca/t-i_windbuild-1.shtml)

[www.otherpower.com/toymill.html](http://www.otherpower.com/toymill.html)

Here is a serious design only for teens with adult help and supervision

[www.velacreations.com/chispito.html](http://www.velacreations.com/chispito.html)

Keep a log of your experiments, successes and failures in this endeavor. Have fun!

## **Activity 7: How can I spread the word about wind energy?**

**Plant seeds of wind wisdom in your community with a project designed to educate others.**

Share what you have learned about wind power. Use your creativity to engineer a way to do this. It can be an individual endeavor or a group effort. The challenge will be to provide accurate and well-supported information to as many people as possible.

Some examples of possible projects:

- Choose an activity you completed and lead a group through the activity in your school or community.
- Enter a wind energy science project in your local, regional or state science fair.
- Create a wind energy education lending kit for educators or youth at your local environment center, library, school or museum.
- Make an informative tri-fold display with some hands-on activities.
- Lead an eco-footprint or carbon calculator group activity and make some commitments to change your own energy usage – think about the role wind energy could play in reducing your carbon contribution.
- Create a question-and-answer brochure about the use of wind power and energy conservation to distribute at your library or other public places.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper(s). Make sure your information is well documented and supported.
- Create a slide show presentation for a community group on your wind site visit and patch project.
- Produce a video account of a patch activity and use it for a Girl Scout presentation or show it on your local community access TV station.

You will find additional ideas along with *How to Make Yourself a Star*—guidelines on how to write a news release—in the ACT section of the Clean Green Power Project at [www.nesea.org/education/ycleanenergy/cert-act-project.shtml](http://www.nesea.org/education/ycleanenergy/cert-act-project.shtml).

## **Activity 8: What are some wind career options?**

### **Explore wind and other renewable energy career opportunities.**

To complete this activity, you will find and interview a renewable energy expert and then complete a fun follow-up activity that pertains to a career in the wind energy field. You may be surprised at the range of options!

#### **1. Find a renewable energy expert to interview.**

Look up someone who works in a renewable energy field, preferably wind energy, who is willing to be interviewed about their career and path to their present position. Though this could be done over the phone, you could meet your interviewee in person if you are completing *Activity 4* as well. Be sure to follow all safety guidelines and always have a parent, troop leader, or other trusted adult accompany you. Follow up with a thank you note.

To find an expert, try:

- Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's Sustainable Green Pages [www.nesea.org/syp](http://www.nesea.org/syp)
- The Destination Sites listed under the Clean Energy for a Clean Environment web site [www.nesea.org/education/ycleanenergy/](http://www.nesea.org/education/ycleanenergy/).
- The American Wind Association Career Center at [www.awea.org/resources/career\\_center/](http://www.awea.org/resources/career_center/)

You also can try contacting the wind-power organizations listed on page X in *Activity 4*.

Also, see or look up profiles of people working at a wind energy firm such as Northeast Wind. [www.northeastwind.com/whoweare/bios.html](http://www.northeastwind.com/whoweare/bios.html) to find out what real jobs are like right now in the wind industry.

From these sites you should find several suitable northeastern U.S. renewable energy businesses.

#### **2. Conduct your interview.**

Here are some suggested questions you might ask:

- Why did you choose renewable energy as a career?
- What educational background do you apply to your work?
- What previous work experiences have helped you in your current position?
- How long have you been doing this?

- What skills and knowledge do you use the most in your daily work?
- What are the most interesting, challenging, exciting, and/or tedious aspects of your work?
- What advice would you give to someone interested in a career in wind energy?
- What types of work are needed in the wind energy field?

### **3. Complete a follow-up activity.**

This is an open-ended assignment based on something inspired or learned through your interview with the wind energy expert. These are some examples of activities:

- Wind power technicians wear harnesses and use clips and ropes as a safety measure when they climb inside towers. Don a rock climbing harness, and try your hand at a rock wall, being sure you have skilled help and always keep safety first in mind.
- Biologists are hired to study signs of animal behavior at wind power sites. Bring a bag of dry Plaster of Paris, a bottle of water, a stirring stick and disposable plastic container to an animal track in the mud. Mix water slowly into the plaster till a thick batter consistency and then pour into the track. Let it set for a few hours before pulling out your track & identifying it. You may need to observe its relationship to other tracks nearby.

Also look for other signs of animals—scat, fur, chewed branches, etc. Can you tell the difference between rabbit and deer chews and scat? Suggestion: Look for a tracking guide that offers a lot of detail about each animal, such as that of Massachusetts resident, Paul Rezendes: "Tracking and the Art of Seeing," Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., 1999, or consult Rick Curtis' Outdoor Action Guide to Animal Tracking on-line at

[www.princeton.edu/~oa/nature/tracking.shtml](http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/nature/tracking.shtml)

- Specially trained wind installers can lift a small tower using human power and cables. Larger towers involve different installation processes. Ask your wind turbine expert about how and why installation is done as it is and ask if you can observe the process for a couple hours. Take pictures or illustrate so you can share what you learned with others. You can see a simplified installation of a large turbine on-line at [www.windpower.org/en/kids/choose/assemble/index.htm](http://www.windpower.org/en/kids/choose/assemble/index.htm)
- Public relations people work with local communities to educate people about wind power projects. Write an article or an editorial, or develop a presentation about a wind project.

- Wildlife managers are consulted to make recommendations for habitat protection. Imagine you are trying to protect bears at a Massachusetts wind farm from human disturbance during their active seasons. Find out a bear's seasonal activities and tell when the wind farm is open and closed to the public. (Hint: Learn about the Searsburg Wind Farm site in Vermont and take a tour if you can).

# **WIND WISDOM PATCH PROGRAM**

## **Requirements Worksheet and Patch Order Form**

### **For Teen Girl Scouts Ages 11 to 18**

The patch is FREE for Massachusetts Girl Scouts due to grant funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, [www.masstech.org](http://www.masstech.org)

<b>Patch Recipient(s):</b>	<b>Mail patch(es) to:</b>
<b>Attach List if Needed</b>	Name:
<b>Adult Mentor/Troop Leader:</b>	Address:
<b>Troop:</b>	City/Town:
<b>Council:</b>	State:
<b># of Patches Ordered:</b>	Zip Code:
	<b>Quick contact information:</b>
	Phone:
	Email:

#### **How to Earn Your Wind Wisdom Patch:**

Each Girl Scout completes at least FOUR of the eight activities offered to earn the patch. Explain what was done to complete each activity. Please be brief but include specific details such as locations of site visits and presentations; names and locations of people interviewed; news media coverage; resources you used, etc. We welcome your sharing of any videos or digital photos of your work.

Activity # \_\_\_\_\_

Completed with high quality work. Adult or troop leader's initials \_\_\_\_\_

Activity # \_\_\_\_\_

Completed with high quality work. Adult or troop leaders initials \_\_\_\_\_

Activity # \_\_\_\_\_

Completed with high quality work. Adult or troop leaders initials \_\_\_\_\_

Activity # \_\_\_\_\_

Completed with high quality work. Adult or troop leaders initials \_\_\_\_\_

**Feedback:** *Use additional paper if needed.*

What were the most rewarding parts of the patch program?

What suggestions would you have to change the program?

Other Comments:

<b>Mail, FAX or Email This Form to:</b>	<b>Contact NESEA:</b>
Wind Wisdom Patch Program NESEA 50 Miles Street, Suite 3 Greenfield, MA 01301 <b>FAX:</b> 413-774-6053 <b>Email:</b> nesea@nesea.org	NESEA K-12 Education Department <a href="mailto:nesea@nesea.org">nesea@nesea.org</a> 413-774-6051

**Safety Note:**

Parents and troop leaders must assume responsibility for youth in their care and use their own best judgment in each situation. Adult mentors and or parents must accompany and directly supervise girls during field trips at all times and follow all Girl Scout safety guidelines. The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association or the Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts assumes no responsibility for safety. Any photos offered to us during the project are assumed available for public display unless parent signs otherwise.