

Crawford Wind Turbine Offers Opportunities for Learning

Outline Of Need: Crawford Public School's Superintendent wanted to provide hands-on renewable energy education opportunities in the classroom. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory was contacted (Wind Powering America Program) to learn how to get involved in the Wind for Schools Program.

How Rural Development

Helped: Utilizing the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, Rural Development was able to provide a \$5,000 grant in June 2010 to promote rural jobs for the future. This grant along with the support of the Crawford Public School Board and partnerships with local businesses and utilities helped to make this project a reality.



The Results: The Wind Powering America's Wind for Schools program is all about making rural students competitive while laying the groundwork for future employment and development. The wind industry in Nebraska as a whole is expanding. Providing visible models, such as the Wind for Schools turbine, in small rural communities will help to foster this growth.



The Skystream 3.7 (2.4 kilowatt) wind turbine was installed in the spring of 2011. The Skystream is designed for homes and small businesses. The compact turbine will convert wind into clean electricity for the school. The turbine tower is 45 feet tall, the rotor diameter is 12 feet and the swept area is 115.7 feet. The rated speed is 50 – 330 rpm (revolutions per minute).

“The Skystream and data collected from the turbine will provide hands on learning opportunities in the K-12 classroom. Renewable energy education can be integrated in the career education, math, science and language arts curriculum. The turbine will provide learning opportunities for students who will gain life skills and explore job opportunities for the future.”--Dick Leshner, Crawford Public School Superintendent

