

Distributed Wind Deployment: Rural Cooperative

Rural cooperative installation of one 900-kW wind turbine



The Gob Nob wind turbine in Farmersville, IL is located on the former Freeman United Crown Number 1 Coal Mine. Photo from RECC.

Project description: Located on a 60-foot hill that was created during past coal mining operations, the “Gob Nob” wind turbine sits high above the fields that surround the project. The additional height allows the wind turbine to access a stronger wind resource than the lower elevations nearby. The land is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and is leased to the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (RECC). The project is connected to the Farmersville substation about half a mile away. All of the turbine’s electricity is fed into the Farmersville substation, and then distributed to about 380 RECC members’ homes and farms in the surrounding area.

Year of installation: February 2009

Type of customer: Rural Electric Cooperative

Utility: Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative was created in 1936 and serves 5,800 customers in Sangamon, Morgan, Macoupin, Christian, and Montgomery counties.

Estimated production: ~2,300,000 kWh per year

Actual production: 2,173,088 kWh in 2017

In Their Words

As an experienced manufacturer, why do you think this installation will be successful? “The team at EWT feels very fortunate to have worked with RECC on this project. Thanks to RECC’s preparation, commitment and site selection, we were able to bring a valuable new asset to the community.” EWT, wind turbine manufacturer for RECC’s Gob Nob wind project.

What was the driving force behind your decision to install a wind turbine, and what do you think will make the project successful? “We want to do our part to promote the technology and show that wind power can work in this part of the state. The Illinois Department of Natural Resource’s main attraction to the project was the co-op’s plan to utilize all energy produced by the turbine to feed back into the distribution system, for use by local members.” David Stuva, President/CEO Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



The EWT DW54-900kW turbine produced 2,173,088 kWh in 2017. Photo from RECC.