

**Mercer County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Project: Mercer County Wind Turbine

Project

Mercer County is working on a project to determine the feasibility and funding sources for the installation of a wind turbine. This turbine would supply electricity to the Mercer County Hospital, Nursing Home, Jail, and Community Unit School District #404. When completed this project would bring an estimated \$350,000 savings per year to these public entities providing tax savings to the residents of Mercer County.

The project has received a \$14,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for a feasibility study. The study has been completed and established that the project is feasible with the securing of grants to cover a portion of the initial construction costs. The committee is in the process of applying for a USDA loan. The Mercer County Board has committed to fund the project through county resources. The Clean Energy Foundation has shown interest in assisting with a grant toward the cost of construction of the turbine if financing is secured. The committee is also looking for additional grants through the school district and others.

Groups involved

Project participants are the Mercer County Board, CUSD # 404, Interstate R.C.&D. and the Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District.

People Effected

The project has the potential to reduce taxes on 17,280 residents of Mercer County.

This project is supported by the Soil and Water Conservation District in its efforts to promote the wise use of our Natural Resources. The use of green energy will reduce carbon emissions on the electricity which is normally provided through coal fired electrical plants. It also reduces the amount of sludge which will be stored and contribute to potential water contamination.

This project is also becoming the lead study for wind resources in our area. Results of wind studies and economic potential are made available to the public.