

# 1<sup>ST</sup> STOP CHECKLIST for ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

## REQUIREMENTS & REGULATIONS

*A wind farm is defined as an installation of wind turbines and their associated facilities, all sharing a single interconnection to the electrical transmission grid. Wind farms, and those entities responsible for their respective siting approval, are further classified based on aggregate megawatt generation capacity. These classifications are:*

- **Utility Scale Wind Farm** - The OPSB already has authority to approve and certify wind farm projects with an aggregate generation capacity over 50 megawatts. Rules and regulations governing approval of other utility-scale transmission and generation technology (coal, nuclear and natural gas turbines) will be applied to wind generation at this level.
- **Economically Significant Wind Farm** - An Economically Significant Wind Farm (ESWF) has an aggregate generation capacity of five or more megawatts but less than 50 megawatts.
- **Small Wind Farm** - A Small Wind Farm (SWF) has an aggregate generation capacity of less than five megawatts.
- **Wind Farms or Single Turbines** are required to be approved by local jurisdiction- Township, city and county.

[] Although project approval and certification are under the authority of the **Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)** at the state level, local governments and citizen's groups have full opportunity to participate in public information, outreach and input opportunities as part of the OPSB approval process. For more information, please contact OPSB at **(866) 270-OPSB (6772)**. Information is also on-line [www.opsb.ohio.gov](http://www.opsb.ohio.gov). *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**

[] The electricity industry is regulated by the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)**. The generation of electricity is competitive; however, the transmission and distribution of electricity are not. You must be certified by the PUCO before you can enter the Ohio market as an electricity supplier. For more information, please contact the PUCO at **(800) 686-7826**. Information is also on-line [www.puco.gov](http://www.puco.gov). *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**

[] For more information about **Alternative Power** regulations, see **Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Section 1551.01 and 1551:3-1**. The **ORC and OAC** can be found at your local library or on-line at <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac>. *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**

[] For more information about **underground storage tank regulations**, see **Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Section 1301:7-9**. The **OAC** can be found at your local library or on-line at <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/> *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**

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- [] **North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)** is the national certification organization for professional installers in the field of renewable energy. Information is available on-line at <http://www.nabcep.org/>. *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**
  
- [] The **Ohio Department of Commerce** is the governing agency to the **Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB)**. The **OCILB** issues licenses for the purpose of commercial construction. The licenses are for five specific trades: *electrical, heating and air conditioning (HVAC), refrigeration, plumbing, and hydronic*. For more information, contact **OCILB** at (614)644-3493 or visit their on-line at <http://www.com.ohio.gov/dico/ocilb/default.aspx> *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**
  
- [] For all questions regarding residential and general construction not included in the five trades listed above please contact your local building department.
  
- [] **Ohio Water Resources Council, State Coordinating Committee on Ground Water** developed a resource document for guidance and recommendations deemed necessary to ensure geothermal heating and cooling system installation is done in a manner that protects Ohio's water resources. This information is available at <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/Documents/GHCS.pdf> *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**
  
- [] There are several environmental regulations that affect construction. Contact the **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** for information. The **EPA** can be reached at (614) 644-3020 for **General Inquiries** or (800) 329-7518 for **Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention**. The **Ohio EPA** is also on-line at [www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us). *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**
  
- [] **BUREAU OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS (BUSTR)** mission is to effectively regulate the safe operation of underground storage tanks and to ensure appropriate investigation and cleanup of releases from underground storage tanks for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment for the citizens of Ohio. For more information, contact **BUSTR** at (614) 752-7938 or visit their Web site at <http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire/default.aspx> *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**

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- [ ] To request a copy of the **Ohio Basic Building Code** contact **International Code Council** at **(888)-422-7233**. Information is also on-line at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org). *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**
  
- [ ] The **International Code Council** provides general information on codes and standards, government relations, training, certification and licensing and public safety for contractors around the country. There are special benefits for individuals who chose to pay a membership fee. More information is at <http://www.iccsafe.org/>. *\*Remember to check local government agencies.\**

**For more help, contact your local Small Business Development Center (SBDC).**

[www.ohiosbdc.ohio.gov](http://www.ohiosbdc.ohio.gov)

**REMEMBER TO CHECK LOCAL AND FEDERAL LAWS.**

**THIS CHECKLIST IS ABOUT STATE REQUIREMENTS.**

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