



NORTH CAROLINA
Wind Working Group

NCWWG

The North Carolina Wind Working Group is comprised of people statewide who are interested in or have existing experience with wind energy. We are citizens; engineers; scientists; and other technical professionals representing private industry, academia, environmental and energy government agencies, and others, who collectively strive to advance responsible wind energy development in North Carolina.

In line with our goals, the NCWWG prepared this information sheet as an educational tool for the general public. Additional goals of the NCWWG are to 1) develop a clear understanding of citizens' attitudes to wind energy, and 2) to generate interest leading to **responsible** wind energy development.

Learn more...

www.windpoweringamerica.gov

www.wind.appstate.edu

www.ncsc.ncsu.edu

www.windustry.org

www1.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/

www.cleanenergy.org

Read SB1068 yourself...

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=sb1068>

Info sheet designed and assembled by Concept 2 Delivery, Inc., from information by others. 8 October 2009.

Stimulating Winds

Harnessing Wind for Energy in the North Carolina Mountains

Winds can be stimulatingly green...

Government agencies, universities, and non-profit groups have studied and concluded that the western North Carolina mountains have the resources to responsibly develop wind energy, create jobs, and create tax revenues.

In March 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy released an economic forecast of developing 1,000 megawatts (MW) of wind power in NC. Developing 1,000 MW of wind power requires substantial effort—but seven other States have accomplished this already! The [DOE Report](#) identified

- \$1.1 billion in economic benefit
- 2,989 construction jobs for construction efforts lasting 1 to 2 years
- 457 long-term jobs for operations
- \$2.7 million a year paid to landowners

In 2007, Appalachian State University's Energy Center conservatively identified that 768 MW could be developed in western NC after applying environmental and viewshed exclusion zones, 50-acre minimum lot size, and 5-mile proximity to existing transmission lines. Using ASU's forecast, the DOE's economic forecast would be reduced by 25 percent (assuming a linear relationship); however, wind energy would still inject \$845 million into the local economy, create 2,295 construction jobs, and create 350 long-term jobs.

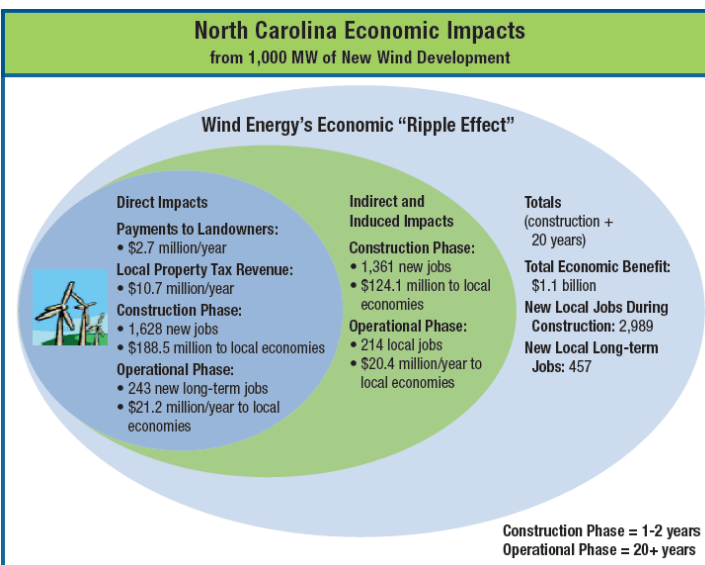
These monies and jobs will be substantially reduced and possibly eliminated with the change to the Ridge Law being debated in Raleigh at the State Legislature...see article below.

Bill debate in State Legislature will change permitting, decision authority, add restrictions, and may hinder economic benefits in the mountains...

In Spring 2009, bills were introduced into the NC Senate and House (SB1068, HB809) to establish appropriate environmental review of wind energy developments at the coast and mountains including substantial **local** approval authority and clarifying the Ridge Law. These bills were crafted with input from a Technical Advisory Group of scientists, engineers, and wind energy experts.

The original bill outlined a comprehensive environmental review including site-specific studies to be completed and identified the State agency responsible for review and permitting. In the coastal regions, the Coastal Resources Commission would be responsible. In mountain regions, the Division of Land Resources would be responsible.

The original bill identified substantial local authority for zoning approval of proposed turbines. The citation of this local authority resolved the often-misunderstood Ridge Law.



Currently, the Mountain Ridge Protection Act (commonly called the Ridge Law) is **informally interpreted to prohibit** Community and Utility-scale turbines along NC mountain ridges. Because of the ambiguity of the Ridge Law with regard to turbines, many mountain counties have ordinances outlining suitable wind energy development.

A debate ensued...centered around the Ridge Law...coastal opportunities, procedures, and studies proceeded...mountain opportunities stumbled...compromises reached....

Just before the end of the 2009 session, the [NC Senate passed SB1068 limiting turbine heights to 100 feet along moun-](#)

[tain ridges; thereby eliminating the ability for private landowners and local communities to responsibly develop Community and Utility-scale turbines and removing local decision-making.](#)

If SB1068 remains as-is, approved by the House, and signed into law by the Governor, the economic possibilities, jobs created, and future tax revenues outlined in the DOE study above will be virtually eliminated for western North Carolina.

The NC House is slated to debate SB1068 and vote during their upcoming short session in May 2010.

Local landowners are encouraged to learn more about wind energy and visit turbine sites (at ASU, in TN, in WV).