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Windspire® Wind Turbine FAQ

Windspire Overview

The Windspire® wind turbine is a small-scale vertical axis wind turbine designed for use in urban, suburban and rural environments. It is distinguished by its sleek propeller-free design, quiet operation, ease of installation and affordable pricing. These characteristics position it as an ideal solution for homeowners, businesses, non-profits and governments looking to decrease their electricity costs and their carbon footprints.

What Size Is the Windspire?

The standard Windspire is 30-feet tall and 4-feet wide, designed to come in under the typical 35-foot height restrictions of local municipalities. Base pole extension kits are also available. The “Extreme Wind” version is only 23-feet tall.

What Does “Quiet” Mean?

Due to the vertical axis design, sound levels were tested at 6 decibels above ambient, rendering it virtually inaudible.

How Much Energy Will the Windspire Produce?

Each 1.2kW Windspire will produce approximately 2000 kilowatt hours per year in 11 mph average winds. Homes and buildings can scale up to meet their energy needs by installing multiple Windspires.

Are There Tax Credits Available?

The U.S. government provides a 30 percent tax credit for the total cost of the unit, including installation. Many state and local municipalities also offer rebates, as do local power companies.

How Do I Get a Windspire?

Windspires are sold and installed by a network of certified Windspire dealers. A map of local dealers can be found online at www.windspireenergy.com

Where are the Windspires Made?

Windspires are made in the USA. Volume manufacturing at MasTech Manufacturing began in April 2009, in Manistee, Michigan. www.windspireenergy.com



Are There Specific Requirements for Potential Customers?

Potential customers should have sites with unobstructed wind and adequate space for installation; and at least class two wind but ideally class three wind (an average of 11 mph winds)

How Does It Work?

Windspire operates with three sets of tall, narrow airfoils that catch the wind while spinning around a vertical axis. As the rotor turns, a generator conditions the energy into electricity. The grid-tie inverter then converts the electricity from a direct current(DC) to an alternating current(AC) that can be used for buildings and homes.

What is the Patented Technology?

Windspire Energy's patented technology maximizes energy conversion from wind into the power provided to homes or businesses, regardless of changing wind speed or direction. The patented technology includes a rotor, generator and inverter designed as a complete system to optimize the conversion of wind energy into electricity.

What is Included with the Windspire?

The Windspire comes complete with a high-efficiency generator, integrated inverter, hinged monopole, and wireless performance monitor for easy installation and seamless operation.

Is the Windspire a Grid-Tie or Off-Grid Product?

The currently available Windspire is grid-tie, which requires that the Windspire be tied into the local utility's grid. For safety reasons, the Windspire will not work if a connection cannot be made to the grid.

Is the Windspire Independently Tested and Certified?

The Windspire is independently tested at Windward Engineering in Spanish Forks, Utah. The testing confirmed the power ratings of the Windspire, so customers can know what level of power production to expect from specific wind ranges. The Windspire inverter received ETL certification in March 2008 for the U.S. and Canada, which includes UL and IEEE testing.

Is Windspire Participating in the Small Wind Certification Council Testing?

Yes, the Windspire will be tested against the new American Wind Energy Association's Small Wind Standards through a grant from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Testing is schedule to begin in 2010 and is not expected to be completed for 12-18 months.