

476.48 Small wind innovation zone program.

1. *Definitions.* For purposes of [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

a. “*Electric utility*” means a public utility that furnishes electricity to the public for compensation and which enters into a model interconnection agreement with the owner of a small wind energy system as provided in [subsection 4](#).

b. “*Small wind energy system*” means a wind energy conversion system that collects and converts wind into energy to generate electricity which has a nameplate generating capacity of one hundred kilowatts or less.

c. “*Small wind innovation zone*” means a political subdivision of this state, including but not limited to a city, county, township, school district, community college, area education agency, institution under the control of the state board of regents, or any other local commission, association, or tribal council which adopts, or is encompassed within a local government which adopts, the model ordinance as provided in [subsection 3](#).

2. *Program established.*

a. The utilities board shall establish and administer a small wind innovation zone program to optimize local, regional, and state benefits from wind energy and to facilitate and expedite interconnection of small wind energy systems with electric utilities throughout this state. Pursuant to the program, the owner of a small wind energy system located within a small wind innovation zone desiring to interconnect with an electric utility shall benefit from a streamlined application process, may utilize a model interconnection agreement, and can qualify under a model ordinance.

b. A political subdivision seeking to be designated a small wind innovation zone shall apply to the board upon a form developed by the board. The board shall approve an application which documents that the applicable local government has adopted the model ordinance or is in the process of amending an existing zoning ordinance to comply with the model ordinance and that an electric utility operating within the political subdivision has agreed to utilize the model interconnection agreement to contract with the small wind energy system owners who agree to its terms.

3. *Model ordinance.* The Iowa league of cities, the Iowa association of counties, the Iowa environmental council, the Iowa wind energy association, and representatives from the utility industry shall consult and develop a model ordinance to be offered on both the Iowa league of cities’ and the Iowa association of counties’ internet sites and made available for use by a local government which constitutes or encompasses a political subdivision that is applying for designation as a small wind innovation zone. A local government adopting the model ordinance shall establish an expedited approval process with regard to small wind energy systems in compliance with the ordinance in order to qualify as a small wind innovation zone.

4. *Model interconnection agreement.* The utilities board shall develop a model interconnection agreement by June 1, 2010, for utilization within a small wind innovation zone by the owner of a small wind energy system seeking to interconnect with an electric utility. The interconnection agreement shall ensure that the energy produced can be safely interconnected with the utility without causing any adverse or unsafe consequences and is consistent with the electric utility’s resource needs. The board shall establish by rule procedures for modification of the model interconnection agreement upon mutually agreeable terms and conditions in unique or unusual circumstances, subject to board approval. Electric utilities shall consider adopting the model interconnection agreement.

5. *Tax credit incentives.* The owner of a small wind energy system operating within a small wind innovation zone shall qualify for the renewable energy tax credit pursuant to [chapter 476C](#).

6. *Reporting requirements.* The board shall prepare a report summarizing the number of applications received from political subdivisions seeking to be designated a small wind innovation zone, the number of applications granted, the number of small wind energy systems generating electricity within each small wind innovation zone, and the amount of

wind energy produced, and shall submit the report to the members of the general assembly by January 1 annually.

[2009 Acts, ch 148, §1, 2](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §2675](#)

Subsections 2 and 6 amended