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## How Do I Get a Wind Turbine on my Property?

### 1. Find a good **installer**:

- a. Getting in touch with a qualified small wind installer is the first step to understanding your options as a property owner. A good installer should be knowledgeable about your regional wind resources, State and federal grant opportunities, State net metering laws and local ordinances. MEA maintains a list of installers who have experience working in Maryland on our website at:  
<http://energy.md.gov/Residential/smallWind.html>.

### 2. Learn about the **wind resource** on your property:

- a. Some areas in Maryland are windier than others. MEA maintains wind maps of Maryland here: <http://energy.maryland.gov/windmaps.html>. However, many things can affect the viability of the wind resource on your property, such as trees, topography and urban development. Even some areas that may not appear to have a strong resource on the wind maps may still be suitable for projects due to local micro-siting conditions.
- b. Your installer is likely to have good local knowledge of wind resources and can help decide what type of turbine is suitable for your property.
- c. If you are interested in a larger project (larger than needed to support a single-family home), you may be eligible for the MEA Anemometer Loan Program. Under this program, MEA works with Maryland Environmental Service to install wind measuring devices on 30-meter or 50-meter tilt-up towers for 1 year to assess wind speeds. There is no charge to the property owner for this service. Data from these anemometers should be sufficient to document wind speeds for the purpose of obtaining project financing from lending institutions. Information and applications to the program can be found here:  
<http://energy.maryland.gov/Residential/anemometerGrants.html>.

3. Learn about your local wind **ordinance**:

- a. 15 Maryland Counties now have ordinances permitting the installation of wind turbines. MEA maintains a database of these ordinances here:  
<http://energy.maryland.gov/countyOrdinance.html> .

4. Learn about **net metering**:

- a. Net metering is a system of utility accounting which allows property owners with renewable generation, or “customer-generators”, to get bill credit when they generate more power than they are using. Maryland’s net metering statute has recently been updated and now includes many features that make net metering more flexible for customers. Information on Maryland’s new net metering regulations can be found at COMAR 20.50.10.

5. Learn about available **funding sources**:

- a. MEA issues grants for small wind projects under the *Windswept* Grant Program. Grant information is available here:  
<http://energy.maryland.gov/windswept/index.html>.
- b. Additional grants are available for wind projects related to agriculture from the USDA Rural Energy for America Program:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reapre.htm>.
- c. Additional revenue sources for Maryland renewable energy projects include:
- i. Federal Production Tax Credit:  
[http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US13F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US13F&re=1&ee=1)
  - ii. Federal Investment Tax Credit:  
[http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US02F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US02F&re=1&ee=1)
  - iii. Sale of Renewable Energy Credits (REC’s) under Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard  
[http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=MD05R&re=1&ee=1](http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=MD05R&re=1&ee=1)
  - iv. MEA’s Renewable Production Tax Credit Program -  
<http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/CleanEnergyTaxCredit.html>.
  - v. Sale of excess power under net metering rules  
[http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=MD03R&state=MD](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=MD03R&state=MD)
  - vi. Accelerated Cost Depreciation:  
[http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US06F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US06F&re=1&ee=1)

- d. Talk to your installer about what incentives and grants may be combined to make your wind project a sound financial investment.
6. Additional Resources:
- a. Additional resources are available at MEA's website:  
<http://energy.maryland.gov/wind.html>.
  - b. You can download a Small Wind Guide for Maryland Consumers from the US Department of Energy here: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy09osti/45911.pdf>.
  - c. If you have further questions, please contact Maryland's Senior Clean Energy Program Manager for wind energy, Andrew Gohn at 410-260-7190 or [agohn@energy.state.md.us](mailto:agohn@energy.state.md.us).