

Weather Corner



**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening... then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

**Thursday:** Sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s.

**Saturday and Saturday Night:** Mostly clear. Not as warm. Highs around 80. Lows around 50.

**Sunday and Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Highs around 80. Lows in the upper 40s.

Record High today 95° (2003)  
Record Low today 29° (1946)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Tuesday	80°
Low Tuesday	49°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.92
Year to date	15.09
Below normal	2.19 inches

Decatur county commissioenrs hear about wind development

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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The Decatur County commissioners invited a Colorado man to talk to them about wind energy before he spoke at a public meeting last Tuesday evening.

Mike Bowman, a farmer/rancher from near Idalia, Colo., talked with the commissioners about wind energy in Colorado. He was accompanied by Lee “Doc” Franklin, who is running for commissioner, and Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

In Colorado, said Bowman, he is promoting wind energy in general, and talked about building capacity in rural areas.

In the last four years, he said, he has helped build a coalition of 700 groups that work extensively on Capital Hill on renewable resources, including wind. Although Bowman lives in eastern Colorado, he said he spends a lot of time in Washington.

This region, eastern Colorado and western Kansas, is rich in renewable resources, said Mr. Bowman, predominately wind.

If every rural county used the resources it had, the renewable energy, then there wouldn’t be a concern over how those areas were going to keep their schools open or their downtowns thriving.

In Colorado, wind farms must be taxable, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, but in Kansas, wind farms are tax exempt, and it’s more of an expense to the county to maintain roads, bridges and other things.

That’s something people in Kansas could go back to the legislators about, said Bowman. Maybe the developers could pay some kind of royalties or do something like that. There are developers who want to do the right thing, he said; maybe there could be a negotiated payment to the county. There are developers, he said, who want to have this conversation with this county.

Grafel said she believes Ford County is getting some kind of payment in place of taxes for a wind farm near Dodge City.

It sounds like if the 18 counties in northwest Kansas got together to promote wind power, it would make an attractive package for developers, said Commissioner Doyle Brown.

If the 18 counties got together,

Personal wind power system can lower home bills

By Karen Krien

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Wind powered energy is becoming more common throughout the country. Near Lincoln, there are huge wind-powered towers and, that is what many people think of when they think about wind-powered energy.

However, St. Francis man, Rick Reeser, has now become the distributor for a E2D Wind Master all-wind generator systems, a small wind turbine, and has one installed on his land.

He has been studying wind-powered energy for a number of years. But he found it to expensive. He could see that, with the demand for electric cars, there would eventually be a big demand on the electricity produced in the country. Neither Kansas nor Colorado have built new energy plants for years but the population continues to increase in both states.

Then he discovered www.Freetricity.com. He found he could beat the rising price of electricity by installing a financially feasible personal power system. He also found that there are grants available.

Produced by Freetricity, his wind turbine is attached to a pole inside a building on his property. Barely seen, it is lowering his electricity bill and, at times, eliminating the costs. If there is excess, it is sold back to Prairie Land Electric at a low price.

The average home uses 1,200 kilowatt hours of electricity each month and the customer pays for the kilowatt hours used he said.

In an average wind speed of 12-miles per hour for 6 hours a day, each system wind turbine can produce from 100 to 700 kilowatt hours, depending on the system selected he said.

There are three different systems available.

• The 12-volt system with a battery controller and 1,100 watt inverter costs only \$1,399.

• The 12-volt system with battery controller and 2,300 watt inverter is priced at \$1,699.

• The 2.5 kilowatt grid-tie system with inverter is \$3,620.

The systems have an inverter which is plugged into one of the electrical circuits in the garage. This inverter changes the 12 volts DC into the 110 volts AC needed to power electrical outlets on that circuit. This way, there isn’t a negative power he said.

A 12-volt system is powerful enough to run a washer and dryer,

central air conditioning and central heating plus much more.

He figures, that with the wind turbine, his electricity bill will average around \$25 a month compared to \$85. He has air conditioning, a water well pump and electrical appliances including an electric water heater. He said the grid-tie system will supply one-half to three-fourths of the electricity needed in his home.

On the plains of Kansas and Colorado, he said, there is almost constant wind. With the E2D Wind Master, there is a reliable and powerful renewable energy source which is captured into an affordable and highly productive electrical generating system.

Reeser has a physical science/physics degree from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, and understands the workings and

calculations of turbine-wind power. He is excited at the prospect of supplying a product which is easily accessible, easy to install and is affordable. He said he expects his Wind Master to pay for its self in savings in 4 1/2 years.

Reeser and his wife Laura live east of St. Francis (about halfway between St. Francis and Wheeler) on U.S. 36. For more information, people can call him at (785) 332-3997.

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