

Energy Systems

Solar Energy Systems (SES)

...continued...

☼ Large SES:

Equipment that directly converts and then transfers or stores solar energy into usable forms of thermal or electrical energy which is intended for off-site consumption.

Setback shall not encroach 10 ft of property lines or road right-of-ways.

A SES shall not exceed 35 feet in height. Building-mounted SES may extend up to eight feet above the allowable building height. Exemptions may be granted by the Land Management Committee.

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required prior to construction and may be permitted in all zoning districts (except the Shoreland-Wetland District).

Subject to other requirements in Pierce County Zoning Code § 240-41D.

Wisconsin's Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

They can help explore renewable energy options to save energy and money at your home, business, or facility.

Eligibility for Focus programs depends on your electric and gas utility providers. To see if you qualify for incentives, grants, rebates, or other programs, call 800-762-7077. Or visit their website for more information at <http://www.focusonenergy.com>.

Contact the Land Management Department for a listing of the local contacts.



Photo: Small Wind Energy System, Town of Salem, Pierce Co., WI. Roy & Nancy Christianson.



Photo: Solar Energy System, City of River Falls, Pierce Co., WI. Paul Steiner, Steiner Electric.



Photo: Small Wind Energy System, Town of Oak Grove, Pierce Co., WI. Bob & Shelley Fleming.

PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Department of Land Management & Records
Pierce County Courthouse
PO Box 647, 414 W Main St
Ellsworth WI, 54011

Phone: 715-273-6746 or 715-273-6747
Fax: 715-273-6864
www.co.pierce.wi.us

PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Wind & Solar Energy Systems



DEPARTMENT OF LAND MANAGEMENT & RECORDS

Planning Office 715-273-6746

Zoning Office 715-273-6747

Energy Systems

Energy generation and distribution in Wisconsin has consequences for landscapes and land use. This brochure is intended to explain wind and solar energy land use regulations in Pierce County.

▲ Wind Energy Systems (WES)

▲ Small WES:

≤ 100 kilowatts generating capacity

Total height < 200 feet

Incidental & subordinate to permitted use on same parcel or contiguous parcel of common ownership

Supply electrical power for on-site use, except when a parcel on which the system is installed also receives electrical power supplied by a utility company, excess electrical power generated and not presently needed for on-site use may be used by the utility company.



Photo: Small WES, Town of El Paso, Pierce Co, WI. Al & Sharon Hines.

Setback distance equal to 110% of the total height from any public right-of-way, property line, and utility lines.

Tower access shall be a minimum of 12 ft above the ground.

A Land Use Permit (LUP) is required prior to construction, allow Zoning Administrator 15 days following submittal to review, and may be permitted in all zoning districts (except the Shoreland-Wetland District).

Subject to other requirements in Pierce County Zoning Code § 240-41D.



Photo: Small WES, Town of El Paso, Pierce Co., WI. Jerold & Sharon Fleming.



Photo: Large Wind Energy System, Community Wind Energy LLC, Door County, WI

▲ Large WES:

> 100 kilowatts generating capacity

Total height ≥ 200 feet

1 or more wind turbine(s), tower(s) and control or conversion electronics

Supply electrical power for off-site power consumption

Setback distance equal to hub height (HH) plus rotor diameter (RD) multiplied by 1.5, or [(HH+RD) x 1.5], from public right-of-way, property line, and 110% of total height from any utility lines.

Tower access shall be a minimum of 12 ft above the ground.

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required prior to construction and may be permitted in all zoning districts (except the Shoreland-Wetland District).

Subject to other requirements in Pierce County Zoning Code § 240-41D

⚙ Solar Energy Systems (SES)

⚙ Small SES:

Directly converts and transfers or stores solar energy into usable forms of thermal or electrical energy

Incidental and subordinate to a permitted use on the same parcel or on a contiguous parcel of common ownership

Supply thermal energy or electrical power solely for on-site use, except when a parcel on which the system is installed also



Photo: Solar Energy System, River Falls High School, Pierce Co., WI.



Photo: Solar Energy System, Town of River Falls, Pierce Co., WI. Dennis & Julie Behnke.

receives electrical power supplied by a utility company, excess electrical power generated and not presently needed for onsite use may be used by the utility company with an agreement or contract.

Setback shall not encroach 10 ft of property lines or road right-of-ways.

A SES shall not exceed 35 feet in height. Building-mounted SES may extend up to eight feet above the allowable building height. Exemptions may be granted by the Land Management Committee.

A Land Use Permit (LUP) is required prior to construction, allow Zoning Administrator 15 days following submittal to review, and may be permitted in all zoning districts (except the Shoreland-Wetland District).



Photo: Solar Energy System, Town of Ellsworth, Pierce Co., WI. Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Subject to other requirements in Pierce County Zoning Code § 240-41D.

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