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Lanark Awarded Wind Measurement Tower

Lanark – The CCEDC and the City of Lanark have been discussing the possibilities of wind development in eastern Carroll County for nearly a year. The City of Lanark applied for a 50 meter MET tower through Western Illinois University's Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs' wind monitoring program. The program is designed to measure wind for one-year increments in different locations for four years across the State of Illinois.

The Institute is committed to assisting rural residents and communities of Illinois in building knowledge of wind power. This knowledge will lead to sound decision making regarding the development of wind energy and facilitate development where it is feasible to do so. This work is made possible by a grant from the [Energy Foundation](#) and a grant by the [Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation](#), which is the sole funding source of the statewide wind-monitoring program.

The tower was erected approximately 2 miles south of Lanark along Benson Rd on the City farm. The tower is currently online and collecting data and will remain at this location for approximately one-year. Data will be collected on a monthly basis and mailed to the Institute, where the data will be displayed on the website www.illinoiswind.org.

"This is the first and most important step in wind development. Without wind data for a complete year; one, you will not be able to figure out the financials and two, you will not qualify for grants, which are crucial to make a wind farm economical. I am very anxious to see what we find out next June. If the data turns out good, then we will have the potential to attract wind developers or better yet, organize locally and develop. Sitting back and watching the wind blow without harnessing its power is like leaving money on the table. This is good for the schools, the farmers, and anyone who wants to participate. It is also good for the overall local economy because creating a green county attracts future development along the same reins. In addition, being part of a major university program brings needed attention to Carroll County. We are now in the wind development playing field," commented Dave Keiser, Director of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation.

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