

Herkimer town approves proposal to build turbines

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Wind turbines are coming to the Herkimer County town of Warren, which borders northern Otsego County.

According to Warren Town Clerk Anna Halkowich, the town has a proposal to site scores of wind turbines in the vicinity of Hicks Road.

"We had a public hearing on Oct. 5, and the board approved the proposal Monday night," she said Wednesday.

The wind park will be developed and operated by Community Energy of Wayne, Pa., she said.

Skip Brennan of Community Energy said Wednesday that the firm plans to erect "between 70 and 75 turbines." They will each be capable of generating between 1.5 and 2 megawatts, he said.

The wind park will extend into the town of Stark, and Community Energy has entered into negotiations with Warren and Stark. The negotiations will lead to payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreements with both communities, he said.

"Most people have been very receptive," Brennan said. "It's rural country, and farming and windmills go together. I've talked to people who say `we have plenty of wind and it's about time someone harvested it.'"

Halkowich said officials in Warren and most town residents are delighted with the prospect of having a wind park.

The project has been in the works since 2003 and construction is scheduled to start in 2007, Brennan said.