

Section 3.16 - Wind Turbines –

A) No Conditional Permit Required

- (1) **Applicants with a Certificate of Public Good (CPG):** Applicants who have received a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) from the Vermont Public Service Board (allowing them to net-meter their wind turbine) DO NOT need a Moretown zoning permit, however, they must certify that they have received a CPG. The applicant must submit a “Moretown Wind Turbine CPG Certification Form” to the zoning administrator with all necessary documentation. The zoning administrator will confirm the validity of the CPG, and send confirmation to the applicant.
- (2) **Small turbines on existing structures:** Wind turbines can be installed on existing structures. The mounting structure (pole) shall not extend more than 15 feet above the highest point on the structure. The turbine blades must be less than or equal to 10 feet in diameter. The applicant must submit a “Moretown Existing-Structure Wind Turbine Permit Form” to the zoning administrator with all necessary documentation. The zoning administrator will approve or deny the permit in accordance with these regulations.

B) Conditional Permit Required - Applicants without a Certificate of Public Good (CPG):

Wind turbines may be permitted in designated zoning districts subject to conditional use review under Section 5.2 and the following provisions:

- (1) All turbines shall not be more than 40 feet higher than the surrounding forest canopy as measured from the lowest grade at ground level to the top of the highest structure or component (usually top of the blade). Forest canopy shall be defined as the average height of the five (5) tallest trees within 50 feet of the tower. The maximum height of any wind turbine is 150 feet.
- (2) Wind turbines shall be set back from all property lines, buildings, and public rights of way for a distance equaling their total height, including blades, unless otherwise permitted by the Development Review Board.
- (3) No wind turbine shall be located or operated in such a manner that it poses a potential threat to public health or safety.
- (4) Wind turbines shall be designed to avoid having an undue adverse aesthetic impact on prominent ridgelines and hilltops. In determining whether a wind turbines’ aesthetic impact would be undue and adverse, the Development Review Board will consider:
 - a. The period of time during which the proposed turbine would be viewed by the traveling public on a public highway;
 - b. The frequency of the view experienced by the traveling public;
 - c. Background features in the line of sight to the proposed wind turbine that obscure the facility or make it more conspicuous;
 - d. The sensitivity or unique value of a particular view affected by the proposed wind turbine;
 - e. Significant disruption of a view shed that provides context to a historic or scenic resource.
- (5) Wind turbines shall not be illuminated by artificial means and shall not display strobe lights unless the Federal Aviation Administration or other federal or state authority specifically requires such lighting.
- (6) The use of any portion of a wind turbine for signs other than warning or equipment information signs is prohibited.
- (7) Access roads, and all utility buildings and structures accessory to a wind turbine shall be designed to aesthetically blend in with the surrounding environment and meet all other minimum requirements for the district in which they are located.
- (8) All abandoned or unused wind turbines and associated facilities shall be removed within 5 years of the cessation of operations at the site, and the site shall be restored to its original appearance.