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**NACo and DWEA Release County Wind Ordinance Best Practices Guide**

**Washington, D.C., Dec. 18, 2012** – The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Distributed Wind Energy Association (DWEA) have released a guide that details best practices to assist counties in developing effective county wind ordinances.

The report, [\*County Strategies for Successfully Managing and Promoting Wind Power\*](#), is the result of a NACo and DWEA partnership to assist county leaders and the wind industry in working collaboratively to develop affordable and safe wind energy projects that respect property rights and promote economic growth.

The guide serves as a tool for county elected officials and planners to learn about local wind ordinance development, explore key ordinance criteria, and consider best practices from other counties. For example, the permitting process is often a daunting obstacle for counties, wind developers, and would-be consumers to develop. Few counties have added allowances for wind systems – even small-scale – to their zoning codes. In some places, unfamiliarity with wind technologies has resulted in a complete restriction of wind development to avoid setting a controversial precedent.

The guide explains key differences in wind system technologies and cites best practices for distributed wind in areas, such as rotor and turbine height, lighting, and safety. It features detailed case studies from several NACo member counties, including:

- Linn County, Iowa
- Tippecanoe County, Ind.

**-more-**

- St. Lawrence County, N.Y.
- Fillmore County, Minn.
- Rockingham County, Va.

“Wind energy is an opportunity for counties to move their communities toward clean renewable energy and local jobs,” said NACo Vice President, Linda Langston, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa. “The information in the guide should be very helpful for county leaders as they look toward clean economic development options.”

Jennifer Jenkins, executive director, Distributed Wind Energy Association, said, “We are pleased to partner with NACo on this report and view it as a critical next step for gaining the understanding and trust of county officials across the U.S. We are hopeful that this information will help continue an informed dialogue between our industry and the counties our members serve.”

Download the guide at: [www.naco.org/greencounties](http://www.naco.org/greencounties). Hard copies are available upon request.

For more information on NACo’s Green Government Initiative, contact Cindy Wasser at [cwasser@naco.org](mailto:cwasser@naco.org) or 202.942.4274.

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*The Distributed Wind Energy Association (DWEA) is a collaborative group comprised of manufacturers, distributors, project developers, dealers, installers, and advocates, whose primary mission is to promote and foster all aspects of the American distributed wind energy industry. Distributed wind, commonly referred to as small and community wind, is the use of typically smaller wind turbines at homes, farms, businesses, and public facilities to off-set all or a portion of on-site energy consumption. For more information about DWEA, visit [www.distributedwind.org](http://www.distributedwind.org).*

*The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).*