

# Small Wind Innovation Zones

This Act directs the state utilities division to establish and administer a small wind innovation zone program to optimize local, regional, and state benefits from wind energy and to facilitate and expedite interconnection of small wind energy systems with electric utilities throughout the state. “Small wind innovation zone” means a political subdivision of the state, including but not limited to a city, county, township, school district, community college, area education agency, institution under the control of the state board of regents, a local commission, or small wind energy system owners who agree to certain terms.

The Act directs the state chapters of the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties to develop a model ordinance with the state wind energy association and representatives from the utility industry that political subdivisions in the state can use to establish small wind innovation zones. The legislation also directs the state utilities board to create a model interconnection agreement that owners of small wind energy systems can use to connect to energy utilities.

Submitted as:

Iowa

[House File 810 – Enrolled](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2009.

## Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1           Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “An Act Providing for the  
2 Establishment of Small Wind Innovation Zones.”

3

4           Section 2. [*Definitions.*] As used in this Act:

5           (1) “Electric utility” means a public utility that furnishes electricity to the public for  
6 compensation and which enters into a model interconnection agreement with the owner of a small  
7 wind energy system as provided in Section 5 of this Act.

8           (2) “Small wind energy system” means a wind energy conversion system that collects and  
9 converts wind into energy to generate electricity which has a nameplate generating capacity of  
10 [one hundred kilowatts] or less.

11           (3) “Small wind innovation zone” means a political subdivision of this state, including but  
12 not limited to a [city, county, township, school district, community college, area education  
13 agency, institution under the control of the state board of regents, or any other local commission,  
14 association, or tribal council] which adopts, or is encompassed within a local government which  
15 adopts the [model ordinance] as provided in Section 4 of this Act.

16

17           Section 3. [*Model Ordinance to Establish a Small Wind Innovation Zone.*] The state  
18 [league of cities], the [association of counties], the [environmental council], [wind energy  
19 association], and representatives from the utility industry shall consult and develop a [model  
20 ordinance] to be offered on both the state [league of cities’] and the state [association of  
21 counties’] Internet sites and made available for use by a local government which constitutes or  
22 encompasses a political subdivision that is applying for designation as a Small Wind Innovation  
23 Zone. A local government adopting the [model ordinance] shall establish an expedited approval

24 process with regard to small wind energy systems in compliance with the [ordinance] in order to  
25 qualify as a Small Wind Innovation Zone.

26

27 Section 4. [*Model Interconnection Agreement.*] The [utilities board] shall develop a  
28 [Model Interconnection Agreement] by [insert date], for utilization within a small wind  
29 innovation zone by the owner of a small wind energy system seeking to interconnect with an  
30 electric utility. The [interconnection agreement] shall ensure that the energy produced can be  
31 safely interconnected with the utility without causing any adverse or unsafe consequences and is  
32 consistent with the electric utility's resource needs. The [board] shall establish by rule procedures  
33 for modification of the [Model Interconnection Agreement] upon mutually agreeable terms and  
34 conditions in unique or unusual circumstances, subject to [board] approval. Electric utilities shall  
35 consider adopting the [Model Interconnection Agreement].

36

37 Section 5. [*Small Wind Innovation Zone Program.*]

38 (A) The [utilities division] shall establish and administer a Small Wind Innovation Zone  
39 Program to optimize local, regional, and state benefits from wind energy and to facilitate and  
40 expedite interconnection of small wind energy systems with electric utilities throughout this state.  
41 Pursuant to the program, the owner of a small wind energy system located within a small wind  
42 innovation zone desiring to interconnect with an electric utility shall benefit from a streamlined  
43 application process, can qualify under a [model ordinance], and may use a [model interconnection  
44 agreement].

45 (B) A political subdivision seeking to be designated a Small Wind Innovation Zone shall  
46 apply to the [division] upon a form developed by the [division]. The [division] shall approve an  
47 application which documents that the applicable local government has adopted the model  
48 ordinance developed under Section 3 of this Act or is in the process of amending an existing  
49 zoning ordinance to comply with the [model ordinance] developed under Section 3 of this Act  
50 and that an electric utility operating within the political subdivision has agreed to utilize the  
51 [model interconnection agreement] developed under Section 4 of this Act to contract with the  
52 small wind energy system owners who agree to its terms.

53

54 Section 6. [*Tax Credit Incentives.*] The owner of a small wind energy system operating  
55 within a Small Wind Innovation Zone shall qualify for a renewable energy tax credit pursuant to  
56 [insert citation].

57

58 Section 7. [*Reporting Requirements.*] The [division] shall prepare a report summarizing  
59 the number of applications received from political subdivisions seeking to be designated a Small  
60 Wind Innovation Zone, the number of applications granted, the number of small wind energy  
61 systems generating electricity within each Small Wind Innovation Zone, and the amount of wind  
62 energy produced, and shall submit the report to the members of the [general assembly] [annually]  
63 by [January 1].

64

65 Section 8. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

66

67 Section 9. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

68

69 Section 10. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]