



Wayne Park Given Grant to Promote Green Energy

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(Harbec Plastics, 369 Rt. 104, Ontario)

As strong winds continued to blow over Wayne County on Monday, local officials gathered under Harbec Plastics Inc.'s 140 foot wind turbine along Route 104 to celebrate a \$300,000 state grant for an environmentally friendly business park.

The money, secured by state Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Fayette, Seneca County, will pay for water and sewer pipes, road work and utility lines leading into the newly named Wayne Industrial Sustainability Park in Ontario, which will use a mix of wind turbines, methane and geothermal sources for power. In total, the Wayne County Industrial Development Agency will develop 40 acres along Route 104.

The business park, which will include the Harbec property, will focus on attracting companies looking to reduce their carbon footprint or ones developing "green" technology, said Peg Churchill, executive director of the Wayne County agency.

The park will develop sources of green energy, Churchill said, including geothermal, wind and methane digesters.

Harbec plans to add a 1.5 megawatt turbine near its 250 kilowatt model, installed in 2003. Churchill said up to five more 1.5 megawatt turbines could be in the park's future.

Green energy already is in production at the business complex, supporters noted, with biodiesel produced by Northern Biodiesel of Ontario. Churchill said two medium-sized businesses are already inquiring about locating in the Wayne County Park and could take up to 150,000 square feet, which would require new construction.

For Bob Bechtold, owner of Harbec, the grant announcement is promising. "It's all new jobs," said Bechtold. "It's all new industry."

Churchill said past fluctuations in energy costs mean the private sector is looking to be able to forecast power costs 10 years to 15 years in the future. Harbec installed the 140 foot wind turbine at its plant in 2003. Bechtold said the turbine generates at peak about 250 kilowatts – or 300 kilowatt hours a year.

