

# Proposal for wind power tower in flux

BY ELIZABETH QUILL  
Staff Writer

Last fall the college's facilities planning committee approved a proposal to construct a wind power tower for campus use, but new developments could complicate the project.

Originally, the proposal's developers — John Confer, associate professor of biology, and Beth Ellen Clark Joseph, assistant professor of physics — suggested King Road, located south of the college, as the best location for a tower.

However, Confer said New York State Energy and Resource Development Authority guidelines might require a site closer to campus, meaning the blades might not be able spin.

"This is supposed to be an advertisement for wind power, and people would look up there and say, 'It's not working,'" Confer said.

Funding for the tower is available through a NYSERDA grant that provides money for institutions developing renewable energy sources for educational purposes. The grant would fund 70 percent of the estimated \$80,000 installation cost.

Peter Bardaglio, provost and vice president of academic affairs,

said that the proposal has the backing of college administrators including President Peggy R. Williams. The college's capital budget would cover the \$24,000 not paid for by NYSERDA.

However, NYSERDA preliminarily denied the King Road location, because the tower needs to be built on the college side of a meter, located between the college and the power company. Unfortunately, at the alternative location, about a quarter of a mile southeast of the towers, annual estimated wind speed decreases to just above the NYSERDA funding cutoff.



CONFER

"I'm personally keeping my fingers crossed and hoping we can work out some kind of compromise solution that makes it possible for the tower to be financially viable as well as serve the educational and symbolic objectives," Bardaglio said.

Confer said the proposed 200-foot tower is not tall enough to produce significant amounts of electricity with Ithaca's wind speeds.

"The little bitty ones are more a matter of conscience," Confer said. He said the tower would also serve educational purposes.

He said a data logger on the tower would broadcast to a transmission



COURTESY OF JOHN CONFER

**A WIND POWER TOWER** that would look similar to the one superimposed in this photograph could be constructed near King Road. A proposal for the tower was presented to the board of trustees last month.

tower, which would send data to a web server and make it available around the world. Students could calculate carbon dioxide savings, sulfur dioxide savings and energy output.

The board of trustees heard a presentation on a proposed wind power tower project at its meeting in late February.

Carl Sgrecci, vice president of finance and administration, said the board heard the proposal, in its original form, mainly for informational purposes.

"My shop is kind of in a holding pattern," Sgrecci said. "It is a

question of whether or not we can get the funding for it and a location that makes it a useful endeavor."

Confer said the college will hire engineers to write the specifications for the building bid with funds from an Environmental Protection Agency grant. The firm will then talk to NYSERDA about King Road and other locations. He expects they will again deny the King Road location.

Sgrecci said if the proposed location changes drastically, a new proposal would need to go back to the facilities planning committee

and possibly to the board of trustees.

"We have to make a judgment call once we see how different it is from what was originally proposed," he said.

Confer said if NYSERDA does approve the proposal at the King Road location, the project will go to the Town of Ithaca Zoning Board, and the project would probably happen. If it happens, Confer said the college could hire builders within six months. But, if NYSERDA says the location needs to be changed, he doesn't know what will happen.

# Proposal for wind power tower in flux

BY ELIZABETH QUILL  
Staff Writer

Last fall the college's facilities planning committee approved a proposal to construct a wind power tower for campus use, but new developments could complicate the project.

Originally, the proposal's developers — John Confer, associate professor of biology, and Beth Ellen Clark Joseph, assistant professor of physics — suggested King Road, located south of the college, as the best location for a tower.

However, Confer said New York State Energy and Resource Development Authority guidelines might require a site closer to campus, meaning the blades might not be able spin.

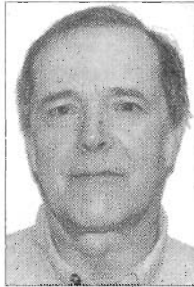
"This is supposed to be an advertisement for wind power, and people would look up there and say, 'It's not working,'" Confer said.

Funding for the tower is available through a NYSEERDA grant that provides money for institutions developing renewable energy sources for educational purposes. The grant would fund 70 percent of the estimated \$80,000 installation cost.

Peter Bardaglio, provost and vice president of academic affairs,

said that the proposal has the backing of college administrators including President Peggy R. Williams. The college's capital budget would cover the \$24,000 not paid for by NYSEERDA.

However, NYSEERDA preliminarily denied the King Road location, because the tower needs to be built on the college side of a meter, located between the college and the power company. Unfortunately, at the alternative location, about a quarter of a mile southeast of the towers, annual estimated wind speed decreases to just above the NYSEERDA funding cutoff.



CONFER

"I'm personally keeping my fingers crossed and hoping we can work out some kind of compromise solution that makes it possible for the tower to be financially viable as well as serve the educational and symbolic objectives," Bardaglio said.

Confer said the proposed 200-foot tower is not tall enough to produce significant amounts of electricity with Ithaca's wind speeds.

"The little bitty ones are more a matter of conscience," Confer said. He said the tower would also serve educational purposes.

He said a data logger on the tower would broadcast to a transmission



COURTESY OF JOHN CONFER

**A WIND POWER TOWER that would look similar to the one superimposed in this photograph could be constructed near King Road. A proposal for the tower was presented to the board of trustees last month.**

tower, which would send data to a web server and make it available around the world. Students could calculate carbon dioxide savings, sulfur dioxide savings and energy output.

The board of trustees heard a presentation on a proposed wind power tower project at its meeting in late February.

Carl Sgrecci, vice president of finance and administration, said the board heard the proposal, in its original form, mainly for informational purposes.

"My shop is kind of in a hold-in pattern," Sgrecci said. "It is a

question of whether or not we can get the funding for it and a location that makes it a useful endeavor."

Confer said the college will hire engineers to write the specifications for the building bid with funds from an Environmental Protection Agency grant. The firm will then talk to NYSEERDA about King Road and other locations. He expects they will again deny the King Road location.

Sgrecci said if the proposed location changes drastically, a new proposal would need to go back to the facilities planning committee

and possibly to the board of trustees.

"We have to make a judgment call once we see how different it is from what was originally proposed," he said.

Confer said if NYSEERDA does approve the proposal at the King Road location, the project will go to the Town of Ithaca Zoning Board, and the project would probably happen. If it happens, Confer said the college could hire builders within six months. But, if NYSEERDA says the location needs to be changed, he doesn't know what will happen.