

# Project starts, piece by piece

---



By Stefanie Weiss

**Randy Reints, vice president of The Morse Group, explains the process of assembling the blades to the wind turbine at a site where the EcoGrove Wind Energy farm is being constructed in Waddams Grove on Sept. 5, 2008.**

By Travis Morse  
The Journal-Standard  
Fri Sep 05, 2008, 11:13 PM CDT

---

Lena, Ill. -

Organizers hope to begin standing towers up for a 67-turbine wind farm planned for northwest of Lena by mid-September 2008, according to Ed Englert, construction project manager for the EcoGrove Wind LLC wind farm.

On an almost daily basis, wind turbine components are being delivered to the tower sites for the EcoGrove wind farm. Components include blades, tower sections, nacelles, and hubs. In a few weeks, officials hope to begin erecting towers for the wind turbines using these components, Englert said.

“We’re receiving component parts pretty much daily,” Englert said. “We hope to start standing towers up by the middle of the month, weather permitting.”

The \$200 million EcoGrove wind farm is being built by EcoEnergy LLC, a Freeport-based company. Phase 1 of the project involves building 67 turbines spread out over approximately 7,300 acres in Stephenson County. The project is expected to create 10 full-time jobs.

Englert said trucks have been delivering components to the tower sites since early August. The components are brought to each tower site where the foundation has been established, he said.

“So far, it has gone well,” Englert said, adding that rainy weather can slow things down. “A lot of rain makes things difficult.”

Initial progress on the farm’s construction began in May with the completion of a gravel parking lot near the intersection of Galena Road and Baker Road northwest of Lena. Organizers hope to finish primary construction on Phase 1 of the project by the end of 2008.

“We’re making good progress,” Englert said.

The owners of the wind farm project, Acciona and EcoEnergy, are also planning Phase 2 and 3 of the EcoGrove project. These phases could add another 70 to 100 turbines in Stephenson County. However, these two phases are still in the preliminary planning stage.

### **County Revenue**

So far, the EcoGrove project has provided more than \$750,000 in revenue for the county through enterprise zone fees, zoning application fees, and turbine permit fees.

County Board Vice Chairman Jim Graham said the project is an important part of making Stephenson County a center for alternative energy in the region.

“It’s a huge investment for our county,” Graham said. “We want to be an alternative energy county and that’s where we’re headed.”

<http://www.journalstandard.com/homepage/x1577101330>