

## **Cattaraugus Wind Turbine – FAQ**

**Q: What is the wind turbine project on the Cattaraugus Territory?**

A: The Seneca Nation has started construction of a 1.5 MW wind turbine near the Cattaraugus Bingo Hall and Gil Lay Arena. Simply stated, a wind turbine harnesses the power of the wind to produce electricity.

**Q: Will the wind turbine provide Cattaraugus residents with free power?**

A: No, electricity will **NOT** be free. Cattaraugus residents will receive a flat rate credit on their NGRID bill (approx. \$25/mo.). Customers will be expected to continue to pay NGRID for the electricity that is consumed.

**Q: Will my electricity be cheaper?**

A: Yes, you will receive the credit against your utility charges from NGRID. Your bill will be reduced by the flat rate credit amount. A monthly credit of \$25 equates to approximately 25% - 30% savings (based off avg. household electricity consumption).

**Q: How many months will I receive a credit?**

A: Every month that you are registered for the program for the entire life of the wind turbine. The turbine is expected to operate for 25 years.

**Q: How can I sign up to receive the monthly credit?**

A: Residents will be able to sign up for the monthly credit by bringing in a current electricity bill and filling out a short form with the Seneca Energy Department located in the William Seneca Building.

***Residents wishing to sign up must be in good standing with NGRID and continue to pay their electricity bill as usual.*** The start of the registration process will be announced when the details are finalized.

**Q: Will I be able to benefit from the program if I'm not in good standing with the Utility?**

A: Residents ***will not be eligible*** for the \$25 monthly credit if there is an outstanding balance with the Utility. Seneca Energy is evaluating the possibility of creating a fund that would assist individuals with installing renewable energy generation (ex. solar panels) and/or energy efficiency measures. We are in the process of determining whether or not this additional program will be viable and we stress that residents should continue to pay their electric bills in full in order to participate in the savings that the wind turbine will provide.

**Q: Will I receive the money directly?**

A: It is proposed that the credit will automatically be applied directly to your NGRID bill. However, this process is still being finalized b/w SNI and NGRID.

**Q: Is this project good for the environment?**

A: Over its expected lifetime of 20 to 25 years, the project would result in a reduction of 86 million pounds of carbon dioxide, 1.6 million pounds of sulfur dioxide, and 170,000 pounds of nitrogen dioxide. The project would also result in a reduction of mercury vapor.

**Q: Should I switch to electric heating?**

A: No, you won't want to increase your usage significantly. The credit amount that you receive will not change if you increase your usage.

**Q: When will construction begin?**

A: Construction has begun and a ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. More details will be released as plans are finalized. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

**Q: How can I learn more about the project?**

A: Contact Seneca Energy at 716-532-4900 x 5022 or [marlene.wakefield@sni.org](mailto:marlene.wakefield@sni.org).