

Grants Launch Wind Research

A \$1 million contract to study whether winds off Lake Erie can provide the region with a new source of power has been approved by the Cuyahoga County commissioners.

With an ultimate goal of creating more jobs, the Offshore Wind Research project will determine the cost-effectiveness and advantages of building up to 10 wind turbines off the shore of downtown Cleveland. Planners hope that up to 20 megawatts of power for the city and county can be generated -- enough to power 6,000 homes.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for the region to establish itself in the international wind industry," said Peter Endres of JW Great Lakes Wind LLC, the company that will manage the study. The firm is a Cleveland-based subsidiary of juwi international, a German wind power company.

In funding for the project, the County contributed \$200,000; The Fund for Our Economic Future and Case Western Reserve University gave \$200,000 each; the Cleveland Foundation about \$300,000; the City of Cleveland \$85,000; the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority \$50,000; and The Generation Foundation \$25,000.

An energy-development group formed by the commissioners more than a year ago – the Cuyahoga Regional Energy Development Task Force -- has been studying wind-turbines as a new energy source.

The Great Lakes Institute for Energy Innovation has been established at Case Western Reserve University with a \$3.6 million grant from the Cleveland Foundation and \$2 million from the Maltz Foundation to endow the Institute's first professor in energy innovation.

The center would focus on turbine design and technology. This work could attract wind-energy manufacturers and suppliers to the region, with the potential for hundreds of jobs. Recently The Generation Foundation made a grant to WIRE-Net to convene a conference in Akron. Fifty area manufacturing companies with interest in turbine production met with Clipper International, the second largest US wind turbine manufacturer, to find ways to meet the shortage of gears, bearings, towers, and turbine blades.

For more information, visit this link:

<http://www.development.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/bocc-approves-offshore-wind-energy-study.aspx>