

Best Practice

Village of Hazlet Wind Powered Rink Complex

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THE PRACTICE

The village of Hazlet was facing increased operational costs for its rink complex, and decreased usage. The village decided to install an artificial ice plant in the rink complex. In order to counteract the costs of power for this plant, the village resorted to using wind power. This wind powered rink complex is one of the first of its kind in Canada and provides longer curling and hockey seasons, and more affordable fees.

THE PROCESS

The idea for a wind powered rink complex was brought forward to Village Council by an individual in the community. The council then applied to the Recreational Infrastructure Canada grant with the idea, and it was accepted for funding. The grant included renovations to the skating surface, and installation of an artificial ice plant.

In order for the turbine to operate successfully it had to be placed in a high wind area. The village determined an optimal place using an online wind atlas. Once the location was determined, a wind power technician was brought out to assist with planning. A company who had some experience in this area was then hired to pour the base for the turbine tower. A crane was then used to assemble the turbine tower on the base. An electrical company was then hired to install the meter and fuse boxes for the turbine, and to run power lines to the rink complex. The final step toward completion included an inspection by SaskPower, CSA Certification, and a few test runs.

THE RESULTS

Measurable results cannot be determined until the completion of one full year of operation. However, since this project was one of the first of its kind, there were a number of issues that volunteers had to deal with. Long hours for volunteers, a need for research, and double checking specifications were all issues that needed to be addressed during the duration of this project.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Costs and timelines are seldom the same as what was initially predicted
- Volunteerism and fundraising from community members and local businesses helped make this project a success
- Updating community members and keeping them involved throughout the entire process helped to maintain enthusiasm and support for the project