

WIND ENERGY AT WORK FOR LONG ISLAND

There is now a working windmill gracing the landscape in Calverton. It's quite a sight actually. It's sleek, quiet and unobtrusive as it sits among the growing corn stalks...

The wind turbine is the first of five to be erected by LIPA on farm sites in Suffolk County with the cooperation of the Long Island Farm Bureau. Each windmill can generate 100,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. That's enough to power 12 average sized homes on Long Island. The primary purpose of the turbines is to demonstrate how the wind can be harnessed on Long Island to generate electricity.

The Zeh Farm behind the Windy Acres Farm Stand on Route 25 in Calverton was chosen as the first location for LIPA's land-based wind generators. All sites were reviewed for favorable wind characteristics, acceptable distances from residential areas and proximity to LIPA's distribution system. Approximately 50 farmers responded to a letter of inquiry from LIPA and LIFB. All were interested in becoming potential participants in an energy initiative to demonstrate the practicality of using wind turbines to generate electricity. LIPA and LIFB's goal is to show the ability of using agricultural land as a prime location for windmills. The turbines have very little impact on the agricultural operation and can provide a secondary financial benefit to the landowner. This can all be accomplished without diminishing the land's primary use in agriculture. Farm fields and windmills are a natural combination.

On Saturday, August 31, 2002 Governor George E. Pataki in concert with LIPA and LIFB held a press conference at the Zeh Farm to formally dedicate and celebrate LIPA's very first land based, energy producing windmill. "This is an exciting step forward for the development of wind power as an alternative energy technology on Long Island," Governor Pataki said. "Working in partnership with Long Island Farm Bureau, LIPA is demonstrating how innovative thinking can bring new and environmentally sound solutions to help address New York's energy needs."