

# Medicine Bow plans town wind power

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By The Associated Press

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MEDICINE BOW -- The town of Medicine Bow is seeking a nearly \$70,000 state grant to cover half the cost of installing 11 wind turbines around the community.

The turbines would produce about 25 kilowatts of power. Medicine Bow would match the state grant -- awarded through the state Loan and Investment Board -- with federal funds, according to Town Clerk Karen Heath.

"We'd like to run the whole town on wind," Heath said.

However, the grants only are intended to fund projects that produce 25 kilowatts or less.

The turbines could provide about 40 percent of the town government's electricity.

Right now, the town pays High Plains Power about \$2,000 a month in electricity bills. The wind turbines would reduce that by about \$800 a month.

The town would buy 11 Skystream turbines -- a kind used for residential wind installations -- capable of generating up to 2.4 kilowatts each. Each turbine would be placed on a 45-foot tower.

The turbines would be installed at or near the town hall, community center, water well on Como Bluff, sewer lagoon and water treatment plant.

The water plant, especially, is an "energy guzzler," Heath said.