

Clear Creek wind farm up and running

TURBINES PRODUCING ENOUGH TO POWER 3,000 HOMES

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Six new wind turbines are winding up Norfolk's contribution to a green energy grid.

AIM PowerGen announced Tuesday the Clear Creek wind farm is officially online and producing 9.9 megawatts of wind power, enough to power 3,000 average homes.

A similar farm outside of Dunnville was powered up in October.

It is the last of four projects the wind power developing company AIM PowerGen commissioned in Ontario for 2008. In June, AIM's wind farms in Cultus and Frogmore came online, adding 20 megawatts to Ontario's grid.

The smaller scale operation, compared to Erie Shores Wind Farm commissioned in 2006, was fully operational Nov. 22 and connected right to Hydro One's local distribution lines.

"This is one of the first projects to be connected to local distribution lines," said David Timm, vice president of strategic affairs with AIM. "We are greening the local community in a sense."

While all power is pooled into the provincial electric grid, electrons flow to the closest power load; meaning homes in Norfolk are being powered by these turbines.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Six new turbines at AIM PowerGen's Clear Creek project are now adding 10 megawatts of wind power to the Ontario Grid.

Completion of the project brings Ontario's installed wind capacity to over 649 MW, with 11 per cent of the power being harnessed here in Norfolk.

While Timm said AIM will focus on other ongoing projects in Essex and Shelburne in 2009, the wind power developer is not losing interest in the wind power potential on Erie's north shore.

The company's website indicates it is working on a feasibility study for off-

shore turbines in Nanticoke.

They are also in the late development stages of Phase 2 of the Erie Shores Wind farms, which includes infilling turbines between existing ones and extending the farm further west. They are awaiting procurement from the Ontario Power Authority.