



Tuesday, January 30, 2007

## The energy, my friend, is blowing in the wind

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Blustery winds were ideal Monday for a new wind-powered generating system that is designed to provide a local homeowner with his own electricity.

Krystal Planet, a company headquartered in Lenexa, Kan., was busy Monday installing a wind turbine on a 70-foot pole to provide electricity for an earth-contact home being built by Ron Sullivan, a full-time engineer with Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad.

Robert Gore, an employee of Krystal Planet Corp., of Lenexa, Kan., holds one of the blades and stabilizes the wind turbine while other employees prepare to raise it in place Monday afternoon just south of the city. (IVAL LAWHON JR./St. Joseph News-Press)

The new turbines cost between \$11,000 and \$15,000, said James McGinnis, who has established a local company to sell the product. With three blades that have a diameter of only 12 feet and only two moving parts, the turbines are quiet and ideal for city use, Mr. McGinnis said.

A Krystal Planet turbine needs winds of only 4 mph to generate some electricity.

In Northwest Missouri, it should provide between 60 percent and 110 percent of a person's electrical needs, Mr. McGinnis said. And on windy days, electricity can be sold to Aquila because federal law requires the utility

to buy excess power, Mr. McGinnis said.

Mr. Sullivan isn't alone. Gary Gillespie, a farmer living on 80 acres northwest of King City, Mo., ordered two wind turbines, one for his home and another for the farm.

"It's gonna be the wave of the future," Mr. Gillespie said.

A reduction in electrical usage is appealing to consumers, Mr. McGinnis said. Working with Krystal Planet, Mr. McGinnis offers free home energy reviews to show homeowners how they can reduce energy consumption. For more local information about Krystal Planet, visit its Web site at [www.krystal-planet.com](http://www.krystal-planet.com).

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