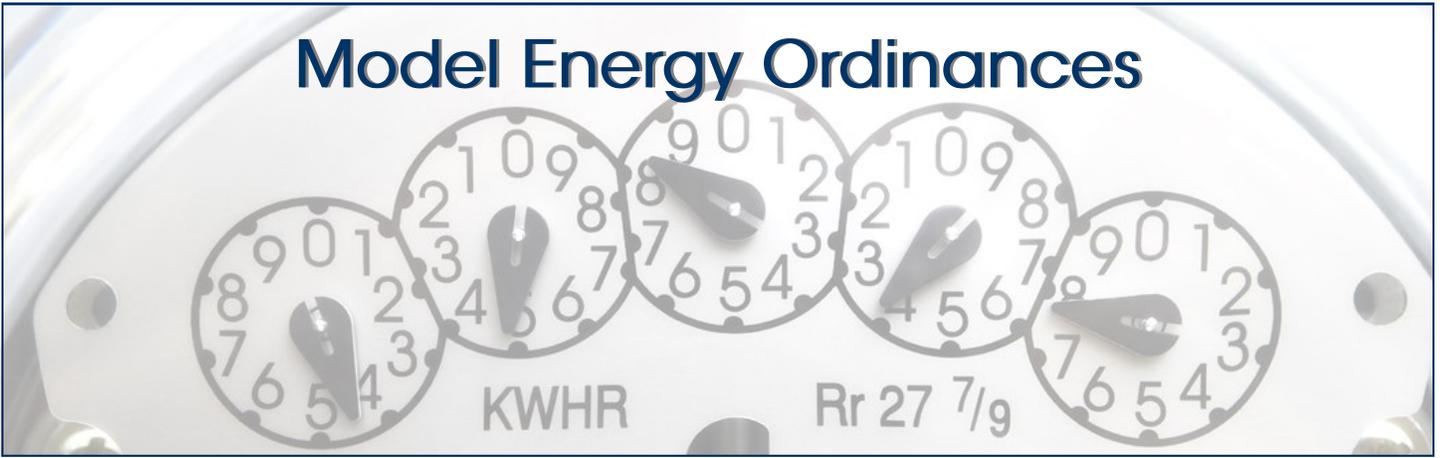


# Model Energy Ordinances



## Small Wind Energy System Ordinance

In 2008 the NH Legislature passed HB310, which creates a framework for municipalities to regulate the construction of small-scale wind turbines. The law clarifies the obligation municipalities have to encourage renewable energy in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare. The Small Wind ordinance is flexible enough for municipalities to adjust the regulations and meet their individual goals. A technical bulletin and presentation are also available.

This ordinance is available at ~ <http://www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/swes/index.htm>



## Epping Article 22—Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Design

The Town of Epping, NH was the first municipality in the state to pass a green building ordinance in 2007. The ordinance requires nonresidential development to be constructed in a manner that increases energy efficiency and utilizes renewable energy. The link below connects to the Clean Air-Cool Planet website, which features a substantial amount of supporting information on the ordinance.

This ordinance is available at ~ [http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for\\_communities/green\\_design\\_epping.php](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/green_design_epping.php)



## Energy Efficient Development Ordinance

This ordinance provides model language for three approaches that communities may adopt depending on their availability of building inspection and code enforcement staff. These approaches include language for adoption into subdivision or site plan review regulations, the adoption of additional building codes that exceed state energy codes, and the adoption of a performance zoning ordinance encouraging voluntary implementation of energy efficient practices for new construction in exchange for incentives or bonuses. This ordinance was developed as part of the NH Dept. of Environmental Service's Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook. An Energy Efficient Development Chapter is also available.

This ordinance is available at ~ [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative\\_land\\_use.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative_land_use.htm)

## Preserving Dark Skies Ordinance

This is a model outdoor lighting ordinance for inclusion in the municipal zoning regulations of small or medium sized towns. Municipalities can adopt this ordinance as written or can supplement it with additional design standards in their site plan review regulations. The ordinance was developed as part of the NH Dept. of Environmental Service's Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook. A Preserving Dark Skies Chapter is also available.

This ordinance is available at ~ [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative\\_land\\_use.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative_land_use.htm)



## Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques

The Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook has model ordinances and related chapters for 23 techniques, including Energy Efficient Development and Preserving Dark Skies referenced above.

Ordinances and chapters are available at ~

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative\\_land\\_use.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative_land_use.htm)

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## Sample Warrant Articles for Renewable Energy Property Tax Exemptions

RSA 72:61-72 permits municipalities to offer Property Tax exemptions on solar, wind, and wood heating systems, including solar hot water, solar photovoltaic, wind turbines, and central wood heating systems (not stovetop or woodstoves). Communities may choose to pass each exemption separately. For example, in the Nashua Region, Amherst allows for a solar energy exemption but not wind or wood heating. Other communities in the region that have exemptions include Hollis (solar and wind), Mason (solar), Milford (solar), Mont Vernon (solar), Nashua (solar), and Pelham (solar, wind, and wood).

Sample Warrant Articles available at ~

[http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/energy/renewableenergy/sample\\_warrant\\_articles.htm](http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/energy/renewableenergy/sample_warrant_articles.htm)

Procedures for Adopting Property Tax Exemptions ~

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/V/72/72-27-a.htm>

Municipalities with Exemptions ~

<http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/energy/renewableenergy/NHMunicipalitieswithPropertyTaxExemptionsforRenewables.htm>



## Writing an Energy Master Plan Presentation

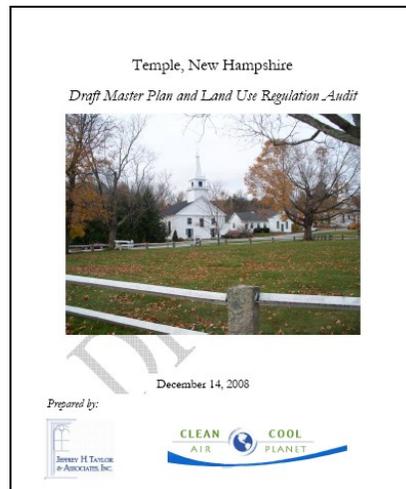
This presentation was written by Eric Steltzer of the NH Office of Energy and Planning. Energy Master Plans are important because communities cannot adopt energy regulations without their master plan reflecting an energy conservation vision. It highlights the various components and recommendations that might appear in an energy master plan as well as related resources.

Presentation available at ~

<http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/MRPA/conferences/spring2009/documents/steltzer.pdf>

Temple Draft Master Plan & Land Use Regulation Audit and Berlin Energy Master Plan Chapter ~

<http://www.nashuarpc.org/energy/tools.htm#ordinance>



This fact sheet was produced by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission with funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Healthy Communities Grant Program. For direct links to these documents, please visit <http://www.nashuarpc.org/energy/tools.htm#ordinance>.



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