In 2006 the Heartland Community College Board of Trustees adopted the vision of a wind turbine as part of the Campus Master Plan. This vision was consistent with the College's strategic commitment to environmental and fiscal stewardship and would provide a "classroom" for students preparing for the new economy. This piece describes the six years of planning, design and construction of the now operational 1.65 MW Turbine on the College's Normal campus.

**December 2006**

HCC identified wind turbine project on campus master plan.

**October 2009 - April 2011**

Grant funds secured:

- $950,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- $500,00 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. selected as performance contract partner.

**April 2011**

HCC Board of Trustees approved wind turbine project in principle and the $130,000 Notice to Proceed with Siemens.

**September 2011**

Owner match financing secured with $3.3 million debt certificates.

**September 2011 - October 2011**

Initial location required the wind turbine generator to shut down at 36 degrees F due to ice throw issues. An alternative wind turbine location was identified to address these issues.

**December 2011 - January 2012**

HCC Board of Trustees and Vestas approve moving turbine west of initial site.

**January 2012**

Wind turbine effect on cell tower assessed.

**February 20, 2012**

Groundbreaking and road construction.

**March 31-April 2, 2012**

Turbine components arrived on a convoy of 9-semi trucks.

**April 11-12, 2012**

Nacelle is lifted into place and the blades are attached.

**May 2012**

Transformer arrived, but a configuration issue was discovered and a rebuilt transformer was ordered. The switchgear was installed and the wiring system was connected to Heartland's electric grid.

2006 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012

**February 2008 - October 2009**

Possible turbine location identified and one-year wind data feasibility study conducted.

**May 2011 - July 2011**

Heartland attains Buy American Waiver to purchase the German-made Vestas V82 1.65 MW turbine due to inability to purchase a single American-made turbine.

**August 2011**

Initial project site identified.

Geotechnical testing and topographical survey completed on initial site.

**October 2011 - November 2011**

Finalized:

- Civil engineering design
- Microwave beam and air navigation interference reports
- Electrical interconnection agreement
- Siemens performance contract
- Vestas turbine supply agreement

**March 1, 2012**

54´ diameter foundation consisting of 315 cubic yards of concrete and 32 tons of steel was poured and allowed to cure for 3 weeks.

**April 3-9, 2012**

Four sections of the turbine tower are connected.

**June 12, 2012**

Rebuilt transformer arrives and is installed.

Wind turbine placed on-line and begins producing energy.

- Planning/Funding Stage
- Design Stage
- Construction Stage