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CONTACT: Brent Summerville, 518-213-9438
brent@smallwindcertification.org

SWCC Certification Ranks: Nine Models and Growing, Medium Turbines Now Eligible

Clifton Park, NY – The Small Wind Certification Council (SWCC) has recently issued its fifth and sixth full certifications, with nine turbine models now SWCC-certified. With an additional final report submitted for SWCC certification review, six others under test, and three new applicants, more full certifications are expected soon, further advancing consumer protection against fraudulent claims and faulty equipment and helping to build the industry’s reputation.

Reflecting global momentum in wind turbine certification, SWCC has increased its services and now offers certification for power performance and acoustic performance based on requirements identified in IEC 61400-12-1 and IEC 61400-11 for turbines with rotor swept areas larger than 200 m² designated “medium” sized. “With more agencies requiring certification for eligibility for state and federal incentives, it’s a big boost for the distributed wind industry to see a critical mass of leading turbine models certified,” SWCC Executive Director Larry Sherwood said. “In the upcoming year, we expect to confirm certification milestones and grant certification for even more small and medium turbine models.”

Representing a significant share of the North American distributed wind market, SWCC’s published certification ratings and labels are allowing easier comparison shopping, aiding incentive programs with setting payment levels, and leading to national requirements. In addition to the nine models carrying SWCC certifications, seven have completed testing or are currently collecting data at their testing sites, and several more are taking steps towards certification. SWCC has received 50 notices of intent to pursue certification since its inception. “As more turbine models are certified, consumers are gaining more confidence in the small wind industry,” Sherwood said. “Certification is helping to expand the small wind market, and ensuring its growth for the future.”

Ratings of Power Performance Certified Turbines

Applicant	Bergey Windpower		Endurance Wind Power	Evance Wind Turbines	Eveready Diversified Products	Kingspan Renewables Ltd	Southwest Windpower
	Excel 10	Excel 6	Endurance S-343	Evance R9000	Kestrel e400nb	KW6	Skystream 3.7
Rated Annual Energy @ 5 m/s <i>Estimated annual energy production assuming an annual average wind speed of 5 m/s (11.2 mph), a Rayleigh wind speed distribution, sea-level air density and 100% availability. Actual production will vary depending on site conditions.</i>	13,800 kWh	9,920 kWh	8,910 kWh	9,160 kWh	3,930 kWh	8,950 kWh	3,420 kWh
Rated Sound Level <i>The sound level that will not be exceeded 95% of the time, assuming an annual average wind speed of 5 m/s (11.2 mph), a Rayleigh wind speed distribution, sea-level air density, 100% availability and an observer location 60 m (~ 200 ft) from the rotor center.</i>	42.9 dB(A)	47.2 dB(A)	Pending full certification	45.6 dB(A)	55.6 dB(A)	43.1 dB(A)	41.2 dB(A)
Rated Power @ 11 m/s <i>The wind turbine power output at 11 m/s (24.6 mph) at standard sea-level conditions.</i>	8.9 kW	5.5 kW	5.4 kW	4.7 kW	2.5 kW	5.2 kW	2.1 kW

Other major SWCC milestones achieved include: Conditional Temporary Certification for the Eoltec Scirocco E5.6-6, the Gaia GW 133 - 11kW, and the Xzeres 442SR; and reports submitted for the Bergey Excel 6, the Endurance S-343, and the Evoco 10kW.

On-Site Wind Certification Requirements Growing

Numerous states and utilities provide financial incentives for the installation of distributed wind turbines. Incentive managers have been eager to incorporate SWCC certification requirements into their programs, noting that improving the reliability of performance estimates is a significant step towards increasing customer adoption of wind technology.

The Interstate Turbine Advisory Council (ITAC), an alliance of clean energy programs and utility incentive providers, now requires full certification to be eligible for its national unified list of small and medium wind turbines that meet the performance, reliability, acoustic and warranty service expectations of incentive providers. Currently, seven ITAC-member programs participate: California Energy Commission (CEC); California Public Utilities Commission; Energy Trust of Oregon; Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC); New Jersey's Clean Energy Programs; New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA); and NV Energy. Two other programs contribute to ITAC: Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources and Wisconsin's Focus on Energy.

More states and utilities are sending a clear signal to small wind turbine applicants on requirements for certification. In addition to the ITAC participating agencies, the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund and the Maryland Energy Administration Windswept Grant Program also require either SWCC certification or previous program qualification for incentive eligibility. Several other agencies, such as the Colorado Energy Office, Efficiency Maine, the Iowa Energy Center, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are expected to implement wind turbine certification requirements in the near future. An SWCC poll of state and utility incentive program managers revealed that certification could help expand their programs for small wind turbines. More than half of the states, utilities, and funding agencies with existing requirements for small wind turbines who responded to the SWCC survey indicated that they expect to use certification to supplement or replace their existing procedures.

For wind turbines with a swept area greater than 200 square meters, ITAC, the Energy Trust and other agencies require certification to applicable parts of IEC 61400 from an accredited, independent certification body, with an option for evidence of extensive operational history in lieu of certified Design Evaluation, and several non-technical items including resolution of any customer or contractor complaints.

About SWCC

SWCC certification is an independent confirmation that a small wind turbine has been tested and designed according to the requirements of the AWEA Standard. SWCC certified its first turbine model in 2011 and became an accredited certification body in 2012. SWCC updates the [application status](#) table on its website as milestones are reached. Consumer labels, ratings and summary reports for SWCC certified turbine models, including tabulated power curves, acoustic data, and tower design requirements, along with a complete list of SWCC pending applicant turbine models, are available at www.smallwindcertification.org/for-consumer.

