

Wind Energy Conversion System Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide additional guidance in the application of discretion by the Development Authority, recognizing that the site conditions of each application may create unique constraints and opportunities for Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

1. In order to ensure the safety of a Wind Energy Conversion System installation, and in the absence of the requirement for a building permit, at the time of application, the design of the Wind Energy Conversion System, including the foundation, tower or pole supporting structure, and turbine, should be approved by a qualified engineer.
2. The City of Calgary should not approve a development permit if the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has refused to approve or revoked a permit for the same application.
3. The maximum number of Wind Energy Conversion Systems on a parcel should be one.
4. A proposal for multiple Wind Energy Conversion Systems – Type 1 can be considered if they are integrated into the site or building design, such as a comprehensive project in a pedestrian or vehicle circulation area or on the roof of a building.
5. A proposal for multiple Wind Energy Conversion Systems – Type 2 can be considered if the Development Authority takes into account the site design and the impact on the aesthetics of the community and surrounding area.
6. A Biophysical Impact Assessment may include a literature review by a qualified biologist, field surveys, habitat assessments, and consideration for the publication “Wildlife Guidelines for Alberta Wind Energy Projects” by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.
7. Operational restrictions may be placed on a Wind Energy Conversion System as recommended by a Biophysical Impact Assessment.
8. Relaxations on maximum height of a Wind Energy Conversion System can be considered, based on additional information required by the Development Authority that may support such a decision.
9. The proponent of the Wind Energy Conversion System is responsible for evaluating the system’s access to wind resources, including considerations of surrounding vegetation and the development potential of nearby parcels. The City of Calgary will not protect access to wind for a proponent by limiting the development potential of adjacent or nearby parcels.
10. Consideration of a subsequent development permit application for a Wind Energy Conversion System – Type 2 should include a review of observed and reported wildlife and health impacts, and the latest research available.