



Farmers' Advocate Office

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Renewable Energy Resource Updated



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The Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) has released *Renewable Energy in Alberta*, which is an updated version of its former *Negotiating Renewable Energy Leases* publication.

"This revised publication is designed to assist landowners who have been approached by renewable energy developers to lease land for wind and solar developments that will tie into the grid," says Jeana Schuurman, rural engagement and communications specialist, FAO.

Following the original release of the publication in February 2017, staff from the FAO made presentations to landowners throughout the province about negotiating wind and solar energy leases. "The new version reflects what we've learned in talking with landowners, municipalities and professional organizations," says Schuurman.

Additions to the revised publication includes information on:

Renewable Energy Program (REP)

The Climate Leadership Plan includes the goal of having 30 per cent of Alberta's energy sources coming from renewable energy sources by 2030. "This is being accomplished by the [Renewable Energy Program \(REP\)](#) with the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)," says Schuurman. "Everywhere we did presentations people wanted to understand the bigger picture, so in this version we've taken time to explain more about REP and what it means for landowners."

Decommissioning & Reclamation

Wind and solar energy power plants are not required to obtain a Reclamation Certificate at the end of their life. "Alberta Environment and Parks is currently working on reclamation requirements for wind and solar developments," says Schuurman. "The revised document also provides more information about what happens from a landowner perspective if the developer becomes insolvent."

Associated Infrastructure

“Landowners are under no obligation to entertain a proposal to have a wind and solar power plant on their land,” says Schuurman. “While a power plant is voluntary, associated infrastructure such as substations or distribution and transmission lines are not, and this could have implications for you and your neighbours.”

Role of the Municipality

Many of the municipalities where the FAO made the presentations asked for clarity around their role when it comes to wind and solar energy leases. “Essentially, a municipality may make bylaws to help guide the development of wind and solar in the community,” says Schuurman. “However, under the *Municipal Government Act*, although it happens infrequently, a decision of the Alberta Utilities Commission can prevail over a municipality.”

[Renewable Energy in Alberta is available online HERE](#). Hard copies are also available through the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry’s Publications Office or by calling the Ag Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

For questions or more information on renewable energy development, contact the Alberta Ag Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

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