

**CONE Policy on Wind Turbine Developments
in and adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
July 2006**

WHEREAS global climate change, acid rain and other impacts associated with fossil fuel power generation are threats to the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment;

AND WHEREAS wind power, under certain conditions, is environmentally appropriate development as envisioned by the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation;

AND WHEREAS there continue to be community concerns related to the potential visual impacts of large-scale industrial wind turbine developments in the Escarpment “viewshed”;

AND WHEREAS current mapping of wind resources indicates potential for industrial wind power generation, but does not indicate environmental impacts (e.g., need for new transmission lines, proximity of migratory bird pathways, etc.);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE)’s position is that no new industrial wind turbine developments should be constructed in or near the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area until such time as the Province of Ontario has prepared mapping of the wind resources of Ontario which identifies the prime areas for wind power development that maximize power generation while minimizing environmental impacts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

Once such mapping is complete, CONE’s position is that:

- 1) The first priority for industrial wind power development should be in those areas which maximize wind power production while minimizing environmental impacts – and especially those locations outside of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.
- 2) Construction and operation of industrial wind turbines should not take place within the Escarpment Natural Area, the Escarpment Protection Area, or the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System, or within any prominent Niagara Escarpment “viewshed” within or adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.
- 3) Once high-priority areas outside of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area are exhausted, construction and operation of industrial wind turbines within the Escarpment Rural Area, the Escarpment Recreation Area, Mineral Resource Extraction Areas, Minor Urban Centres, or Urban Areas of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area (outside of the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System or any prominent Niagara Escarpment “viewsheds”), should be permitted as long as the undertaking meets all

provisions of the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and more specifically that the undertaking meets the following conditions:

- i) Turbines are clustered so as to minimize the amount of land occupied and to provide for discreet boundaries to all wind farm developments;
- ii) Turbines are placed and designed so as to provide a positive aesthetic impact;
- iii) Turbine locations are based first and foremost on environmental criteria, and not based merely on economic criteria or availability of land;
- iv) The size of turbines is appropriately scaled to the surrounding landscape so as not to negatively affect the Escarpment experience for recreational users

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment is not opposed to the construction of wind turbines adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, as long as the undertaking meets all provisions of applicable local Official Plans and is outside of prominent Niagara Escarpment “viewsheds,,” and as long as the undertaking meets the same conditions described above;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment’s position is that the Niagara Escarpment Commission should be the agency responsible for issuing or denying approvals for wind power developments within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area and municipal governments should have the authority outside of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area to designate through zoning by-laws appropriate locations for wind power development.