

(c) 1. Annually, beginning in 2002, a municipality shall certify to the department of revenue by May 1, in a manner prescribed by the department that the municipality complied with pars. (a) and (b).

2. Annually, beginning in 2002, a municipality shall submit to the department of revenue on or before June 30, in a manner prescribed by the department, a report that indicates whether the municipality has entered into any agreements with any other municipality or any county located in the same cooperation region as the municipality related to the following:

a. Establishment of performance standards for delivery of governmental services by municipalities or counties within a federal standard metropolitan statistical area or county.

b. Collaborative service delivery.

c. Reduction or elimination of overlapping service delivery.

d. Municipal revenue sharing under s. 66.0305.

e. Smart growth planning under s. 16.965.

f. Metropolitan service delivery.

g. Financial incentives for shared regional planning services.

h. Boundary issues.

i. Other intergovernmental issues.

(d) The department of revenue may grant a municipality additional time to submit any report under par. (c), if the municipality shows good cause for granting the additional time.

(e) Annually, beginning in 2004, the legislative audit bureau shall prepare a report on the performance of area cooperation compacts and shall submit copies of the report to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the appropriate standing committees under s. 13.172 (3) by June 30.

History: 2001 a. 16, 106.

SUBCHAPTER IV

REGULATION

66.0401 Regulation relating to solar and wind energy systems. (1) AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT SYSTEMS LIMITED.

No county, city, town, or village may place any restriction, either directly or in effect, on the installation or use of a solar energy system, as defined in s. 13.48 (2) (h) 1, g., or a wind energy system, as defined in s. 66.0403 (1) (m), unless the restriction satisfies one of the following conditions:

(a) Serves to preserve or protect the public health or safety.

(b) Does not significantly increase the cost of the system or significantly decrease its efficiency.

(c) Allows for an alternative system of comparable cost and efficiency.

(2) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE TRIMMING OF BLOCKING VEGETATION. A county, city, village, or town may provide by ordinance for the trimming of vegetation that blocks solar energy, as defined in s. 66.0403 (1) (k), from a collector surface, as defined under s. 700.41 (2) (b), or that blocks wind from a wind energy system, as defined in s. 66.0403 (1) (m). The ordinance may include, but is not limited to, a designation of responsibility for the costs of the trimming. The ordinance may not require the trimming of vegetation that was planted by the owner or occupant of the property on which the vegetation is located before the installation of the solar or wind energy system.

History: 1981 c. 354; 1981 c. 391 s. 210; 1993 a. 414; 1999 a. 150 ss. 78, 79, 84; Stats. 1999 s. 66.0401; 2001 a. 30.

This section is a legislative restriction on the ability of municipalities to regulate solar and wind energy systems. The statute is not superceded by s. 66.0403 or municipal zoning or conditional use powers. A municipality's consideration of an application for a conditional use permit for a system under this section must be in light of the restrictions placed on local regulation by this section. State ex rel. Numrich v. City of Mequon Board of Zoning Appeals, 2001 WI App 88, 242 Wis. 2d 677, 626 N.W.2d 366.

66.0403 Solar and wind access permits. (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Agency" means the governing body of a municipality which has provided for granting a permit or the agency which the governing body of a municipality creates or designates under sub. (2). "Agency" includes an officer or employee of the municipality.

(b) "Applicant" means an owner applying for a permit under this section.

(c) "Application" means an application for a permit under this section.

(d) "Collector surface" means any part of a solar collector that absorbs solar energy for use in the collector's energy transformation process. "Collector surface" does not include frames, supports and mounting hardware.

(e) "Collector use period" means 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. standard time daily.

(f) "Impermissible interference" means the blockage of wind from a wind energy system or solar energy from a collector surface or proposed collector surface for which a permit has been granted under this section during a collector use period if such blockage is by any structure or vegetation on property, an owner of which was notified under sub. (3) (b). "Impermissible interference" does not include:

1. Blockage by a narrow protrusion, including but not limited to a pole or wire, which does not substantially interfere with absorption of solar energy by a solar collector or does not substantially block wind from a wind energy system.

2. Blockage by any structure constructed, under construction or for which a building permit has been applied for before the date the last notice is mailed or delivered under sub. (3) (b).

3. Blockage by any vegetation planted before the date the last notice is mailed or delivered under sub. (3) (b) unless a municipality by ordinance under sub. (2) defines impermissible interference to include such vegetation.

(g) "Municipality" means any county with a zoning ordinance under s. 59.69, any town with a zoning ordinance under s. 60.61, any city with a zoning ordinance under s. 62.23 (7), any 1st class city or any village with a zoning ordinance under s. 61.35.

(h) "Owner" means at least one owner, as defined under s. 66.0217 (1) (c), of a property or the personal representative of at least one owner.

(i) "Permit" means a solar access permit or a wind access permit issued under this section.

(j) "Solar collector" means a device, structure or a part of a device or structure a substantial purpose of which is to transform solar energy into thermal, mechanical, chemical or electrical energy.

(k) "Solar energy" means direct radiant energy received from the sun.

(l) "Standard time" means the solar time of the ninetieth meridian west of Greenwich.

(m) "Wind energy system" means equipment that converts and then stores or transfers energy from the wind into usable forms of energy.

(2) PERMIT PROCEDURE. The governing body of every municipality may provide for granting a permit. A permit may not affect any land except land which, at the time the permit is granted, is within the territorial limits of the municipality or is subject to an extraterritorial zoning ordinance adopted under s. 62.23 (7a), except that a permit issued by a city or village may not affect extraterritorial land subject to a zoning ordinance adopted by a county or a town. The governing body may appoint itself as the agency to process applications or may create or designate another agency to grant permits. The governing body may provide by ordinance that a fee be charged to cover the costs of processing applications. The governing body may adopt an ordinance with any provision