



## Frequently Asked Questions About Alternative Energy Systems

As more consumers look for ways to reduce their traditional electric usage or make a positive impact on the environment, LJEC has seen an increase in inquiries about wind and solar power generation. About half a dozen LJEC consumers are currently supplementing their power needs with wind or solar equipment. LJEC has compiled general answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

### “How much does it cost to install a renewable power generating system?”

- In general, the cost for LJEC to install the metering equipment necessary to monitor and safely handle the excess generation is approximately \$2500. Every installation is different, so cost will vary.
- Residential power generating is an emerging industry. Costs could vary widely. We have heard of systems costing up to \$40,000 for a residence.

### “What equipment does LJEC require consumers to install?”

- You’ll need to install UL 1741 Listed equipment.

### “Are there dealers in our area?”

- LJEC does not recommend or endorse any particular dealer or brand. Your best source for local dealers may be the internet. In our search of “Midwest residential wind (solar) generator dealers” we have discovered the following web sites that may be helpful. Most sites include links to dealers in Kansas and Missouri.

Wind: [www.skystreamenergy.com](http://www.skystreamenergy.com) , [www.bergey.com](http://www.bergey.com) , [www.abundantre.com](http://www.abundantre.com) , [www.theenergysavingsstore.com](http://www.theenergysavingsstore.com)

Solar: [www.solarhome.org](http://www.solarhome.org) , [www.xantrex.com](http://www.xantrex.com)

### “Does LJEC pay me for my excess power generation?”

- Yes, at 150% of LJEC’s avoided cost.
- LJEC makes these payments annually.

When considering the purchase of a power generating system, be wary of excessive claims of savings on energy bills or payments for power buy-back. **Be realistic with your expectation of the return on your dollar investment.** The positive impact on the environment may be your most immediate reward.

If you install a power generating system, whether wind, solar or even a stand-by generator, **it is imperative that you notify LJEC.** If not properly installed, power could feed back through the lines resulting in injury or death to anyone working on the line.

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**Not every location or budget lends itself to wind or solar power generating. The good news is, there are many ways to reduce electric usage and bills and positively impact the environment.**

- Install or add 12”-15” of insulation in attics, and in walls and around duct work
- Replace old, drafty windows with low-E glass windows
- Replace old appliances with Energy-Star rated models
- Install an air-source or geothermal heat pump system (LJEC rebates available)

#### Low cost changes:

- Add a self-closing vent on dryer vents, bathroom vents and range hoods
- Regularly replace your furnace filter
- Replace burned out incandescent bulbs with CFL bulbs (recycle unbroken CFL bulbs at any Home Depot or IKEA store)
- Use timers or motion activated sensors on lamps and other lighting
- In summer, raise the thermostat; in the winter lower the thermostat to reduce energy use
- Wait to use the dishwasher or washing machine until you have a full load
- Turn off lights, appliances and electronic equipment when you’re not in the room



**LJEC encourages it’s consumers to reduce energy usage whenever possible** and recognizes the benefits of renewable energy. When usage is reduced during peak periods of 5 pm to 9 pm, it helps reduce our demand which could be reflected in lower Energy Cost Adjustments (ECA). Peak usage periods are on days when the temperature is above 95 degrees.