

# Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

## Searching out wind power

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**Sunday, May 04, 2003** - As Golden Valley Electric Association looks to find more ways to generate electricity, one possibility under consideration is wind power.

Kate Lamal, GVEA vice president of power supply, said that within 10 years the Interior could be harnessing wind turbines capable of generating 10 to 20 megawatts of power.

"What we need is a place that's close to the existing infrastructure and has sustainable wind, not gusty, but sustainable winds for as much of the year as possible," Lamas said.

Golden Valley officials believe fossil fuels will be phased out in the next 50 years or so, as utilities increasingly rely on renewable resources.

According to a GVEA telephone survey, 86 percent of members polled said electric utilities need to plan now for when nonrenewable resources start running out.

Wind power is growing in popularity in the Lower 48, but may be a more tricky addition for Alaska utilities, because it must be placed along the state's sparse existing power lines instead of anywhere on a large energy grid, Lamal said.

At Tuesday's general membership meeting, the issue of renewable power sources was addressed, with a member-sponsored advisory resolution calling for the creation of a "green power" committee made up of ratepayers.

The resolution will be discussed at the GVEA board's next monthly meeting, according to Corinne Bradish, GVEA public relations and key accounts officer.

GVEA member Tom DeLong, who once ran for a seat on the board, authored the advisory resolution. Two ways the utility can address green power is by setting a goal for the percentage of overall electricity that is generated by renewable resources, and by allowing ratepayers the option to pay a small percentage extra, provided the funds go toward nonpolluting, renewable energy production, he said.

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