Illinois Clean Energy created the K-12 Wind Schools Pilot program in 2011 to test the feasibility of a larger scale K-12 Wind Schools initiative similar to the Foundation's K-12 Solar Schools program. The Foundation provides grants of up to $40,000 (or 90% of the project cost, whichever is less) to K-12 schools towards the installation of small 1-5kW wind turbines. Grantees receive the same curricular support and access to workshops as solar schools grantees.

Riverview Elementary was the first of five schools awarded grants under this program in 2012 to complete their turbine installation. With enthusiastic support and management by a very dedicated teacher, and the engagement of students and staff, the project was completed with only minor challenges and under budget. Located just across Peoria
Lake, the school is in a prime location, and successfully installed a 1.8kW Skystream 3.7 turbine using an 80ft ARE monopole tilt-up tower. Nearby is Riverview’s solar array made possible by Illinois Clean Energy’s Solar Schools grant program. Science classes in grades 5 through 8 use both wind and solar technologies to discuss environmental and sustainability topics. Riverview also recently had its 4th annual career day, where careers in wind and renewable energy were discussed.

The project cost a total of $44,217 thanks to some good negotiating, and much needed donations of labor and supplies!

For more information, please contact Emily Dawson at Edawson@rgschool.com