



Minimum Planning Requirement 14 (1)

On March 6, 2025, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing made changes to the Minimum Planning Requirements (MPR) Regulations under Section 229 of the HRM Charter regarding wind turbines for large scale wind energy developments.

For a full list of changes [click here](#).

Requirement:

14 (1) Any statement of policy included in a municipal planning strategy in accordance with clause 13(c) on the minimum setback required between a residential dwelling and a wind turbine, that is part of, or located within, an energy-generating facility with a production rating of 2 MW or greater, must not require a minimum setback larger than the greater of the following:

- (a) 4 times the wind turbine height;
- (b) the distance required to ensure that
 - (i) sound levels from the wind turbine do not exceed 40 dBA at the exterior of a residential dwelling, and
 - (ii) a residential dwelling receives less than 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per year of shadow flicker

How will the municipality meet this requirement?

- HRM's existing policies for wind turbines generally align with the regulation.
- Amendments are being made to setback requirements and shadow flicker provisions to fully comply with the regulation.
- The setback requirement only affects Large Facilities (over 2MW) which are restricted to HRM's Rural Wind Zone (RW-2) zone. The Regional Centre, Suburban Housing Accelerator, and Downtown Halifax land use by-laws do not have the RW-2 zone.

**Land Use By-laws Affected:**

All land use by-laws except Regional Centre, Suburban Housing Accelerator, and Downtown Halifax

What will this change mean for me?

- Turbine towers of Large Facilities in the RW-2 zone are required to be a minimum distance of the greater of the following from any residential dwelling on an adjacent property:
 - Four times the height of the turbine, or
 - The distance needed to keep noise levels below 40 decibels outside the home, and
 - The distance required to limit shadow flicker to no more than 30 minutes a day, or 30 hours per year.

Have questions?

Visit: engagehalifax.ca/2025-planning-changes

Email: regionalplan@halifax.ca

Please share your comments by October 24, 2025.