

# Church will rely on higher power: wind

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**HANSKA** — An old country church near Hanska is opting for a new-age source for its electrical power.

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church is erecting a wind turbine not only capable of being a sole electrical source but a revenue producer as well.

Any excess power produced would be sold to the church's current power provider, Alliant Energy,

whose payment to the congregation would be commensurate with what the company would charge for that amount of electricity.

"We'll still be on the (electricity) grid because at times the wind doesn't blow, but over time we'll be able to produce more than we use," said Darrell Hinsman, a member of the church's social justice committee.

The church of fewer than

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100 members, which bills itself as a liberal religious community, was founded in 1881 just southeast of Hanska.

Hinsman said the wind-mill project dovetails with one of the church's key tenets.

"We want to be good stewards of our environment. We're trying to become more green-oriented and leave less of a carbon footprint," he said.

The relatively small 20-kilowatt turbine on a 120-foot tower is made in Prior Lake and will sit a few hundred feet from the church, which is on a high point in the landscape that is conducive to adequate wind-power.

The \$94,000 project is buoyed by a \$20,000 federal grant and anticipated federal energy-rebate money, without which the project wouldn't have been cost-effective for the church,

Hinsman said.

The turbine will be erected this winter with power production slated to start next spring.