

# Energy group revamps 2008 proposition

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Attendees to the Renewable Energy Conference on Truman State's campus discussed a state ballot measure requiring utility companies to gradually shift toward solar, wind and biomass energy.

In 2008, voters passed Proposition C, which requires Missouri energy companies to buy or produce 15 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2021. There were conflicting interpretations of the requirements, but lawmakers interpreted it to mean companies can comply by purchasing energy credits from states other than Missouri.

Now, renewable energy proponents in the state want to pass another statewide ballot measure in 2012 that makes the requirement specific to energy consumed in Missouri, and increases the target to 25 percent renewable energy by 2025.

Missouri lawmakers' decision to allow utility companies to purchase energy credits from states like California violates the intention of the 2008 ballot measure — to get more Missouri power from renewable sources, said P.J. Wilson, conference speaker and Renew Missouri executive director, a non-profit that campaigned to pass the 2008 proposition.

"We're talking about going back to the ballot to make it crystal clear so a third grader could interpret it," he said. "We're talking about the power you pay for on your electric bill — that power."

Wilson said he is filing the 2012 ballot language today or Friday for approval from Secretary of State Robin Carnahan for the November 2012 elections. If approved, the campaign has until May 6 to collect 100,000 signatures to put the new proposition on the ballot.

Wilson said he expects resistance from utility companies if the renewable energy requirements in the proposition threaten shareholder profits.

He said he thinks companies are more likely to be on board if renewable energy can be profitable.

"I don't think that anyone has said that publicly, but there have been various utility groups that have said if this goes on the ballot, you better watch out, we will fight it," Wilson said.

Utility company Ameren Missouri, whose service area includes Kirksville, buys California energy credits as part of a way to meet the Proposition C regulations, said Warren Wood, Ameren Missouri legislation and regulation vice president.

Buying credits from other states often is the least expensive way to comply with the Proposition C requirements, and Ameren is obligated to keep rates low for its customers, he said.

"Ameren's preference is to build local renewables — period," Woods said.

But solar energy in California is cheaper than in Missouri, he said.

"We certainly don't oppose renewables, but at the same time they are more costly and that is an impact on our customers, so we think that such legislation needs to be reasonable," Ameren Communication Executive Mike Cleary said.

One of the challenges of using renewable energy is how to store energy from wind and solar power, he said. Those types of energy sources are less reliable than coal or nuclear power plants because they hinge on weather conditions, Cleary said.

An advantage of solar and wind power is that costs are more stable than petroleum-based energy, said Rep. Zachary Wyatt, R-2, who organized the conference and is on the Special Standing Committee about Renewable Energy in the Missouri House.

Wyatt said he supports a new version of the 2008 proposition that clearly stipulates utility companies must meet requirements for power used in Missouri.

"Any time we're paying for a rate increase because of the renewable energy standards that were put forth because of [Proposition] C, that has to be spent within Missouri because that's what the voters wanted," he said. "They didn't want to invest their time and money into California. They wanted to keep Missouri growing."

## Walnut skeeball



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index

Freshman Thomas Haden, senior Cory Creed and junior Eric Gilbert play "Bad Boy Skeeball," a game they invented outside the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house Tuesday evening. The men used walnuts from the tree in their backyard to roll across Normal Street, bounce off the curb and land in the trash can on the other side. "We've been playing for an hour and made it in four times," Creed said.

# Physical plant adds 10 bike racks

BY PHILIP ZAHND  
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The Physical Plant purchased 10 new bike racks last week to be placed in various locations around campus in a month at the soonest.

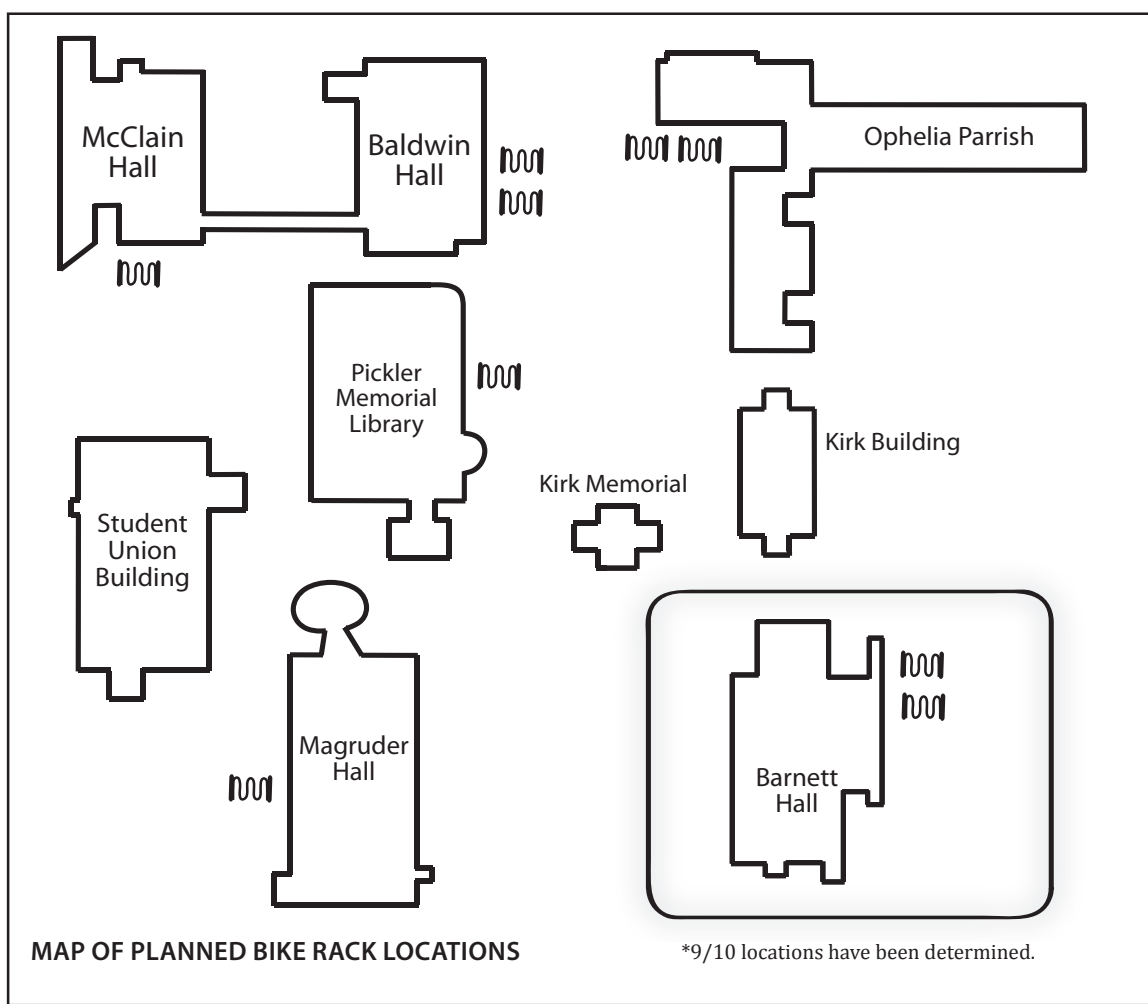
Physical Plant Director Karl Schneider said the portable racks — not the kind set in concrete — cost about \$4,000 altogether. He said the Physical Plant has already determined locations for nine of the new racks.

Schneider said the bike racks will be delivered within a few weeks and the Physical Plant will take an additional few weeks to assemble them. He said the new racks will be placed on campus at a minimum of one month from now.

Schneider said Tom Johnson, Department of Public Safety director, and a DPS officer talked to him last September about getting more bike racks after DPS began enforcing illegal bike parking, or bikes that are not parked at a rack, by marking illegally-parked bikes with stickers.

"[DPS] noticed a couple places where we could probably use an extra rack or two, where the racks that we have are generally pretty full, and people are illegally parking their bikes," Schneider said.

DPS declined to comment. Schneider said none of the new racks would be placed by residence halls.



John Gardner, director of the Office of Residence Life, said a student talked to him about getting more

bike racks in front of Blanton-Nason-Brewer Hall and Missouri Hall because they are always filled.

Gardner said part of the issue with overcrowding is parked bikes often times are not parked correct-

ly in the racks. He said sometimes bikes are turned toward the street, occupying multiple slots on the racks.

To fix this, the Physical Plant re-oriented some of the bike racks during last winter break so bikes would be parked in a way that would not take up multiple slots, Gardner said. He said Residence Life sent an email to students telling them not to park their bikes at those racks before the end of the Fall 2010 semester.

He said they weren't able to reorient as many racks as he wanted to because bikes were occupying racks when they were supposed to be moved.

Gardner said the racks on the interior of campus are filled more often than the racks in the parking lots behind the residence halls.

He said Dobson Hall and West Campus Suites lack bike rack space the most.

Schneider said that throughout the years, the University has added more bike racks to campus in an effort to keep up with the growing trend in bike riding.

Student Association President Ryan Nely said he was interested in having Student Senate pay for a few bike racks before he heard about the Physical Plant's purchase last week.

He said if in future years more bike racks need to be added on campus, he would like to see Student Senate help with that.

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