

2024 Kansas Envirothon Oral Presentation Scenario

Wind turbines are becoming more and more abundant across the state. One of the first wind farms in the state of Kansas is at Beaumont which is in the southern part of the Flint Hills. Their presence is notably absent from most of the rest of the tall grass prairie. Some counties have even passed ordinances to keep them out of their jurisdiction.

For your Oral Presentation, you will examine both sides of the issue of when and where turbines can be placed. Should the Flint Hills be protected at all costs as a disappearing and unique ecosystem or does our need for more sustainable forms of energy outweigh those considerations?

You will portray the roles of a wind farm developer, a Chase County rancher with potential property that would be suitable for turbines, a wildlife biologist, a county economic development officer and an interested citizen. Make your case to the county commission as to whether you think there should be an ordinance passed banning the construction of wind turbines or not in the county.