A new wind turbine was recently installed and is providing electricity to the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) home in Logan near the Utah State University campus.

The home houses visiting scholars for the LAEP department and serves as a teaching tool to inform visitors about the various green technologies in and around the house. The house features active solar panels, rainwater collection and staggered wall insulation inside the house, along with the new wind turbine.

“We’re in the business of teaching students to create meaningful, safe and sensitive outdoor environments,” said Dave Anderson, associate professor in the LAEP department. “Because we own a small residence for visiting professors, it makes sense that we would also promote green technologies and practices in built structures as well.”

The turbine was partially a donation from alumnus John Gottfredson. While planning to install a wind turbine on his own property, Gottfredson had a conversation with Sean Michael, head of the LAEP department. The conversation turned to updates about the LAEP home, and Michael mentioned plans to acquire a wind turbine. When Gottfredson said he had one of his own he was planning to install, Michael was able to convince him to use the equipment for a higher purpose. The two collaborated and the turbine was installed on the LAEP home in mid-January.

According to Gottfredson, it is important for landscape architecture students to gain experience with the philosophy, trends and technologies related to the green movement.

“From a practical perspective, green technology is an area of growth for the future and those that can gain skills in this area will be well served through their careers,” he said. “From a broader perspective, I believe the purpose of higher education in landscape architecture is to open minds to possibilities, to spur creative growth and to build a philosophy of using design thinking to solve problems.”

The turbine is currently hooked up to the grid and generating electricity. Later this year, an interpretive sign explaining the benefits of wind power will be installed.
For more information about USU's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, visit laep.usu.edu

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