

The Oklahoma WinCharger

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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

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based at the

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Workshop at NW Technology Center a Success

After postponement due to inclement weather, the second in a series of Renewable Energy Workshops was held on February 25th in Alva, Oklahoma. The workshop, hosted by the Northwest Technology Center, the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative, and the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council, drew over 80 registered participants.

Jeremy Traurig served as moderator of the workshop, with opening remarks given by Mike Payne, the Director of Woods County Economic Development. Presentations were given on a variety of topics regarding renewable energy and how it has the potential to spur economic development for Oklahoma. Terry Detrick from the Oklahoma Farmers Union spoke on the bioenergy opportunities for Oklahoma stakeholders, while Mike Bergey of Bergey Windpower and Kylah McNabb of OWPI spoke on the potential of wind power prospects. Greg Adams presented on farmer/locally owned wind projects, while Mike Schrammel from the USDA Rural Development and Carolyn Sullivan from the OK Department of Commerce spoke on funding opportunities.

The next workshops in this series will be taking place in Stillwater and Weatherford at the end of April. The focus of the next workshop will be

on the Farm Bill, Section 9006 funding opportunities. Details of this workshop are still being set, please check OWPI's website at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi/ for the latest information.

NREL Highlights Leading Utility Green Power Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) recently released their annual rankings of utility "green pricing" programs. "Green pricing" programs allow customers to choose to support electricity production from renewable resources, such as wind and solar. There are more than 500 utilities in 33 states that offer these programs with more than 1.2 billion kilowatt hours of renewable energy sold in 2003 through green pricing programs.

Categories in which utilities are ranked are total sales of renewable energy to customers, total number of customers, customer participation rate, and lowest price premium charged for a green pricing service using new renewable sources.

Oklahoma's own Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) came in 2nd in the country in the category of lowest price premium charged, making OG&E's Wind Power Program the 2nd cheapest green power program in the nation. The survey also found that 4 of the 10 utilities with the lowest price premium offer fuel price protection to their green pricing

customers. By exempting their wind power customers from the fuel adjustment charge, OG&E is one of these 4 utilities.

Topping the list of utilities with total sales is Austin Energy of Austin, Texas. The leading utility ranked by customer participation rates is Lenox Municipal Utilities from Iowa.

Information on additional rankings can be found on NREL's website at www.nrel.gov.

Editors Note: OWPI would like to congratulate OG&E on their national ranking. Their hard work has produced a green power program that is an example to other utilities in the country.

OU/OSU Buy Electricity from Wind Power

Beginning in January of 2004, a portion of the electricity used by the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University will come from wind power. Green Corn, a student organization with the University of Oklahoma, took the lead in making this green power purchase possible by meeting with OG&E representatives to discuss options for the university, meeting with the student congress, and attaining over 2000 signatures of OU students, faculty, and staff in support of their wind initiative. OU will purchase the maximum amount of electricity from wind power that it can buy for 2004, around 1 million kilowatt hours.

Oklahoma State University agreed to purchase around 140,000 kilowatt hours of wind generated power a month. That equals around 1% of the university's total power load.

Corporate wind power customers agree to one-year deals, renewable on an annual basis, and are also exempt from the fuel adjustment credit. OU and OSU now join a number of universities across the nation that purchase a portion of their electricity from wind power including fellow Big 12 member, The University of Colorado.

Editors Note: The above story is a summary of a story written by James Tyree with The Norman Transcript on January 18, 2004.

OWPI Installs Instruments on Tower in Perry



Above: Troy Choplin, tower climber for Vroom wireless, attaches the booms with wind instruments to the tower.

On February 26, OWPI, in cooperation with Vroom Wireless and the City of Perry, installed instruments on a Vroom cell tower south and east of Perry. Wind instruments (cup anemometers and prop vanes) were installed at heights of 33-ft, 99-ft, and 164-ft levels, respectively. A temperature sensor was also installed at a height of 10 feet.



Above: OWPI's Kylah McNabb and Jeremy Traurig wire the booms for the instruments while Troy (background) puts on his climbing gear.

OWPI will collect and assess the data from the site, while the City of Perry will use the data to explore possibilities of future wind generation for the area.

If the site is viable, the city might look to having a locally-owned wind project. Aid from the Farm Bill Section 9006 could possibly aid in the project development.

The Farm Bill, Section 9006 establishes grant, loan, and loan guarantee program to assist eligible farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in purchasing renewable energy systems, including assistance in development of wind power projects.



Above: Troy Choplin makes his way up the Vroom tower.

OWPI would like to thank Troy Choplin for his help in installing the wind instruments on the tower, David Hawkins and Vroom wireless for allowing the instruments to be installed on their tower. Thanks to Vicki Spaulding and Dixie Johnson and the City of Perry for their interest and work to begin this project.

Senators Seeking Way to Pass Climate Change Bill

Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT) pledged to attempt to attach climate change legislation, which was defeated on the Senate floor, to other legislation that is currently moving in the Senate. The proposal calls for the regulation of carbon and 5 other greenhouse gases in an effort to reduce climate change that is happening due to a buildup of gases in the atmosphere.

The bill would create a nationwide carbon market-based trading program in an effort to

reduce carbon emissions. Emissions from electricity generation, transportation, industrial, and commercial economic sectors, which together account for 85% of the overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, would be affected. The bill would only apply to those that emit more than 10,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases a year. Individual car owners, homeowners, or people in agriculture would not be affected by this bill. A more detailed summary of the bill can be found at www.senate.gov/~lieberman/press/03/01/2003108655.html.

Editors Note: The above story contains excerpts from the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) Wind Energy Weekly #1083.

NM Governor Signs RPS Law

New Mexico Governor signed into law a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) on March 4th that requires utilities to acquire at least 5% of their supply from renewable resources by 2006, and 10% by 2011. All utilities, including rural co-ops and municipally owned utilities, are to offer a voluntary green pricing program.

The Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy (CCAEE) estimates that this RPS will result in between 500 to 600 MW of renewable energy generation, enough to power around 200,000 homes. The majority of the energy will more than likely come from wind, with some solar, geothermal, and biomass as well.

Editor's Commentary: Oklahoma is now surrounded by two states, New Mexico and Texas that have made a commitment to renewable energy. Colorado is also in the process of passing an RPS as well. It has currently passed the Colorado House and is waiting discussion in the Senate. OWPI applauds the efforts made by our surrounding states to promote the development of renewable energy and recognizing the economic development it brings.

Editors Note: A portion of the above story is a summary from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Wind Energy Weekly # 1083.

Global Wind Power Growth Continues

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) recently released their new figures for the global

wind power industry. 8,133 megawatts (MW) were installed world wide in 2003. That brings the world's total of installed wind power capacity to 39,294 MW. This is enough capacity to power the equivalent of 9 million average American homes, or 19 million average European homes.

The new installations represent \$9 billion in investment, which is up from 2002 investment of \$7 billion. The United States and Europe accounted for 88% of the new wind power installations with 1,687MW and 5,467 MW installed, respectively. India was the largest single addition outside of the U.S. with 408 MW, or about 5% of the new global installation. Germany, United States, Spain, India, and Austria are the top countries with wind power capacity. The total amount of wind power installed globally has increased by 500% since 1997. Growth is also expected to continue at a double-digit rate into the next decade.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from a press release from AWEA and EWEA.

Wind Power Trail In Development

A collection of cities, businesses, and agencies in the High Plains regions of Oklahoma and Texas have launched a new travel project that interprets the history of wind energy along a 600-mile corridor. The historic, cultural, and scientific story of wind will now be put together in a driving route, made accessible to car and RV travelers, by way of a map, and audio CD, and a web site.

Communities that are participating are hoping that the map and CD will persuade travelers with some Main Street shopping and a good meal. Business partners are hoping the trail will help publicize wind energy. State and local agencies are using the trail as a way to spur economic development in rural towns, helping small communities work with larger ones, and bring a new tourism "product" to the region.

Gina Gillespie came up with the idea of the tour, and it has been developed by the Spearman Economic Development Corporation. Stops along the trail include Lawton, Norman, Elk City, Woodward, Shattuck, Spearman, White

Deer, Canyon, Plainview, and Lubbock. Support from the Oklahoma Department of Tourism helped turn this first large-scale cooperative tourism project between Oklahoma and Texas from a local idea into an interstate venture.

Participants in the Wind Power Trail are confident that it will generate interest in the short term, and will pay long-term dividends through tourism, economic development, and support for renewable energy. Completion of the map, audio CD, and website is scheduled for May 31, 2004. For more information, visit www.windpowertrail.com.

OWPI Says Goodbye to Jeremy Traurig

Jeremy Traurig has been with OWPI since the project began in July of 2000. As a member of OWPI, Jeremy has helped develop both of OWPI's wind resource maps; he has helped manage OWPI's network of tall monitoring towers; and he has been responsible for organizing several regional workshops to educate landowners and communities about the value of wind development.



Above: Jeremy with Jody Harris from USDA at the Blue Canyon Wind Farm in November.

Jeremy recently left OWPI to take a position with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce – State Energy Program (SEP). In his new position, Jeremy will help manage the SEP energy grants and search for additional funds to support further renewable energy projects in the state. Jeremy looks forward to his new position and hopes to help the state take advantage of its abundant renewable energy resources.

OWPI wishes Jeremy good luck in his new adventure with the Department of Commerce and says goodbye, as we will miss his wild antics and dedication to promoting wind development.

Public Funds in 12 States Join to Promote Renewables

On January 29th, 17 public funds from 12 states announced their support of a new non-profit organization-the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), in an effort to promote clean energy products and companies.

CESA's members include clean energy funds from 12 different states, including: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. In these states, funding groups have agreed to work together and fund the new organization. These groups include public agencies, state governments, non-profits, and other entities that manage public funding in clean energy. They expect to have about \$3.5 billion collectively for these efforts over the next decade.

These organizations fund clean energy projects, promote markets for these technologies, and some invest in renewable and clean energy companies. Some of the organizations working through CESA include: California Energy Commission-PIER Program, Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund, Energy Trust of Oregon, Wisconsin Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program, and several more organizations.

State funds have already established several joint projects to build larger clean energy markets, such as the development of multi-state public education campaigns. For more information, please visit www.cleanenergystates.org.

Editors Note: The above is a summary from the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) Wind Energy Weekly #1077.

Impacts of Federal PTC Expiration

According to a new study by Platts Research & Consulting (PR&C), even if the 20-year, 1.8-cent/kWh federal wind energy production tax credit is extended this year, the lapse may have a negative impact on wind industry growth in the United States past 2004.

Due to concern regarding ongoing tax policy, there is a great deal of uncertainty in the wind industry. This uncertainty can make investors more reluctant to invest in the wind energy industry due to increased risk on their part. A study noted that tax policy stability is needed for continued growth in the U.S. wind industry. It is believed that 1,600 MW of new wind capacity are at risk in the U.S. in 2004 alone. California, New York, Nevada, and Texas will probably be impacted the most due to their renewable portfolio standards.

A 3-year extension of the tax credit was proposed in the \$31 billion energy bill that was blocked in the U.S. Senate. Congressional debate is expected to begin in the spring of 2004.

Editors Note: This story was taken from excerpts from the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) Wind Energy Weekly #1077.

Electronic Distribution of the WinCharger

If you have email and access to the web, the WinCharger staff would like to put you on our electronic mailing list for future sharing of WinCharger issues.

If you do have email, please send it to Kylah McNabb at windgirl@ou.edu. This helps us keep our mailing costs low and allow us to continue to produce the WinCharger, as well as, ensure you receive the newsletter the quickest way possible.

If you have recently moved, or changed your email address, and would like to continue receiving the Oklahoma WinCharger, please send your updated information to:

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Thank you!

Calendar of Coming Events

- Mar 21-24** **Southwestern States RC&D Conference**, Westin Hotel, OKC. For information, contact Tallgrass RC&D Inc., (918) 627-8101, or gregory.kindell@os.usda.gov.
- Mar 28-31** **Global Wind Power 2004** – An international wind conference presented by the American Wind Energy Association, Chicago, IL. For more information, please see www.awea.org/global04.html.
- Apr 13-14** **Colorado Wind & Distributed Energy: Renewables for Rural Prosperity Conference**, The Doubletree Hotel-World Arena, Colorado Springs, CO. For more please visit www.state.co.us/oemc/events/cwade, or 1-800-632-6662.
- Apr 13-14** **Governor's Conference on Agriculture & Economic Growth**, Cox Convention Center, OKC. For information, see www.oda.state.ok.us, or (405) 522-5489.
- Apr 14** Meeting of the **Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council**, 10 am to noon. OK Department of Agriculture, Board Room. See www.ocgi.okstate.edu/orec for more information.
- Apr TBD** **Renewable Energy Farm Bill Workshop 1**, Location TBD, Stillwater, OK. For latest details, see www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi.
- Apr TBD** **Renewable Energy Farm Bill Workshop 2**, Location TBD, Weatherford, OK. For latest details, see www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi.
- Jun 23-24** **Community Wind Energy**, A national conference for new models of wind development. Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. For more information see www.windustry.org, or call Sarah Johnson at (612) 870-3461.

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