

The Oklahoma WinCharger

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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

A Collaborative Project by the
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based at the

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Renewable Energy Workshop a Success

The Regional Renewable Energy Workshop was held in Alva, OK on March 27th, 2006. Hosted by the Northwest Technology Center, the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI), and the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council (OREC), the workshop drew in close to 50 participants.

Kylah McNabb served as moderator of the workshop, with opening remarks given by Freelin Roberts, Superintendent of the NW Technology Center. The day began with Terry Detrick, Vice President of the Oklahoma Farmers Union, speaking about bioenergy opportunities in Oklahoma. Next, Jody Harris from USDA Rural Development and Clayton Robinson from the OK Department of Commerce both spoke on funding opportunities available to stakeholders. Stephanie Buway, Graduate Research Assistant for OWPI, spoke about the current state of wind power development in Oklahoma, while Shannon Ferrell, attorney for Hall Estill, P.C., described the legal issues landowners and developers need to be aware of when constructing renewable projects. Greg Adams, landowner and entrepreneur, presented on small, locally owned wind farm investment strategies.

For copies of the presentations, please visit our website www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi/. Thank you to all those who attended!

Windgirl Says Goodbye to OWPI

On April 3rd, I will begin a new position with the wind project developer Horizon Wind Energy. The position is based in Edmond, and I will be working the Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Colorado development region. The opportunity was just too good to pass up, especially given the fact that I am going to be able to remain in Oklahoma and continue building wind development in this region of the country. Horizon has given me the opportunity to continue to do what I love, which is building the wind industry and working with people.



It has been wonderful to get to know so many of you with the work we have done here at OWPI. I will continue to take part and serve as Treasurer of the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council, so this is not really a goodbye, but merely a transition to a new position.

Kylah McNabb

The New Face of OWPI

Upon hearing the news that Kylah “Windgirl” McNabb had taken a job with Horizon Wind Energy, I was too happy for her to even realize what it meant for me. It took a few days for the news to settle and to realize that I would be the new face of OWPI.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I came to Oklahoma five years ago from Ravenna, a small town in Michigan to attend the University of Oklahoma. I received my Bachelor’s degree in Geography in May 2005. I began working as an undergraduate at the Environmental Verification & Analysis Center where OWPI is housed at the beginning of 2005. I was offered the position of graduate research assistant after graduation. I happily accepted the position and am now working on my Master’s degree in the same discipline. At this time, my Master’s thesis is going to focus on Oklahoma’s success in the wind energy industry and how we became fifth in the nation in installed wind power.



Kylah & Stephanie

I’ve been working with this organization for a little over a year now and by watching and learning from Kylah, I feel confident that my experience working with her has prepared me to continue OWPI’s mission. I wish her the best of luck and I look forward to meeting all of you!

Stephanie Buway

OK Legislator’s Workshop – March 2, 2006

The Oklahoma Legislator’s Workshop, hosted by the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative, the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council and the National Conference of State Legislatures, was held March 2, 2006 at the state capitol. The

agenda included discussions of overarching energy issues and current policies concerning wind power development, the history and progression of wind technology, and what has and has not been successful in other states, such as incentives, RECs, and RPSs. Although the legislature was called into session at the last minute, many participated in the catered lunch. OWPI personnel distributed materials and answered questions.

OWPI & OREC would like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer DeCesaro from the National Conference of State Legislatures and Sandy Butterfield from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory who took time from their busy schedules to come and present to our legislators. We look forward to planning next year’s workshop!

USDA Announces Availability of Funds

The USDA’s Rural Business-Cooperative Service has announced the availability of \$11.385 million for competitive grants and approximately \$176.5 million in guaranteed loans. These funds are available to those who wish to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agriculture producers and eligible rural small businesses. Renewable energy system grant requests must be a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$500,000. For energy efficiency projects, the grant request must be a minimum of \$1,500 and a maximum of \$250,000. The guarantee fee amount is 1% of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

The applications must be submitted to the proper USDA Rural Development state office, and be postmarked no later than May 12, 2006. For funding consideration from the National Office, applications are due by July 3, 2006. Applications should be submitted to the state office where the project is located. For more information and application materials, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ok.

Editor’s Note: The above is a summary from AWEA’s Wind Energy Weekly #1179.

OK Renewable Energy Legislation 2006 Update

Renewable energy bills have seen a mixed response in the Oklahoma Legislature. Three bills, **HB 2444**, **HB 2446**, and **HB 2637**, were not heard in committee this year. **HB 2447**, which called for the

creation of three pilot wind projects as well as three pilot hydro projects, made it through committee but was unfortunately not heard on the House floor.

HB 2512, which calls for a state tax credit for the purchase of small wind, geothermal, and hydro, has been passed through the House and is now in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee has passed the bill and it is now waiting to be heard on the floor.

HB 2469, which calls for an amendment to the state Production Tax Credit (PTC) so that the tax credit is paid over ten years and projects eligible for the PTC are reduced in size from 50 MW to 1 MW, has been passed through the Senate as well and is awaiting approval from the Finance Committee.

EPA Headquarters Goes Green

The EPA's headquarters, in Washington D.C., announced that 100% of their electricity will be provided by renewable 'green' power. The EPA's regional facilities and laboratories will also receive substantial amounts of energy from renewable power. The United States Air Force and Whole Foods, Inc. are the two largest consumers of green energy in the nation while the EPA is now third.

"America's energy supply tomorrow requires action today," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "For 35 years, EPA has been greening our nation's landscape. By committing to alternative, renewable power sources, the agency is meeting the President's call to green our nation's energy."

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from the EPA Newsroom, March 23, 2006.

Wind Power Encouraged by President

When President Bush visited the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) on February 21, 2006 he stated that "[i]f the technology is developed further...it's possible we could generate up to 20% of our electricity needs through wind...." The Advanced Energy Initiative is an effort that aims to reduce the dependency Americans have on foreign sources of energy. They promote wind as "[o]ne of the

world's fastest-growing energy technologies" in their "Changing the Way We Power Our Homes and Businesses" campaign. "We appreciate the President speaking out in support of wind," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher. "We will be clearly communicating to the President and other opinion leaders exactly what steps will be necessary for wind to fulfill its enormous potential."

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1180.

"25 x 25" Initiative Gains Support

At the second annual National Agriculture and Forestry Renewable Energy Summit support for the "25 x 25" initiative gained momentum. The vision of the "25 x 25" initiative is, "By 2025, America's working lands will provide 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States while continuing to produce abundant, safe and affordable food, feed, fiber, and fuel." Even though this effort is mainly focused on ethanol and biodiesel, solar and wind power also have a place in the agenda.

In a survey of 1,000 people, 98% stated that the national goal of having 25% of America's domestic energy needs met by renewable resources by 2025 is important. In that 98%, 74% said the goal is "very important." The majority also sees this as a feasible program for the future. The survey also asked questions as to why renewable energy is important in the United States. Answers included the following: reducing the US dependence on foreign oil, creating new jobs in rural communities, and protecting the environment for future generations. More information on the "25 x 25" Initiative can be found at www.agenergy.info.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1182.

Remington Elementary School Acquires Wind & Solar System for Education

Due to the leadership and determination of Mary Sue Herron, Judy Fessenden, and Les Pace, the EPA has granted Remington Elementary School in Tulsa the funds to install solar panels and a wind generator.



Pictured left to right: Les Pace – Energy Analyst & Technical Advisor, John Miggins – Harvest Solar Energy, Judy Fessenden – Principal of Remington Elementary, & Mary Sue Herron – Environmental Teacher at Remington. Photo courtesy of Les Pace.

Harvest Solar Energy of Tulsa designed the system and installed four Kyocera 130-watt solar panel modules and the Ampair 100 Pacific Wind Generator. The total energy output will be approximately 3,000 watts per day. Both the solar and wind system will charge batteries that will provide lighting in the classroom and other needs is necessary. Students will be able to track the energy produced as well as switch from grid power to renewable power. There will eventually be a web-based monitoring system so that people worldwide will be able to track the system's status.



Photo courtesy of Les Pace

Remington received the grant to not only build the project but to also provide bus transportation for 59 5th grade elementary school science classes from the Tulsa Public School District to the Environmental Awareness learning Center. Remington School has become a leader in environmental education for the Tulsa area. Not only do they teach children, they also invite parents and the community to learn as well.

Transmission Corridors Identified for the U.S. Dept. of Energy

In the 2005 Energy Policy Act, the U.S. Department of Energy was instructed to identify “national interest electric transmission corridors” based on the need for sensibly priced electricity, a larger and more diverse energy supply, and energy independence. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and five regional partners – Wind on the Wires, The Wind Coalition, Interwest Energy Alliance, the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, and the Renewable Northwest Project – submitted comments in response to the mandate in the Energy Act. Their response was a list of regions where the wind resource potential is great yet the transmission capacity is weak. These are the nine regions that had been identified in previous studies:

- 1.) Northern New Mexico to San Diego
- 2.) Eastern Oregon/Washington to Portland/Seattle
- 3.) Tehachapi to Vincent Substation (CA)
- 4.) Southern Wyoming to Denver
- 5.) Southern Wyoming to Las Vegas
- 6.) Eastern Colorado to Denver
- 7.) Western Kansas and Oklahoma to Kansas City
- 8.) Eastern North Dakota to Minneapolis
- 9.) South Dakota to Minneapolis

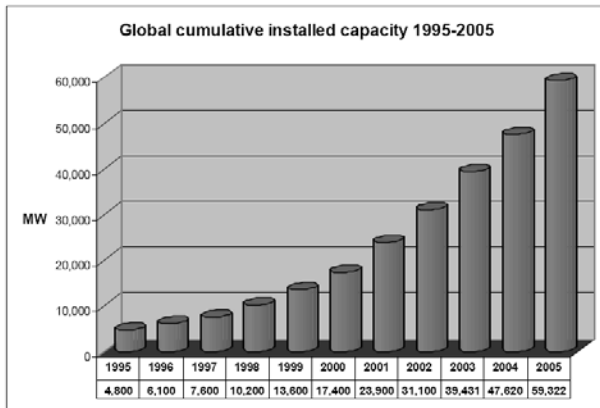
For a complete copy of the filing, visit www.awea.org/utility/regulatory.html

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1182.

Global Wind Installation Up 25%

At the beginning of 2006, the global installed wind power totaled 59,322 MW. This is an increase of 25% from the previous year. Leading the world in wind power are the following countries:

- Germany – 18,428 MW
- Spain – 10,027 MW
- U.S. – 9,149 MW
- India – 4,430 MW
- Denmark – 3,122 MW



Source: www.gwec.net

The United States was the leading country with new installed wind power at 2,431 MW followed by Germany (1,808 MW) and Spain (1,764 MW). Asian, African, and Australian markets all had a steady increase in their installed capacities as well. The full report may be found on the Global Wind Energy Council’s website at www.gwec.net.

Editor’s Note: The above is a summary from AWEA’s Wind Energy Weekly #1179.

Small Wind System Information

Recently, OWPI received a phone call from a WinCharger subscriber who was interested in small wind systems and where to get more information. On our website is an informational handbook titled “Small Wind Electric Systems: An Oklahoma Consumer’s Guide”. This gives an overview of everything a homeowner needs to know about small wind systems from the size needed to how much a small system costs. Also, Bergey Windpower’s website, www.bergey.com, has excellent information as well.

Governor’s Conference on Agriculture & Economic Growth

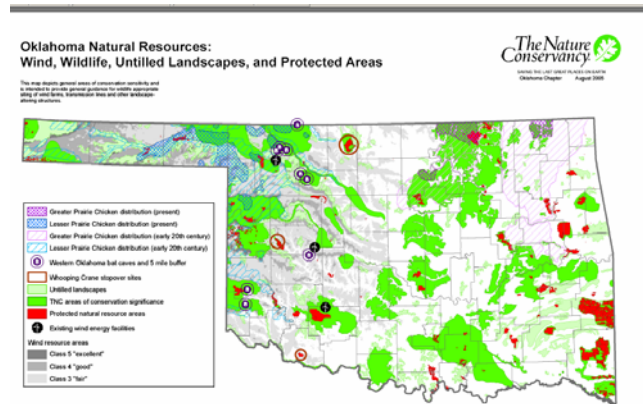
Make sure to mark on your calendars the Governor’s Conference on Agriculture and Economic Growth hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. It will be held April 25-26, 2006 at the Oklahoma City Marriott. Issues on the agenda include:

- '07 Farm Bill
- Agritourism
- Biofuels
- Value-Added Agriculture
- Landowner Liability

For more information, call (405) 522-5489 or email amber.lawles@oda.state.ok.us. You can also visit the conference website at www.ok.gov/~okag/gov-conference.htm.

Wind & Wildlife Interactive Map

Now available online is OWPI’s interactive Wind and Wildlife Map. Partnering with The Nature Conservancy, OWPI hosts this map, which showcases wildlife habitats and sensitive areas in the state. The Nature Conservancy created the map and was kind enough to share it with us.



Make sure to visit our website and view the new map at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi.

Distribution of the WinCharger

Electronic distribution of The Oklahoma WinCharger is available. To sign up to receive your copy of the WinCharger by e-mail, go to the OWPI website at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi, click on the link on the left side that says “Subscribe to the Oklahoma WinCharger,” and follow the instructions from there. Receiving your copy of the WinCharger by e-mail allows you to receive the newsletter faster and helps us keep our mailing costs down.

If you have recently moved or changed your e-mail address, please let us know. Address corrections or updates can be sent to Stephanie Buway at sbuway@gmail.com or by phone at 405-447-8412. Thank you.

Calendar of Coming Events

- Apr 12** Meeting of the **Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council**, 10 am to noon, OK Department of Commerce, Gallery 1-2. See www.ocgi.okstate.edu/orec for more information.
- Apr 19-20** **Wind Project Finance & Investment Workshop** hosted by AWEA. The Hilton Americas, Houston, TX. For more information call (202) 383-2540 or visit www.awea.org/seminars/finance06.
- Apr 25-26** **Governor's Conference on Agriculture & Economic Growth** hosted by the OK Dept. of Agriculture. Oklahoma City Marriott, Oklahoma City, OK. For more information, call (405) 522-5489 or email amber.lawles@oda.state.ok.us. Also see www.ok.gov/~okag/gov-conference.htm for more information.
- May 6-7** **Healthy Home & Living Expo** at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, Travel & Transportation Building. For more information, please visit www.healthyhomeexpo.com.
- May 10** Meeting of the **Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council**, 10 am to noon, OK Department of Commerce, Gallery 1-2. See www.ocgi.okstate.edu/orec for more information.
- Jun 4-7** **WINDPOWER 2006 Conference & Exhibition** hosted by AWEA. The David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburg, PA. For more information, call (202) 383-2512 or email mbundy@awea.org. Also see www.awea.org/wp06 for more information.

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