

The Oklahoma WinCharger

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Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

A Collaborative Project by the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University based at the

Environmental Verification and Analysis Center
3200 Marshall Ave., Suite 150
Norman, OK 73072-8032
Tel: (405) 447-8412
www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi/

Staff

Editors and contributors: Kylah McNabb, OWPI – OU
Stephanie Buway, OWPI - OU

Copy Editor: Mike Klatt, EVAC - OU

Contributors:

Steve Stadler, Geography Department, OWPI - OSU
Mark Meo, Science and Public Policy Program, OWPI - OU

Farm Bill Section 9006 Workshops Held

OWPI and the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council (OREC) recently hosted a workshop in Stillwater on the campus of Oklahoma State University and in Altus on the campus of Southwest Technology Center on the Section 9006 program of the 2002 Farm Bill. Section 9006 provides funding in the form of grants, loans, and loan guarantees for rural small businesses and agricultural producers for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements.



Above: Shannon Ferrell points out legal considerations during his presentation.



Above: Workshop attendees in Altus during a break in-between presentations.

This year, Steve Stadler from OWPI presented on wind energy applications, Shannon L. Ferrell from Hall Estill P.C. presented on the legal issues concerned with renewable energy projects, and Jody Harris and Sally Vielma with the USDA Rural Development presented on the details of the Section 9006 program. Workshop attendees received numerous materials related to the presented topics. Copies of the presentations made, as well as the materials handed out, will be posted on the OWPI website at www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi in the next week.

Section 9006 At Risk

The U.S. House Agriculture Committee has voted to do away with Farm Bill Section 9006 - Renewable Energy Projects and Energy Efficiency Improvements and Section 6401 - Value Added Producer. The two programs were created to give farmers, ranchers, and rural businessmen an opportunity for funding to develop renewable energy ventures. Both programs have been successful since their induction in 2002. Over \$66 million has been distributed in grants and awards under Section 9006. Help prevent the elimination of the programs by contacting your federal representative and express your concern. To find information on how to contact your representative, visit www.farmenergy.org.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1166.

U.S. Federal Government Surpasses Renewable Energy Goals

In 1999, an Executive Order was given to increase the federal government's renewable energy usage to 2.5% by September 30, 2005. Exceeding their goals, the federal government is now utilizing 2.375 billion kWh of renewable energy, an increase of over 1,000% from 1999 consumption levels.

Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman says that "Renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and biomass are increasingly becoming viable options for American homes and buildings." The government has received help from the DOE's Federal Energy Management Program by purchasing and/or using renewable energy at specific sites. Now, by 2013, the federal government must obtain 7.5% of its power from renewable energy sources to be in accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1167.

Greenlight & Catamount to Develop Wind Farms

An agreement between Greenlight Energy, Inc. and Catamount Energy Corporation to co-develop two wind farms has been announced.

Joseph Cofelice, president of Catamount Energy says, "This transaction advances our wind energy portfolio in the western U.S. We are pleased to have this co-development opportunity." A 150 MW wind farm is proposed for western Oklahoma - Beaver Creek Wind Energy - and a 100 MW wind farm is planned for eastern Wyoming - Antelope Creek Wind Energy.

According to Matt Hantzmon, managing director for Greenlight Energy, "The projects in Wyoming and Oklahoma have exceptionally strong wind resources capable of generating wind energy economically. Recent market developments, in particular natural gas prices, have strengthened the market for wind energy. Catamount's resources and global wind expertise will help accelerate the development of these wind facilities; we look forwards to our partnership with the Catamount team."

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1164.

U.S. Wind Energy Industry Expanding by 35%

By the end of 2005, according to AWEA, 2,500 MW of new wind power will be installed in the United States. The total amount of wind power in the U.S. will exceed 9,200 MW or enough electricity to power 2.4 million homes. By the year 2007, over 14,000 MW are expected to be installed in the U.S.

The accelerated growth is happening at a time when natural gas prices are expected to peak this winter. This time last year natural gas averaged \$5-7/mcf while it is currently projected to be \$10-13/mcf this winter. "Wind power's rapid growth provides what is potentially the quickest and best supply-side option to ease the natural gas shortage," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher. After the 9,200 MW of wind energy are installed in the U.S., AWEA estimates that over half a billion cubic feet of natural gas per day will be conserved. Wind power will reduce natural gas usage by 4-5% at the end of the year.

Wind power installed in the U.S. this year alone will offset 7 billion pounds of carbon dioxide or the equivalent of 500,000 SUVs taken off the road. As well as environmental benefits there are economic ones. Wind farms create jobs, promote rural

economic development, and offer tax revenues to the states where the farms are located. Wind farms can also be built relatively fast compared to natural gas terminals.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1166.

Stable Market Needed for Manufacturing

A recent report published by the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory (LBNL), "Fostering Renewable Energy Technology Industry: An International Comparison of Wind Industry Policy Support Mechanisms," analyzes the countries with global wind turbine manufacturing facilities and the significance of their policy efforts in promoting the wind energy market. Many of the leading turbine manufacturers have their origins in wind power technology and research that stretches back to the 1970s.

The leading countries in manufacturing - Denmark, the Netherlands, and the U.S. - may be losing their dominance. Manufacturing in Germany and Spain is growing due to their increase in energy demand as well as higher wind resource potential. They are also able to illustrate that supportive government policies promoting wind energy are extremely important in creating a market for wind and initiating the local building of superior wind turbines. Other countries, in order to attract manufacturers, have established incentives or authorizations to allow for the development of manufacturing facilities within their borders.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1169.

WinCharger Subscriber Counties

Here at the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative, we are attempting to map the distribution of the WinCharger across the state. However, those who receive it electronically cannot be tracked because all we have are e-mail addresses! If you do receive the newsletter via e-mail and have a free minute after you read it, please e-mail Stephanie Buway, sbuway@hotmail.com, and let us know your county of residence. - Thank you!

Native American Tribes Want to Clean Up

Recently in Denver, a Native Renewable Energy Summit was held to discuss the possibility of cities and tribes uniting for more development of renewable energies. Numerous tribes have shown interest in developing clean energies, especially those in the northern Great Plains. On nearly all Plains reservations, there is talk of building wind turbines to provide the power they need. Three cities - Boulder, CO, Aspen, CO, and Seattle, WA - have agreed to investigate into collaborative projects with tribes.

The citizens of those communities had been asked whether or not they would be willing to pay extra for energy that was created using renewables and they said yes. Logistics are the most important aspect that needs to be worked out. Regarding legal matters, the tribes hold an advantage over the cities because of their sovereignty. Their sovereignty allows them to be connected to the federal government and to have better opportunities to be connected to the grid once their systems are in place. The passing of the recent energy bill holds numerous prospects for the tribes.

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from November 18, 2005 Indian Country Today.

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@hotmail.com or by phone at 405-447-8412. Thanks!

Happy Holidays!!

Calendar of Coming Events

- Jan 11** 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.
- Feb 4-6** **Oklahoma Farmers Union** State Convention. Westin Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK. See www.okfarmersunion.com for more information.
- Feb 8** 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.
- Feb 26-28** **Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts** Annual Meeting & Trade Show. Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City. Contact Clay Pope at (405) 699-2087 or email at claypope@pldi.net for more information.
- Mar 7-8** **Community Wind Energy 2006**, hosted by Windustry. Iowa Events Center, Des Moines, IA. Call (612) 870-3461 or email info@windustry.com for more information.

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University of Oklahoma

EVAC - Environmental Verification and Analysis Center

3200 Marshall Ave., Suite 150

Norman, OK 73072-8032

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