



Wind Power

Wind Capacity in Colorado

Colorado currently has over 229 MW of installed wind capacity, and more is under development. Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo)/Xcel has announced that it will develop an additional 775 MW, making it the largest buyer of wind in the U.S. The major wind farms currently in operation are listed in the following table:

Name	Capacity	Number of Turbines	Location
Colorado Green Wind Farm	162 MW	108	30 miles south of Lamar (Prowers county)
Ponnequin Wind Facility	30 MW	44	Weld county
Peetz Table Wind Power Plant	30 MW	33	Peetz
Spring Canyon	60 MW	40	Logan County

Economic Benefits

Wind energy creates jobs and increases local tax revenue. The American Wind Energy Association estimates that every megawatt of capacity leads to 15-19 permanent jobs. The construction of a large, utility-scale wind farm can also create several short-term jobs, as well as demand for support service such as food and lodging from the local community. Lease payments to landowners average about \$2,000 per year for each turbine, which can be a valuable revenue source in rural communities.



Colorado Green Wind Farm

Policies to Support Wind Development

Colorado Renewable Energy Standard (RES)

The RES requires affected utilities to obtain an increasing share of their energy from renewable resources: 3% by 2007; 6% by 2011 and 10% by 2015. Four percent of these amounts must come from solar and one-half of the four percent must come from on-site solar at customer locations. Other eligible resources include wind, geothermal, biomass, hydro and fuel cells using hydrogen derived from renewable energy resources. Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) can be applied in meeting the standard, including those derived from wind generated in other states.

Production Tax Credit

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended the Production Tax Credit through 2007, providing 1.9 cents per kWh for the first ten years of a wind project's operations.

OEMC Activities to Support Wind

Anemometer Loan Program

OEMC has 12 anemometer systems, which it loans to Colorado residents for a period of one year. The purpose of the anemometers is to measure wind speed and direction, allowing a landowner to determine whether the resource is sufficient to merit the purchase of a wind turbine and what the payback period would be. OEMC currently has six 20-meter systems, three 30-meter systems and two 50-meter systems.

Demonstration Video

OEMC has developed an informational video and accompanying handbook that can be downloaded from www.state.co.us/oemc/. The materials outline the steps required to install a small wind turbine, from resource assessment to operations and maintenance.

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