



## Wind Energy Across the U.S. Can Help Lift the Country into a Cleaner, Cheaper Energy Future

Wind energy across the U.S. is already giving the country nearly 6.6 percent of its electricity generation<sup>1</sup>, and it couldn't come at a better time to help provide additional sources of power for our nation's energy consumers.

Currently, more than 56,600 wind turbines are cranking out 97,223 Megawatts of electricity from the bluebonnet fields of Texas to the windswept plains in the Midwest and out to the coastal waters of Rhode Island. All of these turbines combined are helping the U.S. produce enough wind to power just over 36 million homes<sup>2</sup>.

With all of this capacity, it is no surprise that the U.S. is home to some of the largest wind farms in the world, helping to make the U.S. second behind only China for wind power, according to the Global Wind Energy Council.

While most of the wind power we currently have is onshore, the state of Rhode Island approved the first commercial offshore wind farm in 2016 called Block Island, which produces 30 MW of wind<sup>3</sup>. Though this is the first of



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its kind in the U.S., there have been record-setting federal lease sales for offshore wind development in parts of the Mid-Atlantic which, once they are constructed, are expected to generate roughly 4.1 Gigawatts of power.<sup>4</sup>

Based on current trends, the U.S. Department of Energy projects that there will be roughly 224 Gigawatts of installed wind capacity<sup>5</sup> - more than tripling wind production by 2030. If this production is done in conjunction with improvements being made every day to large-scale transmission infrastructure, that will lead to the creation of power for close to 84 million homes, according to our estimates.

Moreover, elected leaders in states across the nation have pledged to move their public utilities to cleaner sources of energy<sup>6</sup>.

Fortunately for consumers, costs have come down through these large-scale wind power investments and are expected to come down even further by 2030<sup>7</sup>. Together with increased, industrial-scale solar energy investments, the U.S. has almost

boundless wind- and-sun-powered potential to pair with existing gas and nuclear generation.

This is all great news, and with these kinds of advantages, it might come as a surprise that just like with oil and natural gas projects and pipelines - anti-energy activists continue to try and block clean sources of power like the wind<sup>8</sup>. No matter how you slice a piece of the energy pie, time is of the essence because demand for energy keeps increasing, and the new charges on customers' power bills caused by the clean energy mandates are going to come sooner than that.

Wind is already a natural occurrence that is owned by us all, and it should be turned to our benefit as often as possible. With decreasing costs and longer blades, plus the addition of fuel cells and battery storage, large-scale wind - along with oil, natural gas, solar, energy efficiency and conservation - will be an excellent addition to the nation's mix of clean energy.

That's something to tell your friends, neighbors and elected officials when the conversation turns to clean, affordable energy choices.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=NM>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.php?t=epmt\\_6\\_07\\_b](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_6_07_b)

<sup>3</sup> <http://dwwind.com/project/block-island-wind-farm/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-offshorewind/europeans-sweep-record-u-s-offshore-wind-auction-idUSKBN10D2DI>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/maps/map-projected-growth-wind-industry-now-until-2050>

<sup>6</sup> <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2019/04/23/one-more-state-two-more-utilities-pledge-100-clean-power/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nrel.gov/news/program/2017/science-driven-innovation-can-reduce-wind-energy-costs-by-50-percent-by-2030.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://consumerenergyalliance.org/2010/02/not-all-wind-power-created-equal/>