



American Wind
Energy Association

WIND ENERGY: AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE

The United States has tremendous wind energy resources. Although California gave birth to the modern U.S. wind industry, 16 states have greater wind potential.

Installed wind energy generating capacity now totals 9,149 MW, and is expected to generate about 24.8 billion kWh of electricity in 2006. However, that is still less than 1% of U.S. electricity generation. By contrast, the total amount of electricity that could potentially be generated from wind in the United States has been estimated at 10,777 billion kWh annually—three times the electricity generated in the U.S. today.

These new wind farms demonstrate how wind energy can help meet the nation's growing need for affordable, reliable power. With continued government encouragement to accelerate its development, this increasingly competitive source of energy will provide at least six percent of the nation's electricity by 2020 and revitalize farms and rural communities – without consuming any natural resource or emitting any pollution or greenhouse gases.

THE TOP TWENTY STATES for wind energy potential, as measured by annual energy potential in the billions of kWhs, factoring in environmental and land use exclusions for wind class of 3 and higher.

1	North Dakota	1,210	11	Colorado	481
2	Texas	1,190	12	New Mexico	435
3	Kansas	1,070	13	Idaho	73
4	South Dakota	1,030	14	Michigan	65
5	Montana	1,020	15	New York	62
6	Nebraska	868	16	Illinois	61
7	Wyoming	747	17	California	59
8	Oklahoma	725	18	Wisconsin	58
9	Minnesota	657	19	Maine	56
10	Iowa	551	20	Missouri	52

Source: *An Assessment of the Available Windy Land Area and Wind Energy Potential in the Contiguous United States, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, 1991.*

For more information, see AWEA's web page at <http://www.awea.org> .