



Partnering People With Wind
Power One Community at a Time

Wind Industry Market Trends

The wind power industry is in an era of rapid expansion as reflected by the following trends:

United States leads the world in annual wind capacity growth.

For the second straight year in 2006, the United States led the world in wind capacity additions, with roughly 16 percent of the worldwide growth. AWEA expects robust 25 to 30 percent growth in U.S. wind power capacity throughout the next couple years.

Larger turbines. Today's wind turbines are twice as powerful and efficient on average as those installed just six years ago. The average generating capacity of a turbine installed in 2006 was 1.6 MW, up from .76 MW in 2000.

Larger companies. The wind industry has experienced increased globalization in the last several years. Mergers and acquisitions are common, creating larger companies, primarily based in Europe.

More capital available. Today many financial institutions are eager to finance and invest their dollars in this fast-growing sector.

Wind policy efforts drive wind development. State wind policies include Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), C-BED (community-based energy development) legislation, renewable energy funds and tax incentives. Federal policies include renewable energy fund programs and the energy production tax credit (PTC).



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