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Wind farm project gets stimulus money

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A “community wind” project in northeastern Colorado, called the Northeast Colorado (NECO) Wind project, has landed \$2.5 million in stimulus money, Colorado two U.S. senators, Democrats Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, said Thursday.

The NECO wind farm was one of five chosen by the **U.S. Department of Energy** to get stimulus money, which will be leveraged with local government and private industry funding, the senators said.

NECO’s first phase is a 30-megawatt wind farm in Phillips County. NECO’s ultimate goal is to build a 650-megawatt wind farm in Sedgwick, Phillips and Logan counties.

Community wind farms are owned by local landowners willing to place turbines on their land and other participants in the project.

“I’ve been proud to support the NECO Wind project, and I’m very glad to see them get funding through the Recovery Act,” Udall said in a statement. “This public-private project is a great model for communities across Colorado looking for ways to create good-paying local jobs, reduce our addiction to foreign oil and further our leadership in the new clean-energy economy.”

NECO is working with **National Wind** LLC, based in Minneapolis. Earlier this week National Wind announced it had signed a 20-unit wind turbine supply contract with German turbine manufacturer **REpower Systems** AG, which has its U.S. headquarters in Denver. That contract will supply turbines to a community wind project in Minnesota.

“Northeastern Colorado’s proposed wind energy project is a perfect example of how Colorado’s rural communities can help lead our state’s growth in the clean energy sector,” Bennet said in a statement.

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