



Why Wind Power?



Background

There's nothing new about harnessing the power of wind. As early as 500 AD, Persians constructed windmills to pump fresh water and mill grain. People have been using wind power to generate electricity for decades, but only in the last few years has wind power become a cost-effective and scalable form of industrial electricity generation. It's also only in the last few years that many people have recognized wind power's crucial role in the modern world.

Wind Power:

Combats Global Warming

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change cites wind power as a key mitigation technology available today to reduce carbon emissions in the energy supply.



FACT: If wind power provided 20% of the nation's electricity, an achievable goal supported by many including President Bush, it could displace enough coal-fired plants to reduce the United States carbon dioxide emissions by one third.¹

Improves the Environment

Fossil fuel plants emit pollution that causes smog and promotes asthma and other respiratory infections. Electricity produced by wind power does not contribute to air pollution.



FACT: More than 64 million Americans breathe air that has enough particulate pollutants to put their health at risk.²

Supports Farmers and Rural Development

Wind power provides a new source of revenue for farmers and rural communities. Wind farms can be installed without significant impacts on existing farming operations.

FACT: For a 250-acre farm, the annual income from a wind lease could be \$14,000, with no more than 2-3 acres removed from production.³

¹ American Wind Energy Association.

² American Lung Association.

³ American Wind Energy Association.





Wind Power: Embrace the Future, Today

Right now, a majority of the U.S. electricity is produced by burning harmful fossil fuels like coal and gas. Conventional energy production is the leading cause of industrial air pollution. Wind farms generate pollution-free power that reduces dependence on fossil fuels and contributes to energy independence, while fighting global climate change. That's why getting more wind power built, and educating people about it, is so crucial to the future of the energy mix.

U.S. Wind Power Snapshot

Total Installed U.S. Capacity as of June 30, 2007⁴:

12,634 MW (3rd worldwide behind Germany and Spain). Enough to power 2.9 million homes for a year.

Top States:

Texas, California, Iowa, Minnesota

Current percentage of mix:

< 2 percent

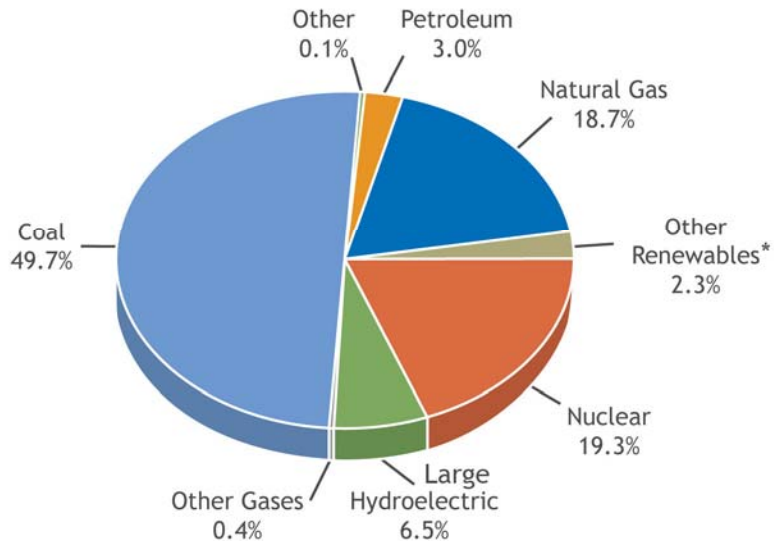
Achievable percentage of energy mix:

20 percent

⁴ American Wind Energy Association & DOE Energy Information Administration.

Current U.S. Electric Power Profile by Fuel Type⁵

U.S. Electric Power Industry Net Generation, 2005



*Other Renewables - 2.3% of the U.S. Electric Power Industry's Net Generation. The following is the breakdown of renewables:

- 0.45% Wind
- 0.35% Geothermal
- 0.02% Solar
- 1.5% Biomass

⁵ DOE Energy Information Administration.

