



West Texas Wind Wire

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Professional skills conferences scheduled in West Texas for 2009



In continued efforts to

As the USA takes the lead in global wind energy operations, West Texas is the most intensive wind energy development and operations region in the world. Intensive action by communities, industry, and policymakers assures that Texas will be the model for the Great Plains wind corridor expansion that is on the horizon.



10% by 2012

25% by 2025

USA poised for major wind energy expansion in Great Plains states

The 2009 outlook for wind energy hinges on the balance of global economics, policy action, and economic stimulus. Consensus observations are that, at worst, 2009 development will be flat as to 2008. On the other hand, the proven economic revitalization record of wind development and the political shifts in the November elections indicate that 2009 could launch Texas and the Great Plains on a massively productive trajectory that would continue for at least two decades.

Congress passed a one-year extension of the wind energy Production Tax Credit as part of the economic recovery legislation in October. The PTC is now set to expire December 31, 2009. The Obama Administration is committed to at least a five-year extension beyond that.

President-elect Barack Obama has made renewable energy a centerpiece of his energy, environmental, and economic recovery platform. "Renewable energy" in the immediate context will mean

improve workforce skillsets and community opportunities, the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium is collaborating with business, colleges, and other regional institutions to provide a series of workshops, conferences, and training sessions.

Wind Office Pro '09

Wind Office Pro '09 will provide career advancement skills to current wind energy administrative staff, as well as valuable insight into the field for persons interested in applying for wind energy office positions.

Wind Office Pro '09 will roll out on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Texas State Technical College West Texas in Sweetwater. The course will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and registration cost is \$75 per person.

Faculty for the seminar will include Nancy Howlett of Evans Enterprises Wind Division, Carolee Patterson of TSTC, and Greg Wortham of the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium. Other experienced wind energy professionals will participate on practical panels.

Topics to be covered include Wind Energy 101, office professionalism, introduction to professional writing, career advancement opportunities, customer

"wind", as that is the only renewable resource capable of critical mass development in the short term. Obama wants the USA to produce 10% of its electricity from renewable resources by 2012 -- and 25% by 2025.

The Bush Administration in May 2008 released an evaluation of achieving 20% of USA electricity production from wind energy by 2020.

Similar to the Bush Administration analysis, Obama projects that millions of jobs can be created through a major commitment to wind energy in the Great Plains. As West Texas experience bears out in real world examples, these jobs will range from wind component manufacturing to wind technicians to engineers to long-term construction jobs to all of the ancillary revitalization jobs in restaurants, lodging, and other logistical support. West Texas clearly demonstrates the comprehensive community benefits that have accompanied multi-billion private investments in wind -- from new schools to dramatic increases in wages to new hotels, housing, and shopping opportunities.

Extension of the PTC -- or conversion of that federal incentive into a more useful form of tax credit -- will be an important part of the policy rollout. Commitment to development of the Great Plains electricity transmission infrastructure will be the most fundamental policy step. The substantial investment in West Texas wind energy fields along the Interstate 10 and Interstate 20 corridors has demonstrated the "build it and they will come" reality of investment in transmission infrastructure.

The absence of effective transmission to connect Panhandle wind resources to markets (and insufficiency of transmission elsewhere in West Texas) further demonstrates the necessity of transmission infrastructure investment to assure that the USA gains the maximum economic recovery benefits from wind. The pending Texas transmission build-out is designed to alleviate the Panhandle's constrained situation.

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has been nominated for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Richardson, who served as Energy Secretary under President Bill Clinton, has played a major role in the development of wind energy in eastern New Mexico and in the activation of New Mexico's electric transmission authority.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano has been nominated to be Secretary of Homeland Security. With energy security and energy independence important attributes of wind & solar energy -- and Arizona a prime source for large-scale solar energy development -- Napolitano's nomination puts two renewable energy proponents at President-elect Obama's emerging Cabinet table.

Obama is yet to announce two other crucially relevant appointments -- Secretary of Energy and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Based on Obama's transition strategy to date, it is presumed that the President-elect will make important statements about his wind energy strategy when he announces those

and VIP relations, corporate performance skills, communications skills, and national networking opportunities.

Wind Office Pro will also be scheduled later in 2009 in the Permian Basin and the Texas Panhandle.

For registration and information, please call Marina at the WTVEC at 325-236-9499.

Policy Action '09

Policy Action '09 will provide effective government relations skills for community and grassroots initiatives.

Policy Action '09 is not limited to wind energy issues, but rather is designed to enhance generic skills for effective interaction with legislators and staff at the Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

Policy Action '09 is aimed at community leaders, economic development teams, business leaders, ranchers & farmers, and other West Texans who expect to face legislative issues in 2009.

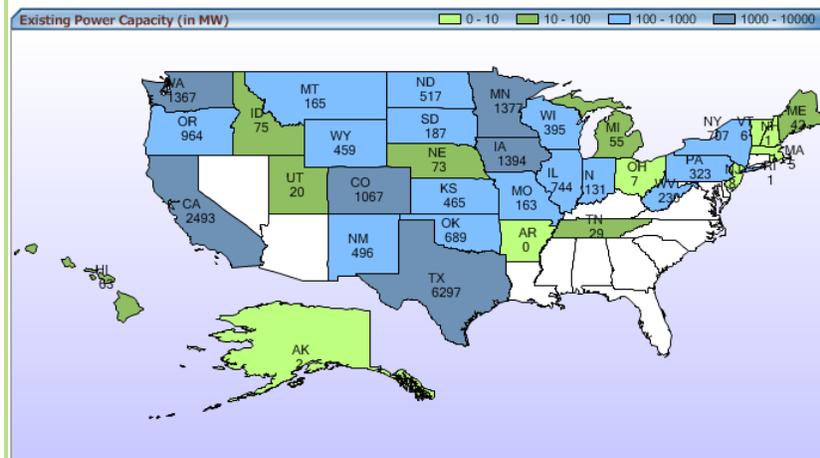
Policy Action '09 will take place on Friday, Jan. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at TSTC West Texas. Registration fee is \$75 per person. Space is limited to the first 100 paid registrants.

Faculty for Policy Action '09 will include Sweetwater

two appointees.

For more detail on the Obama Administration's energy policies, visit the Presidential Transition website at [Energy Policy](#). To read the Bush Administration report, go to www.20percentwind.org. More information is also available on the American Wind Energy Association's website at www.awea.org.

Texas reaches toward 10 GW frontier as USA takes global wind energy lead



Texas wind energy installed capacity has now reached 9,000 MW, and with major projects under construction from Notrees in the Permian Basin to Dumas in the Panhandle to Cooke County in the east and the coastal plains near the Gulf of Mexico, Texas will cap the 10 gigawatt (GW) threshold in early 2009.

West Texas A&M University's Alternative Energy Institute calculates that Texas had 8,786 MW of operational wind energy capacity in November 2008, with hundreds of MW under active construction and anticipated early 2009 operation dates. Almost 6,000 wind turbine generators have been installed in the Lone Star State since 1995 -- most since 2005.

The official 3rd Quarter 2008 report of the American Wind Energy Association (www.awea.org) noted that Texas had 6,297 MW as of the end of September 2008 and 2,470 MW under construction. Given the previously anticipated 2008 expiration date for the federal PTC, virtually all of that capacity is now operational.

Texas now has almost four times as much installed wind energy generation as California, which was the Western Hemisphere leader from the 1980s until Summer 2006. Texas has almost six times as much installed capacity as the third place state -- Iowa.

Mayor Greg Wortham, former Texas Municipal League board member Glenn Wortham, TSTC West Texas President Emeritus Homer Taylor, Texas Midwest Community Network director Nicki Harle, and others.

Topics to be covered at Policy Action '09 include introduction to the Texas Legislature, introduction to the U.S. Congress, 2009 political landscape, working with legislators, working with legislative staff, important issues for rural Texas, working through regional alliances, communications strategies, special events, hosting legislators & staff, and more.

For registration and information, please call Marina at the WTWEC at 325-236-9499.

Wind Site Management '09

Wind Site Management '09 will provide career advancement skills to current wind energy site managers and lead technicians, as well as valuable insight into the increased responsibility levels for persons interested in applying for wind project management positions.

Wind Site Management '09 will be held on Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 27-28, at Texas State Technical College West Texas in Sweetwater. The course will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and registration cost

AWEA notes that the USA will have almost 30,000 MW of installed capacity by early 2009, and roughly one-third of USA operational capacity will be in Texas.

Iowa is set to double its operational capacity in 2009, when it will rival California at just under 3,000 MW (roughly equivalent to Nolan County's installed capacity in West Texas).

Texas is pacing not only the USA, but all of North America and the Western Hemisphere. In fact Texas is the most intensive development, construction, and operations region in the world. Texas is the 4th largest "nation" for wind energy operations -- behind the USA, Germany, and Spain. Rapid development is also occurring in China and India, which will both continue to challenge Texas totals in coming years.

Texas wind energy development has also extended beyond West Texas boundaries and intensified within the region. Coastal onshore projects are now operational in South Texas. Projects are also operational and under construction northwest and southwest of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Eastland-Erath counties, Jack County, and Cooke County.

South Texas projects in Kenedy County at Penascal (Babcock & Brown) and Gulf Winds I (Iberdrola) have now reached operational status -- vaulting the Texas coast from "pending" to one of the top dozen "states" on its own. South Texas projects are now a significant part of the Texas wind energy picture.

Within West Texas, construction and operations are intensifying in the Texas Panhandle, Permian Basin, Rolling Plains, and Cross Timbers.

Major opening of the vast Texas Panhandle and South Plains potential still awaits construction of the announced Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) transmission network, but significant projects have come on line in 2008. These include at least 60 MW of John Deere Wind Energy projects, the 150 MW McAdoo project (Invenergy), the 10 MW PYCO urban project in Lubbock, and 114 MW at Great Plains Windpark 1 (Noble).

New Permian Basin projects include a significant intensification between Big Spring and San Angelo, with such projects as Panther Creek (E.on -- 258 MW), Ocotolio (Duke Energy -- 59 MW), and expansion of FPL Energy's Capricorn Ridge complex in Sterling and Coke counties (now exceeding 600 MW). Further west are significant projects at Fort Stockton (Sherbino Mesa's 150 MW of Vestas 3.0 MW turbines), Stanton (Invenergy -- 120 MW), and Duke Energy's 91 MW near Odessa at Notrees.

In the Rolling Plains region, E.on's Roscoe complex (Champion, Roscoe, Inadale, and Pyron) is marching toward the 1 GW threshold. Eurus Energy's 180 MW Bull Creek is on line in Borden County. Albany continues to grow as a wind center with Horizon Wind Energy's 400 MW Lone Star complex and the 165 MW RES Hackberry project.

is \$250 per person.

Faculty for the seminar will include Nancy Howlett of Evans Enterprises Wind Division, Carolee Patterson of TSTC, and Greg Wortham of the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium. Other experienced wind energy professionals will participate on practical panels.

Topics to be covered include Wind Energy 101, office professionalism, transition from technician to management, human resources, inventory control, financial controls and procedures, corporate performance skills, communications skills, relations with customers, landowners & VIPs, and environmental, health & safety (EHS) issues.

Wind Site Management will also be scheduled later in 2009 in the Permian Basin and the Texas Panhandle.

For registration and information, please call Marina at the WTWEC at 325-236-9499.

[Wind Law 4 -- Where the Wind Meets the Blade](#)

Texas Tech University School of Law and the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium join together again for the fourth edition of the nation's premier practical continuing legal education seminar in the heart of the world's most intensive wind energy development and

In the Cross Timbers, Clipper Wind turbines are featured in the 60 MW British Petroleum (BP Energy) Silver Star 1. Gamesa is operational with the 120 MW Barton Chapel project in Jack County. In Cooke County north of Fort Worth, FPL Energy has succeeded with its 112.5 MW Wolf Ridge wind energy project.

The Texas Public Utility Commission's bold "Scenario 2" CREZ decision in Summer 2008 will launch Texas to a new level of global energy leadership with a \$5 billion upgrade of the state's electricity transmission grid.

"Scenario 2" in the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) docket will enable efficient transfer of almost 18,500 MW of wind energy resources from West Texas wind energy sites to metro consumers in Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, and elsewhere within the state.

The PUC now is considering proposals from major companies to build the lines and other upgrades as quickly and inexpensively as possible. The enhanced transmission grid is projected to lower consumers' electricity bills by sending increased amounts of low-priced wind energy into high-cost metro zones.

"Scenario 2" will enable substantial increases in wind energy construction and production in the Permian Basin, Rolling Plains, South Plains, and Panhandle regions of West Texas. Priorities in the expansion plan are to alleviate existing curtailment challenges and then to enable construction of major new wind energy centers.

For more information on CREZ, including background, maps, and prognosis, visit [State Energy Conservation Office](#), a division of Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' office.



operations region.

Wind Law 4 will take place on the TSTC West Texas campus near Sweetwater on July 9-10, 2009. Wind Law 4 integrates classroom seminars with on-site tours of some of the world's largest wind energy projects, wind energy operations centers, and direct interaction with wind energy landowners and wind energy operations professionals.

5th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

Trent School will host the 5th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair on July 15-16-17, 2009.

Day 1 (July 15) will focus on Small Wind -- small-scale turbines (below 1 MW) for use at schools, ranches, farms, homes, and other on-site uses.

Day 2 (July 16) will feature more than 25 seminars on such topics as environmental evaluation, airspace analysis, transmission expansion, safety training, emergency response, K-12 educational outreach, managing wind wealth, legal issues updates, policy updates, independent project development, and many more.

Day 3 (July 17) will feature tours of the world's most intensive wind energy development area, with practical discussions on construction, land use, interaction with

Denise Bode of Oklahoma

American Wind Energy Association names oil & gas leader as new executive director

In a move that could help break political roadblocks in Washington, the American Wind Energy Association (www.awea.org) has announced that its new executive director will be Denise Bode, an experienced energy policy expert from Oklahoma. She takes office on January 2, 2009.

Bode is currently CEO of the American Clean Skies Foundation and served for nine years on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, an institution that played a central role in bringing wind energy to Oklahoma. She served seven years as president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and also nine years on the staff of then-U.S. Senator David Boren (D-Okla) as his legal counsel, focusing on the areas of energy and taxation.

AWEA is the USA's national trade association for the wind energy industry. WTWEC is a member of AWEA. AWEA sponsors the world's largest wind energy trade expo and is the voice of wind energy in the USA.

Bode follows current AWEA executive director Randall Swisher. Swisher is retiring after an amazing 19-year tenure that has seen wind energy emerge from a 1980s California phenomenon into a massive industry with the power to revitalize the Great Plains and provide a substantial contribution to America's energy independence. Swisher and AWEA staff have actively participated with Texas wind energy initiatives from Trent to Berlin.

Record growth drives event to Chicago

U.S. Windpower '09 expo blows into Windy City

The record-setting Windpower '08 in Houston has blown Windpower '09 from its scheduled Minneapolis venue to a new setting in Chicago, May 4-7, 2009. Roughly 5,000 people attended Windpower '06 in Pittsburgh, and about 7,000 surfed into Windpower '07 in Los Angeles. Houston played host to more than 13,000, convincing the American Wind Energy Association to relocate the 2009 conference to Chicago.

As another indicator of how far the industry has come in this decade, approximately 1,000 people attended the 2001

agricultural operations, community development, economic development, workforce training, environmental mitigation strategies, and more.

Registration and agenda details will be available in late Spring 2009.

West Texans make plans to cross the Atlantic for 2009 European expos



West Texas communities and institutions are continuing their roles as regulars at major wind energy functions in Europe.

European Wind Energy Conference 2009 -- Marseille, France

European wind energy business leaders will gather on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea at Marseille, France, from March 13-16.

This is the largest annual wind energy conference in Europe. A number of West Texas communities and businesses were represented at the 2007 EWEC in Brussels, Belgium.

The Marseille conference

Windpower conference in Chicago.

Windpower '09 will likely be the largest wind energy trade expo in the world, as the wind energy event is among the 50 fastest growing conventions of any kind in North America. Dozens of West Texas businesses and communities are scheduled to be represented at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center.

By August 2008, the Chicago event had already outsold the record-setting Houston expo in terms of reserved exhibition space. Houston had featured an 85% increase over the 2007 Los Angeles event.

As of Summer 2008, the 2009 expo had still been scheduled for the smaller Minneapolis venue, and AWEA credits Chicago officials for their extraordinary efforts to accommodate the wind energy event. Illinois in 2007 ranked 5th among USA states for new wind energy construction.

In Chicago, there will be almost 800 exhibitors and more than 13,000 wind energy professionals in attendance for three days of expo and conference sessions.

Registration for Windpower '09 begins in January. Visit www.windpowerexpo.org for registration and more information.

Upcoming Events

December 18 (Thursday), 2008 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas -- topic: Wind Energy Outlook for 2009: A report from the AWEA Fall Symposium

December 23-30, 2008 -- Special West Texas regional visits by a representative of the European Wind Energy Association (www.ewea.org)

January 6 (Tuesday), 2009 -- Sweetwater -- Wind Office Pro '09 -- TSTC West Texas

January 9 (Friday), 2009 -- Sweetwater -- Policy Action '09 -- TSTC West Texas

January 22 (Thursday), 2009 -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

January 27-28 (Tuesday-Wednesday) -- Sweetwater -- Wind Site Management '09 -- TSTC West Texas

February 19-20 (Thursday-Friday)-- Sweetwater -- Great Plains Summit -- TSTC West Texas

February 26 (Thursday) -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

March 16-19 -- Marseille, France -- European Wind Energy Conference (www.ewea.org)

and expo will feature leading European political officials, and provides an opportunity for Texas recruitment of North American operations and manufacturing facilities, as well as additional project development investment.

A senior official with the European Wind Energy Association is scheduled to tour West Texas in late December 2008.

For more information, registration, and expo opportunities, please visit www.ewec2009.info.



Germany & American Energy Conference -- Berlin, Germany

Global wind energy leader Germany is a crucial destination for Lone Star State business and community leaders.

Plans are being finalized for a 2009 Germany-USA wind & solar energy business exchange conference in Berlin from March 30-Apr. 2.

Governor Rick Perry's office is likely to attend, as the Governor's office provided crucial support to Texas business recruitment

March 26 (Thursday) -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

March 30-April 2 -- Berlin, Germany -- German & American Energy Conference (German-American Chamber of Commerce) (www.gacctexas.com)

April 23 (Thursday) -- Sweetwater -- WTWEC luncheon -- TSTC West Texas

May 4-7 -- Chicago -- Windpower '09 -- American Wind Power Association (www.awea.org)

West Texas Wind Energy Consortium

The West Texas Wind Energy Consortium brings together the spectrum of wind energy stakeholders across our region -- school districts, counties, economic development corporations, heavy industry, small business, farmers, ranchers, colleges, wind companies, chambers of commerce, cities, electric utilities, and more. We represent one of the largest wind energy operations "nations" in the world -- reaching 10,000 MW by early 2009! We represent more than 1,000,000 West Texans covering more than 100,000 square miles from Dallas-Fort Worth to El Paso and Dalhart to Del Rio and beyond. We invite you to join us at www.WestTexasWind.us.



efforts at 2008 wind conferences in Berlin and Brussels.

The Houston-based German-American Chamber of Commerce is coordinating this and additional business networking opportunities for the Texas delegation.

The Berlin networking event in February 2008 was very successful and resulted from German industry participation at the November 2007 Texas Renewable Energy Industry Association conference in Abilene.

For more information on the berlin conference and other activities of the German-American Chamber of Commerce activities in Houston, please visit their website at www.gacctexas.com.