



Member accomplishments highlights 2005-2011

Working together, members all across Texas have joined forces to assure that our region can maximize the economic benefits from this important emerging industry. Working together with our members, here are some examples of the impact of the Texas Wind Energy Clearinghouse (formerly West Texas Wind Energy Consortium) since January 2005:

- Developed a membership base that represents the comprehensive stakeholder spectrum across Texas – counties, school districts, colleges & universities, ports, heavy industry, small businesses, ranchers & farmers, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, wind developers, metropolitan regions & rural areas, construction firms, electric co-ops, and more
- Presented informational programs to thousands of landowners, local officials, school representatives, business leaders, and other stakeholders at dozens of intensive “Wind Energy 101” seminars throughout the wind region from Amarillo to Eagle Pass, Van Horn to Jacksboro
- Created & hosted the West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair – held in Trent from 2005-2010, the event each year featured an expo and more than 20 topical seminars to choose from on large scale wind, small wind, etc. 6th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair was in July 2010. 1st Annual South Texas Wind Energy Conference convened September 2010 in Corpus Christi. We host annual Texas Offshore Wind Energy Roundtable (TOWER) in Houston each October (Oct. 3-4, 2011).
- Organized and hosted important wind energy continuing legal education seminars in Sweetwater, Corpus Christi, and Houston to provide continuing legal education to regional lawyers, metropolitan lawyers, and international lawyers so that they can provide better service to landowners & projects.
- Working with wind energy project managers and educators, we have been instrumental in developing the Nation’s premier Wind Energy Technician skills training course at Texas State Technical College, which enrolled the program’s first Associates Degree students in Fall 2006 and now has more than 200 students. TWEC and TSTC are now working with community colleges throughout the Great Plains and nationally to expand educational programs to many regions, standardize curriculum, and coordinate between institutions to enhance “K-PhD” opportunities.
- Provided speakers to civic club meetings from Midland to Houston, Pampa to Uvalde.
- Provided briefings to legislators and legislative staff (Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress) at the State Capitol, the West Texas Legislative Summit, and in the region’s wind fields and industrial sites – and we are a constant clearinghouse for interaction between legislative staffs and the Texas wind energy regions
- Organized and hosted the first Texas Wind Industrial Network Summit (Texas WINS) (San Angelo in August 2006) to spur creation of industrial jobs across Texas for manufacture of wind energy components. This conference directly resulted in the first turbine manufacturing facility in Texas – a 2006 strategic alliance in Round Rock between TECO-Westinghouse and DeWind – with the prototype 2.0 MW turbine erected at Highland (near Sweetwater & Roscoe) in January 2008. We have organized subsequent Texas WINS events at the TECO-Westinghouse factory in Round Rock (2009) and at the BNSF Railway’s national Network Operations Center in Fort Worth (2010). We will host Great Plains & Southwest Wind Industrial Conference on Sept. 21-22, 2011, in Amarillo.
- Earned a \$23,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service via the Big Country Resource Conservation & Development Area and the Chihuahuan Desert RC&D Area – which was used for educational workshops, computer enhancements, communications activities, the 2006 & 2007 West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair at Trent, and to purchase and install a small-scale wind turbine at the Trent school

- Participated in strategy sessions with local elected officials, development entities, community leaders, and high-ranking state officials to activate community economic development action plans throughout Texas
- Worked with film crews to promote Texas wind regions as centers of energy innovation from HBO, PBS, the Texas Farm Bureau, Germany's ZDF & Arte networks, CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, France 3, France 5, France24, BBC, Dutch Public Television, Slovenian TV, Discovery Network, & more
- Worked with reporters and photographers from such publications as the Boston Globe, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, the Economist, London's The Guardian, Washington Times, Dallas Business Journal, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Texas Magazine, Scandanavian business journals, and others to promote rural Texas as a site for wind energy industry
- Provided tours of Texas wind projects & factories to Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, Texas gubernatorial candidates, major wind energy investors such as T. Boone Pickens, and leadership and landowner delegations from across Texas and globally (including 150 global visitors on bus tours from WINDPOWER 2010).
- Facilitated countless productive opportunities between landowners and developers
- Made special town hall presentations in dozens of communities and counties to discuss the status of wind energy development, localized opportunities, and tailored action strategies
- Facilitated direct communication and interaction between (1) local communities, counties, and schools and (2) wind developers, construction contractors, and energy purchasing utilities – for the purpose of smoothing construction logistics, improving community-project interactions, enhancing project contributions to community priorities, and for other beneficial purposes
- Worked with county officials, colleges, school districts, and regional workforce boards to develop and contribute to wind energy job fairs and career exploration events for students and adults
- Constantly work to promote Texas as a site for supply chain opportunities and major company operation expansions and relocations for long-term construction and permanent operations through TWEC-organized events, international trade shows (Europe, Canada, Mexico), collaboration with economic development corporations, and other strategies and opportunities.
- Represent Texas at major international wind energy conferences, including American Wind Energy Association expos at Los Angeles, San Diego, Houston, Dallas, Chicago & Phoenix; the Canadian Wind Energy Association at Winnipeg & Vancouver; the European Wind Energy Association at Brussels; Germany-USA energy conferences in Berlin; the Husum Wind Energy Trade Fair in Germany; the Border Energy Forum in Chihuahua; and other special events in USA & Canada.
- Initiated and operated the "Ride the Wind" bicycling event in 2007-2008 through the wind region in Nolan County. Teamed with Shermco Charities and the Women of Wind Energy to host the 250-mile "Ride for Wind" motorcycle ride event in 2010-2012.
- Developed a continuing high school and college student internship-scholarship program in 2006 that has so far included almost 40 students from high schools in the wind region and colleges across Texas to work on conference logistics and marketing tasks at the Sweetwater office of the Texas Wind Energy Clearinghouse, as well as at the West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair; the Wind Law Institute; AWEA "WINDPOWER" conferences in Los Angeles, Houston & Dallas; on regional initiatives; in factory, Capitol, and Dyess AFB tours; and on other USA & international VIP projects.
- Actively coordinated with international trade groups based in Houston, Dallas & Austin regarding manufacturing and service expansions to Texas – including the German American Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Consulate, French Embassy, United Kingdom Trade & Investment, Italian Trade Commission, Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce, ProMexico, Border Energy Forum & more

We at the Texas Wind Energy Clearinghouse hope that you will agree that your membership dollars are a wise investment in your interest and in the interests of Texas communities and businesses. With the active commitment of our members, the Texas Wind Energy Clearinghouse has become a "go-to" resource center, networking forum, and clearinghouse for Texas wind energy opportunities in a very short time.