



WIND ENERGY: AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE

The United States has tremendous wind energy resources. Although California gave birth to the modern U.S. wind industry, 16 states have greater wind potential. In 1998, more than 230 MW of new capacity were installed in the U.S. In that year, the first utility-scale wind projects were built in the states of Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wyoming. In 1999, the American wind energy industry is poised to continue its growth. At least 25 projects are expected to come online, boosting U.S. wind energy capacity by more than 590 MW, an increase of more than 33%. These new windfarms will bring clean, reliable electricity to residents of California, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, and Alaska.

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THE TOP TWENTY STATES for wind energy potential, as measured by annual energy potential in the billions of kWhs, factoring in environmental and land use exclusions for wind class of 3 and higher.

1	North Dakota	1,210	11	Colorado	481
2	Texas	1,190	12	New Mexico	435
3	Kansas	1,070	13	Idaho	73
4	South Dakota	1,030	14	Michigan	65
5	Montana	1,020	15	New York	62
6	Nebraska	868	16	Illinois	61
7	Wyoming	747	17	California	59
8	Oklahoma	725	18	Wisconsin	58
9	Minnesota	657	19	Maine	56
10	Iowa	551	20	Missouri	52

Source: *An Assessment of the Available Windy Land Area and Wind Energy Potential in the Contiguous United States*, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, 1991.

For more information, see AWEA's web page at <http://www.awea.org>.

