The U.S. wind industry installed 6,478 megawatts (MW) during the fourth quarter of 2016, the second strongest quarter for installations on record.

The 8,203 MW total installed during 2016 represents $13.8 billion in new investment. With 99% of wind projects located in rural areas, much of this investment is flowing to rural communities.

The U.S. now has an installed capacity of 82,183 MW, with over 52,000 wind turbines operating in 40 states plus Guam and Puerto Rico.

There are now over 18,300 MW of wind capacity under construction or in advanced development, with 6,345 MW in combined new announcements.

Texas ranks first in the nation with 20,321 MW of installed capacity, enough to power the equivalent of 5.7 million average U.S. homes every year.

Annually, these projects will provide local landowners and ranchers with more than $60 million in land lease payments.

The Lone Star State has nearly 3 times the installed capacity of any other state and supports up to 25,000 jobs in wind.

Texas led in total installations for the year (2,611 MW); with more than 2,447 MW in new construction announcements, Texas hosts 52% of current construction activity (5,401 MW).

Cumulatively, the state has attracted more than $38 billion dollars in project investment. Approximately 70% of the current installed wind capacity in Texas is located in low-income counties (14,185 MW), driving $25.2 billion in project investment and more than $40 million in annual land lease payments.
Fourth Quarter 2016 Highlights

- 19 states commissioned a total of 47 projects during the fourth quarter. Texas installed 1,790 MW, followed by Oklahoma (1,192 MW), Kansas (615 MW), North Dakota (603 MW) and Iowa (551 MW).

- Oklahoma passed California to become the third-ranked state with over 6,600 MW of installed capacity. Kansas passed Illinois to become the fifth-ranked state with over 4,400 MW.

- The U.S. commissioned its first offshore wind project during the fourth quarter, the 30 MW Block Island project.

- Project developers signed 816 MW of PPAs during the fourth quarter, contributing to a total of 4,040 MW of PPAs signed during 2016. For the year, non-utility purchasers represent 39% of total project capacity contracted (1,574 MW) - 57% of which is located in Texas.

U.S. Wind Power Capacity Installations during 2016, by Presidential Election Results

- Nearly 88% of the 8,203 MW installed during 2016 was built in states that voted for President Trump. These 13 states accounted for 7,126 MW of the wind power capacity built during the year, continuing the concentration of wind power in Republican-leaning states.