



Economic Development Guide for *Wind Energy*  
IN OKLAHOMA

# OKLAHOMA IS:

# Wind Energy

Considering Oklahoma's capacity, the wind energy industry represents another exciting chapter in the diversification of our energy production portfolio. Oklahoma—already ranked among America's top wind energy producers—has more than 700 MW of wind generation online. The Southwest Power Pool ([www.spp.org](http://www.spp.org)), a regional transmission organization, expects its 9-state area to produce 8,500 MW, with more than half of that coming from Oklahoma between 2020 and 2025.

With a centralized U.S. location, immediate proximity to wind projects, and position in the heart of the wind corridor, Oklahoma is the ideal site for wind generation, tower and blade production, turbine component manufacturing, repair and maintenance operations, and industry R&D.

Some of the major players already here include: DMI Industries and Bergey Windpower; hundreds of manufacturers that supply the wind industry; and wind power developers Chermac Energy Group, Competitive Power Ventures, GE, Horizon Wind Energy, NextEra Energy (formerly FPL Energy), Renewable Energy Systems, TradeWind Energy, and Wind Energy Prototypes.

## DO YOU HAVE A WIND PROJECT?

Contact Oklahoma's Site Selection Fast Forward Team and learn why Oklahoma is the best location for your wind energy business.



*fast forward*

# OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Department of Commerce

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Oklahoma Department of Commerce

900 N. Stiles Avenue

Oklahoma City, OK 73104-3234

[OKisWindEnergy.com](http://OKisWindEnergy.com)



## OKLAHOMA IS: *Wind Generation*

According to the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI)—a research and resource partnership between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University—Oklahoma has about 2.3 times more wind energy potential per square mile than Texas. [www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi](http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi).

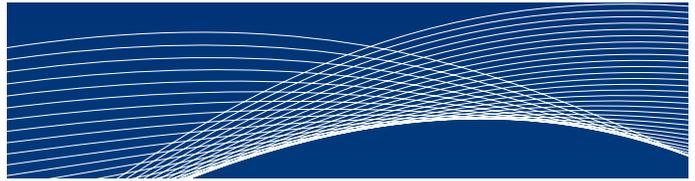
Oklahoma's prime areas for potential wind energy development include: Texas/Cimarron counties, Beaver County; the Woodward-Buffalo-Alva area; the Cheyenne-Arnett area; Weatherford-Hobart area; and Slick Hills.

For up-to-date capacity maps that show the locations of Oklahoma's operational wind farms, prime areas for potential wind energy development, wind speeds, and installed wind nameplate capacity by state, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/renew](http://www.okcommerce.gov/renew).

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma State Energy Office can also provide wind farm developers a step-by-step guide to permitting and building wind power in Oklahoma.

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405-815-5249.



## RESOURCES

**Oklahoma Mesonet:**

Oklahoma's world-class network of environmental monitoring stations created by scientists at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. The site includes interactive wind maps of speed and gusts, 3-hour animation, and maximum gusts since midnight. [www.mesonet.org](http://www.mesonet.org)

**Wind Powering America Program:**

Offers a collection of wind maps and other resources. [www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica)

**Oklahoma's Anemometer Program:**

Anemometers measure wind force and velocity. The data collected help landowners and wind power developers determine an area's wind capacity. Readings are typically taken for at least a year. The Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI) provides anemometers and installation at no charge when equipment and funding are available.

**Contact:**

OWPI, 405-325-8870 • [www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi](http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi).



## OKLAHOMA IS: *Wind Transmission*

Wind energy proponents and opponents point to a lack of transmission capacity as one of the leading barriers to wind farm development. But thanks to Oklahoma's progressive utilities and their good working relationship with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies, Oklahoma will have that missing piece too.

OGE Energy Corp. ([www.oge.com](http://www.oge.com)) and Electric Transmission America—a joint venture between American Electric Power ([www.aep.com](http://www.aep.com)) and a MidAmerican Holdings Company subsidiary—in July 2008 launched Horizon Transmission LLC to construct high-capacity transmission projects in Western Oklahoma, where a majority of the state's wind farms are located.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently approved rate incentives for two transmission projects proposed by Tallgrass Transmission and Prairie Wind Transmission to be built in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) region.

*“All kinds of people want to build transmission,”* says Jay Caspary, Director of Engineering for SPP, an organization that plans and manages the electric grid for Oklahoma and eight other states. *“That is absolutely unprecedented, and even though it won't happen overnight, it removes a major barrier to development.”*

Also in 2008, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission approved OG&E's request to recover costs for transmission projects throughout the state's wind energy corridor and granted utility status to ITC Great Plains ([www.itcgreatplains.com](http://www.itcgreatplains.com)), which has expressed interest in constructing transmission infrastructure across Oklahoma.

For the latest Oklahoma wind industry news, including transmission updates, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/seo](http://www.okcommerce.gov/seo), or [www.okcommerce.gov/energy](http://www.okcommerce.gov/energy).

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Wind Demand*

In 2003, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative ([www.wfec.com](http://www.wfec.com)), based in Anadarko, became the first Oklahoma utility/electric co-op to purchase and offer wind power to its members.

Today, most of Oklahoma's main investor-owned utilities and member co-ops offer wind energy to their customers. And, they continue to expand their renewable energy portfolios.

OG&E, Public Service Company of Oklahoma ([www.psooklahoma.com](http://www.psooklahoma.com)), and WFEC all issued requests for hundreds of additional wind-generated megawatts between 2010 and 2012.

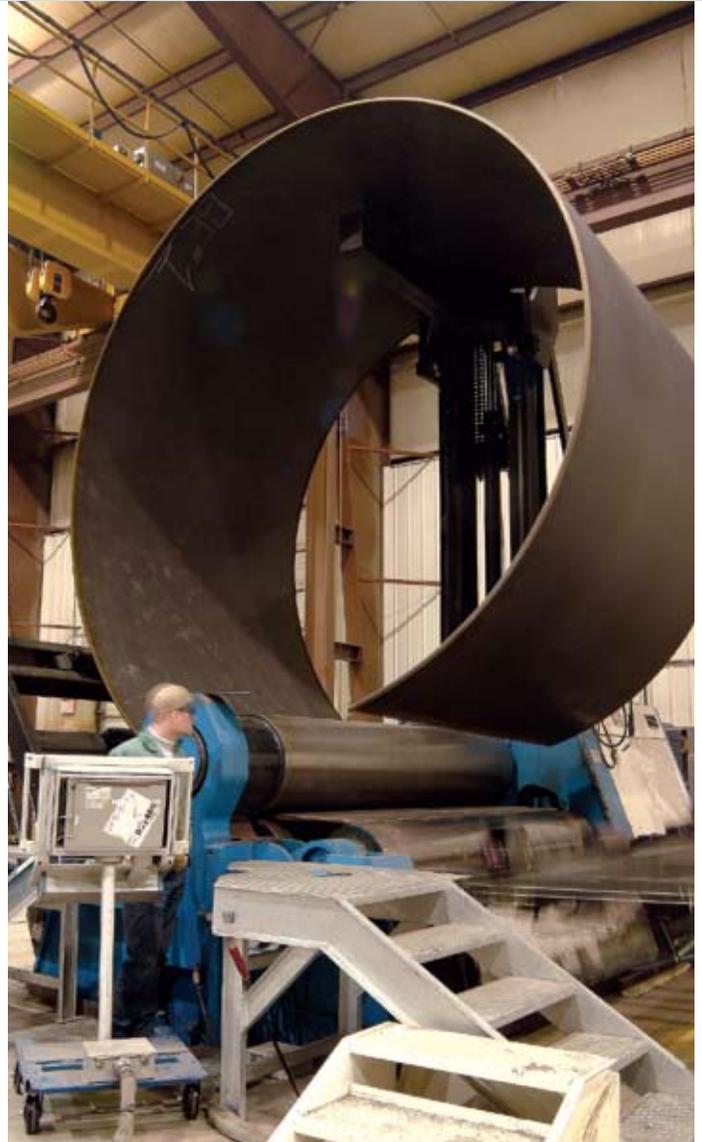
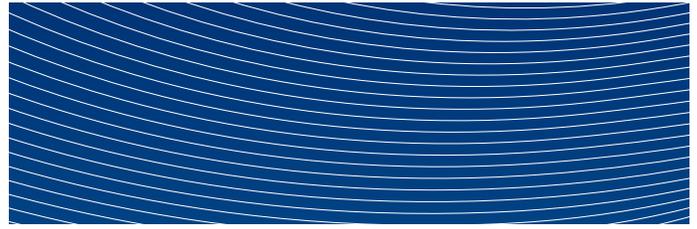
## OKLAHOMA IS: *Wind-Component Manufacturing*

Commerce expects the state's emerging wind industry to create 7,000 jobs over the next five years, with a significant portion of them occurring in Oklahoma's resilient advanced manufacturing sector.

While other states over the years have experienced shrinking and struggling advanced manufacturing sectors, Oklahoma manufacturers continue to expand and thrive. Commerce and the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance ([www.Okalliance.com](http://www.Okalliance.com)) consider that growth and success a top priority and a pillar of the state's overall economic development strategy.

The wind industry development efforts of Commerce and its statewide network of partners focus heavily on wind-component manufacturing.

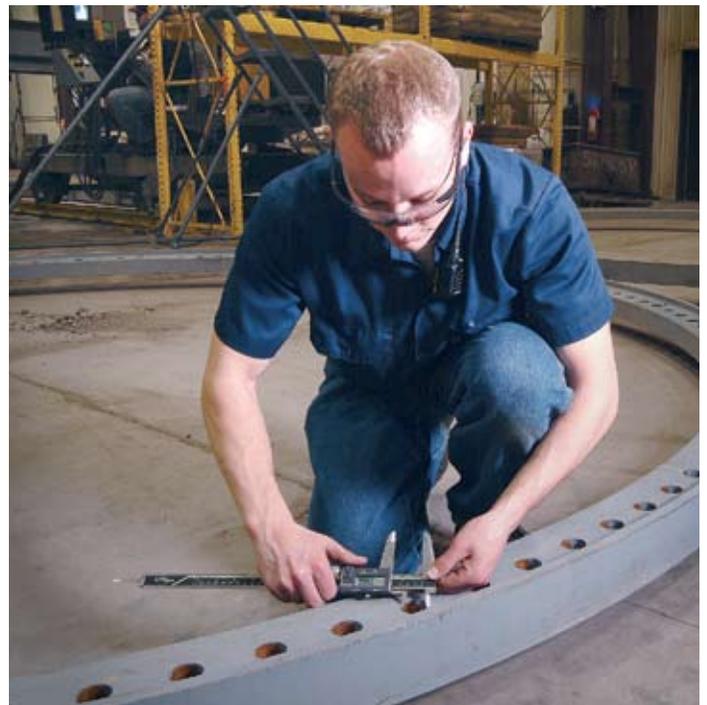
*"If we stop with production, we stop at the lowest level of the wind industry value chain,"* says Secretary of Commerce & Tourism Natalie Shirley. *"We want Oklahoma to become a hub of activity, focused on manufacturing, R&D, and training."*



OKLAHOMA  
*has what it takes to*  
MAKE & MOVE  
*wind components.*

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Suppliers*

While there are few producers of complete wind energy systems in Oklahoma to date, hundreds of Oklahoma companies operate within the supply chain of renewable energy equipment. For example, there are more than 500 Oklahoma companies equipped and ready to supply products to wind turbine manufacturers. These manufacturers only need to be made aware of and connected with the emerging wind technology markets.



According to Commerce, Oklahoma's employment in potential wind-component manufacturing industries grew 3.9% between 2006 and 2007. Oklahoma experienced this increase during a time when wind-component manufacturing decreased nationally by 3.4%.

So from castings, machining, bearings and gears to forges, fabrications and suspended climbing systems, your potential suppliers are right here in Oklahoma.

## OKLAHOMA IS: *A Highly Skilled, Highly Motivated Workforce*

In late 2007, DMI Industries, a wind tower manufacturer and North Dakota-based subsidiary of Otter Tail Corporation, decided to open a 500,000-square-foot facility on 300 acres near the Port of Catoosa ([www.tulsaport.com](http://www.tulsaport.com)). DMI cited Oklahoma's competitive costs of doing business, its location in the heart of the nation's largest wind corridor, and its highly skilled workforce.

DMI's General Manager Kevin Ishmael says this about Oklahoma's manufacturing workers:

*"DMI assembled a tremendous workforce, bringing in people from a number of different manufacturing capacities and training them to meet DMI's tight demands. We couldn't be more proud of our workers and their accomplishments to date."*

Oklahoma's certified, skills-tested workforce supports diverse, technologically advanced industries. For more information, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/workkeys](http://www.okcommerce.gov/workkeys).

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Comprehensive Training and Education Strategy*

Oklahoma takes a multidimensional approach to ensure a skilled workforce and pipeline to meet future wind industry demand. We leverage Oklahoma's thriving aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries to drive degree programs in mechanical, electrical, and aerospace engineering at colleges and universities across the state.

Those programs are boosted by wind technical training certification and degree programs through Oklahoma's higher education system and Oklahoma's nationally recognized CareerTech ([www.okcareertech.org](http://www.okcareertech.org)) campuses. Rounding out this strategy, our educational institutions also offer ongoing professional development, such as safety training and right-of-way agent training, for existing wind industry workers..

## Engineering Degrees Supporting the Wind Industry on the Rise

The number of engineering degrees conferred by Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Tulsa from 2001/2002 through 2006 are on the rise, according to the latest data available from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (July 2008).

The number of engineering degrees that support the wind energy industry grew by 33% - 375 to 500.

The number of aerospace and aviation degrees grew by 73% - 64 to 111.

The number of mechanical engineering degrees grew by more than 54% - 171 to 269.

From 2002 to 2006, the number of mechanical engineering degrees grew by 64% - 164 to 269.

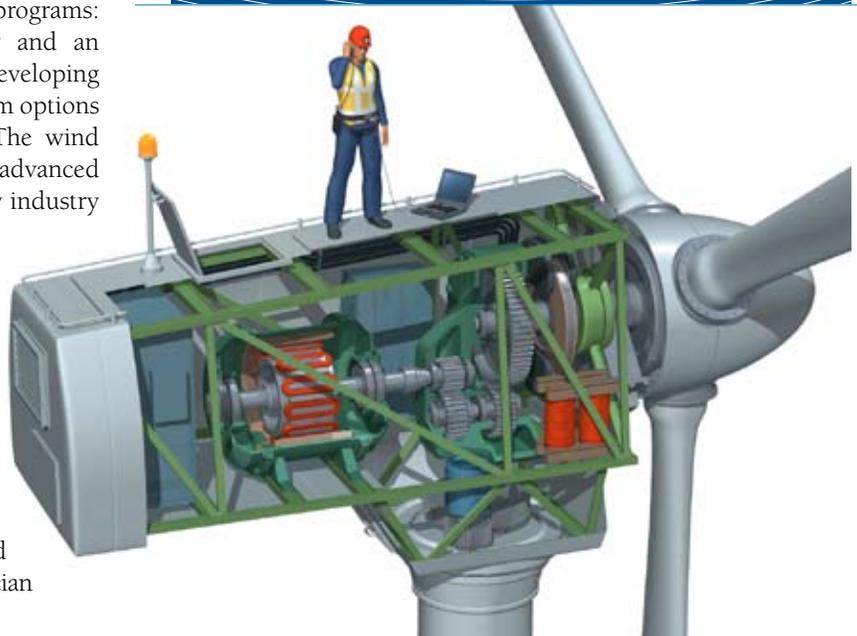
## OKLAHOMA IS: *Education...* *Supporting the Wind Industry*

For example, Oklahoma City Community College ([www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu)) offers a wind turbine technician certification program. OCCC also offers two degree programs: an Associate in Applied Science-Technology and an Associate in Science-Technology. OCCC is developing alternative energy and alternative power program options for its existing pre-engineering curriculum. The wind energy option gives pre-engineering students advanced training to either start work in the wind energy industry or proceed to a four-year program.

Oklahoma State University-OKC ([www.osuokc.edu](http://www.osuokc.edu)) launched the state's first wind technician degree program in 2009. The two-year program offers an Associate in Applied Science degree, with a focus on two types of turbine facilities: utility scale and facilities scale.

High Plains Technology Center in Woodward ([www.hptc.net](http://www.hptc.net)) offers a wind energy technician certification program.

Through its many niche programs, Oklahoma has truly become America's training ground. Examples of Oklahoma's niche training programs include the Snap-On Diesel Diagnostic Training & Certification Center (the first in the nation) at CareerTech's Francis Tuttle technology center; the National Center for Employee Development in Norman; and the various programs at the Oklahoma Air Logistics Center and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.



## OKLAHOMA IS: *Customized, No-Cost / Low-Cost Training*

Oklahoma's Workforce Team assists your company with all human resource needs, including recruitment, workforce screening, and no-cost/low-cost customized workforce training through the state's Training for Industry Program. For more about this program, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/tip](http://www.okcommerce.gov/tip).

Oklahoma's community colleges, universities, technology centers, apprenticeships, technical institutes, nonprofits, businesses, and state agencies work hand-in-hand to deliver companies 3 key benefits.

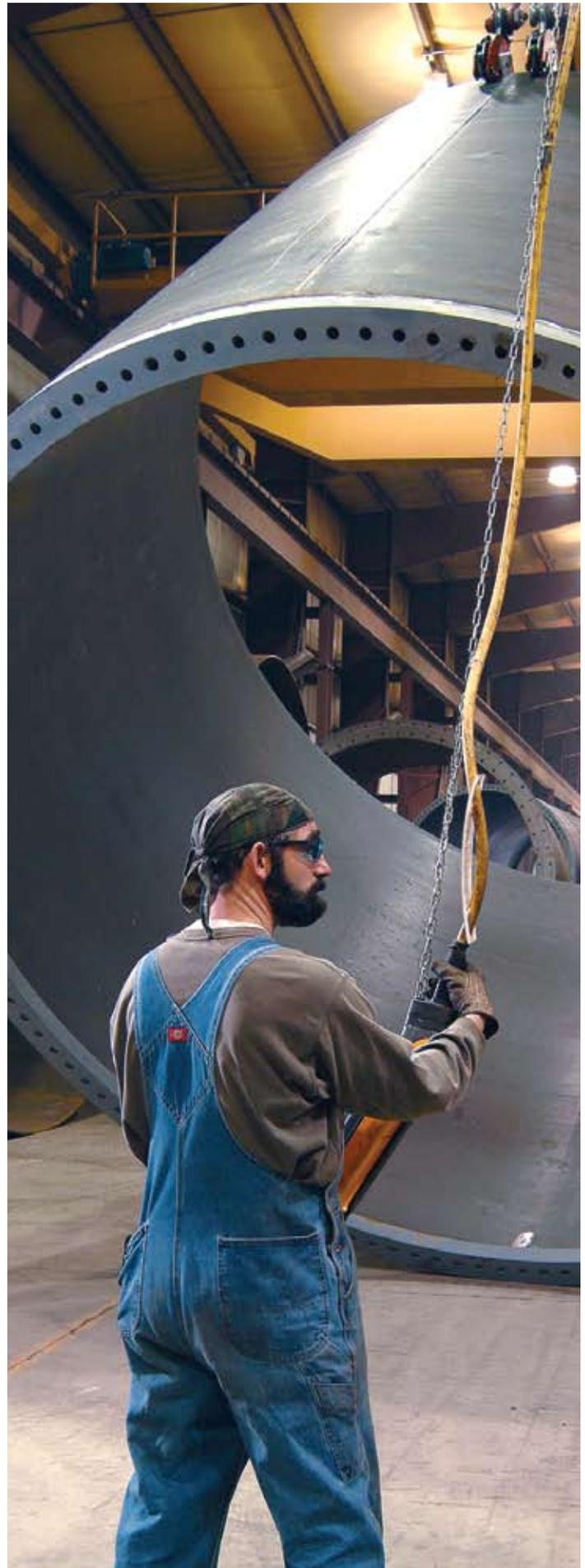
1. **Save money:** Save thousands of dollars in expenses for job analysis, training assessment, consultation, curriculum development, instructors, facilities, equipment, materials, and day-to-day training program administration.

2. **Train Anywhere:** Your employees can receive start-up training or skills upgrade onsite or take advantage of universities, community colleges, and technology centers in every part of the state. Either way, they won't waste valuable time driving to and from class.

3. **Make one call:** Tapping into this vast network of workforce training and education options takes one call--the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. **Call 800-588-5959 today!**

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Site-Ready Properties*

Oklahoma's project-ready certified sites are available for sale or lease right now; ready to build on, with all utilities in place or pre-permitted and planned. This assures relocating or expanding companies that they get a quality site in minimal time, helping them complete their projects on time and well within budget. For property listings and profiles, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/siteready](http://www.okcommerce.gov/siteready).





## OKLAHOMA IS: *Location*

Reduce your logistics and transportation costs by locating in Oklahoma – the epicenter of today’s main wind corridor. Oklahoma’s proximity to 80+ wind farms in a six-state area as well as many of your equipment suppliers makes it ideal for wind generation, tower and blade production, turbine component manufacturing, repair and maintenance operations, and industry R&D.

For a list of wind farms in Oklahoma and surrounding states, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/renew](http://www.okcommerce.gov/renew).

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Competitive Business Costs*

Oklahoma’s overall cost of doing business consistently ranks among the lowest in the nation. Labor costs and industrial electric rates are also both well below the national average. And, our overall tax burden ranks 5th lowest in the country.

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Incentives*

Oklahoma’s pro-business attitude and nationally recognized incentive program mean we’re ready to do business. Oklahoma’s business incentive program offers you a choice of up to 5% cash back quarterly of new taxable payroll (Quality Jobs) or a tax credit on investment or new jobs (Investment/New Jobs Tax Credit). Additionally, a 5-Year Ad Valorem Property Tax Exemption is available for qualifying manufacturing companies.

For details on these and other tax credits and incentives, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/incentives](http://www.okcommerce.gov/incentives).

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Sales Tax Exemptions & Credits*

**Exemptions:** You'll receive exemptions for processing machinery and equipment and electricity, fuel, and other tangible property used in manufacturing.

**Interstate 1-800, WATS, and Private Line Business Telecommunications Systems:** Benefits offered to help you maintain or upgrade your link to Oklahoma's sophisticated telecommunications infrastructure.

**Zero-Emissions Tax Credit:** to apply for this incentive, you'll need to complete a one-page form from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. The form is called the Zero Emission Facility Determination Request. There's no fee for this determination. For a copy of the form, visit [www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us) and click on Forms.

**Net Metering Incentive:** The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) requires investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives under its jurisdiction to file net-metering tariffs for customer-owned renewable-energy systems and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) facilities up to 100 kW in capacity.

### **Contacts:**

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405-521-6878  
[g.kiser@occemail.com](mailto:g.kiser@occemail.com);

Mike Bergey, Bergey Windpower Co.  
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**Freeport Inventory Benefits:** Oklahoma's Freeport Law exempts from taxation goods, wares and merchandise that come from outside the state and leave the state within nine months if such goods, wares and merchandise are held for assembly, storage, manufacturing, processing or fabricating purposes within the state.

### **Contact:**

Oklahoma Tax Commission by phone at 405-521-3178 or by email at [helpmaster@oktax.state.ok.us](mailto:helpmaster@oktax.state.ok.us). For forms visit [www.oktax.state.ok.us](http://www.oktax.state.ok.us) or contact a local County Assessor to discuss what property may qualify for the exemption.

**Industrial Access Road Assistance:** (Limited under Option 1: Quality Jobs).

*For customized*  
**INCENTIVE  
ANALYSIS**  
*call 800-588-5959*

**Foreign Trade Zones:** If you conduct international business, locating in one of Oklahoma's four FTZs saves you money and helps you take advantage of efficiencies in customs procedures.

**Local Incentives:** Several Oklahoma communities offer substantial local incentive packages that include financing, buildings, and sites.

### **Federal incentives include the following:**

**American Indian Lands Tax Credits:** provides an accelerated federal property depreciation schedule; federal employment tax credits of up to \$4,000 per qualifying employee per year; and savings up to 35% to 40% in depreciation of equipment.

**Production Tax Credit:** the current PTC value is 2 cents/kWh of electricity produced. The PTC was renewed for 3 years through the end of 2012 by Congress as part of the 2009 stimulus package. The package also offers an option to elect a 30% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) in place of the PTC; an option to convert the ITC into a grant for projects placed in service in 2009, or 2010, or placed in service before 2013 provided construction begins in 2009 or 2010; and a new \$6 billion DOE renewable energy and transmission loan guarantee program, which should fund around \$60 billion in principal amount of guaranteed loans.

**DSIRE Federal Incentive Database:** provides details on corporate depreciation and exemption; corporate tax credits; and federal grant and loan programs. For more information, visit: [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org), click on Oklahoma on the U.S. map.

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Ready To Do Business*

### *Oklahoma's Site Selection Fast Forward Team:*

From initial site identification to project start-up and beyond, Commerce brings all of the key players, stakeholders, and service providers—public and private—to the table right from the get-go, which means your project completes on time and well within budget.

#### **Contact:**

[www.okcommerce.gov/fastforward](http://www.okcommerce.gov/fastforward)  
[oklahomafastforward@okcommerce.gov](mailto:oklahomafastforward@okcommerce.gov)  
800-588-5959

### *Business-friendly Permitting Process:*

Oklahoma's reputation for a business-friendly permitting process stems in large part from the level of assistance you'll receive from our Site Selection Fast Forward Team.

The Fast Forward Team at Commerce provides a detailed list and background on all necessary licenses and permits required of your company and its suppliers. Commerce also offers no-cost guidance in processing these licenses or permits before the deadlines. For example, Commerce in coordination with the Oklahoma DEQ can ensure rapid DEQ permitting for your company and suppliers.

### *Agencies Involved with Permitting Wind Power and Component Manufacturing:*

The key regulatory bodies involved with the rules, standards, applications, and permits for wind power production or wind equipment manufacturing are:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates and oversees energy industries in the economic, environmental, and safety interests of the American people. The National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (NWCC) monitors FERC activities and regularly publishes brief updates on its website ([www.nationalwind.org](http://www.nationalwind.org)) about FERC orders involving wind power generation and transmission and distribution across the country. [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), 202-502-6088, 866-208-3372, [www.customer@ferc.gov](mailto:www.customer@ferc.gov)

Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is a regional transmission organization that oversees power distribution for nine states, including Oklahoma. Wind power production developers must apply for interconnection with the SPP before they can add their power output to the transmission grid. [www.spp.org](http://www.spp.org), 501-614-3200, [www.questions@spp.org](mailto:www.questions@spp.org)

Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) regulates all investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives in the state, approving their rates and monitoring all generation, transmission, and distribution activities. [www.occ.state.ok.us](http://www.occ.state.ok.us), 405-521-2211

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) handles permitting processes for energy production and manufacturing facilities in all industries; operates emergency response and environmental complaint programs; and conducts regular inspections. To apply for the Zero-Emissions Tax Credit, companies need to complete a one-page form (Zero Emission Facility Determination Request) provided and processed by the Oklahoma DEQ. There's no fee for this determination. [www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us), 405-702-1000 or 800-869-1400.

## OKLAHOMA IS: *Accessible*

### *Oklahoma Waterways:*

Oklahoma's waterway system can deliver to or receive wind manufacturing components from nearly 20 states by waterway. With three in-state ports, Oklahoma has ideal access to North America's growing wind clusters, including the U.S. south central states, east coast, the upper Midwest, Great Lakes states, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Oklahoma's ports are the Tulsa Port of Catoosa ([www.tulsaport.com](http://www.tulsaport.com)), Port of Muskogee ([www.muskogeeport.com](http://www.muskogeeport.com)); and Johnston's Port 33 ([www.jeinc.com](http://www.jeinc.com)).

### *Oklahoma Highways:*

Oklahoma industry is served by more than 9,000 miles of highway. The state is a hub for I-35, I-40, I-44, U.S. 69, and other major trade routes. Hundreds of distribution firms take advantage of Oklahoma's One-Stop fleet registration system. Also, Oklahoma's fuel costs rank consistently among the nation's lowest.

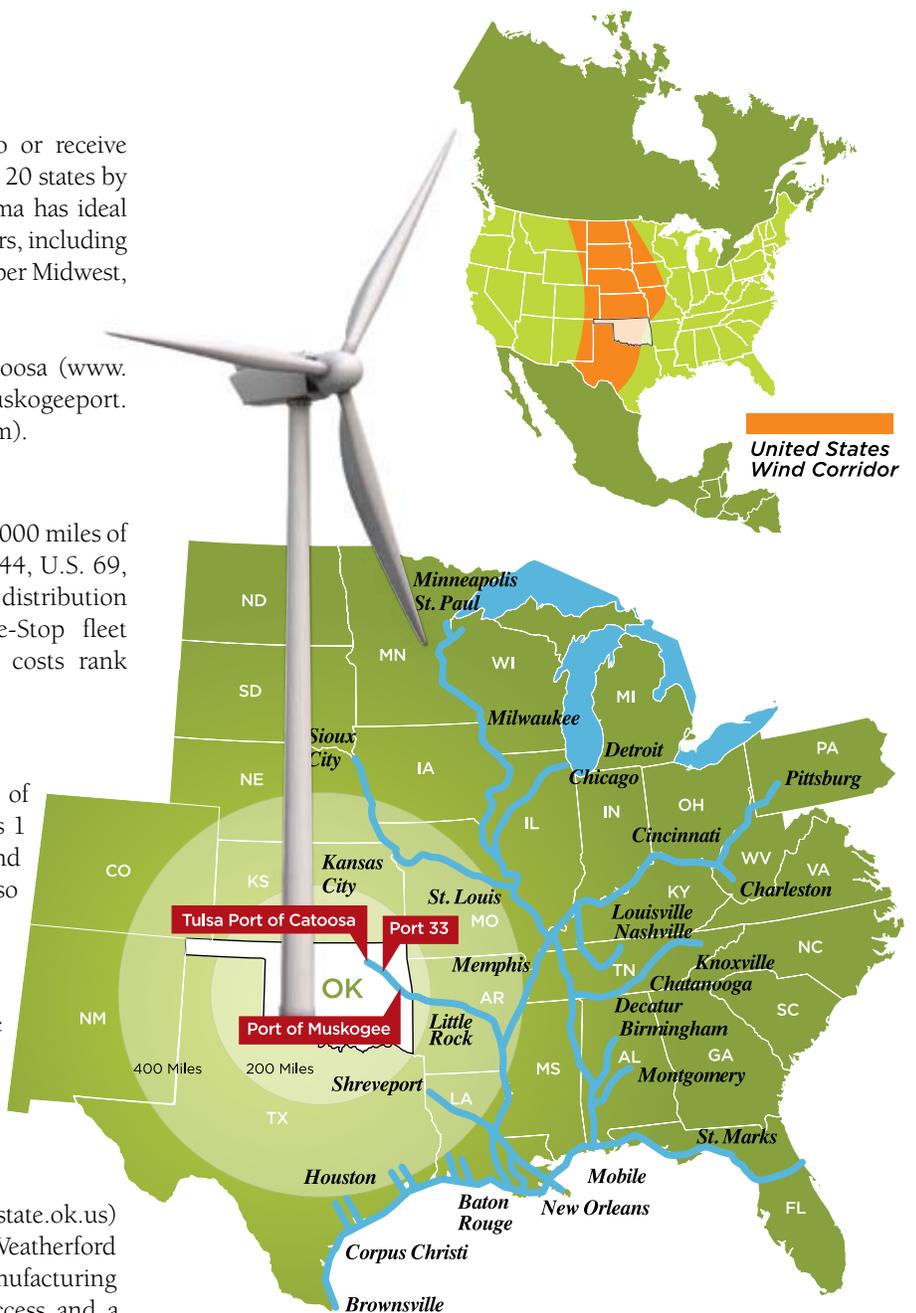
### *Oklahoma Railways:*

Oklahoma operates about 3,853 miles of railroad track, including 2,536 miles of Class 1 service. Major providers are Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Oklahoma also offers an ample supply of rail-served sites.

### *Oklahoma Skies:*

Send or receive cargo from any point in the world. Oklahoma is home to 149 public-use airports, two international airports—both designated as Foreign Trade Zones—and seven airports offering commercial services.

The Oklahoma Spaceport ([www.okspaceport.state.ok.us](http://www.okspaceport.state.ok.us)) near Burns Flat, just off of I-40 and near the Weatherford Wind Energy Center, not only offers manufacturing and maintenance facilities with rail spur access and a fuel cell and paint hangar, but it also provides a runway with cargo-plane capacity. This represents just another transportation option for wind energy manufacturers that need to move large pieces of equipment.



## OKLAHOMA IS: *Research & Development*

The Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI), a joint research project between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, investigates and promotes state wind energy resources, helping landowners and developers determine capacity and advocating strongly for wind energy development.

OWPI also offers economic analysis and information to potential wind energy investors and promotes networking among Oklahoma's wind power stakeholders. [www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi](http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi).

Oklahoma also offers the Weather Sphere ([www.weathersphere.org](http://www.weathersphere.org)), a new name for the rich history of meteorological collaboration among the University of Oklahoma, federal, state and private-industry weather/climate groups centered in Norman.

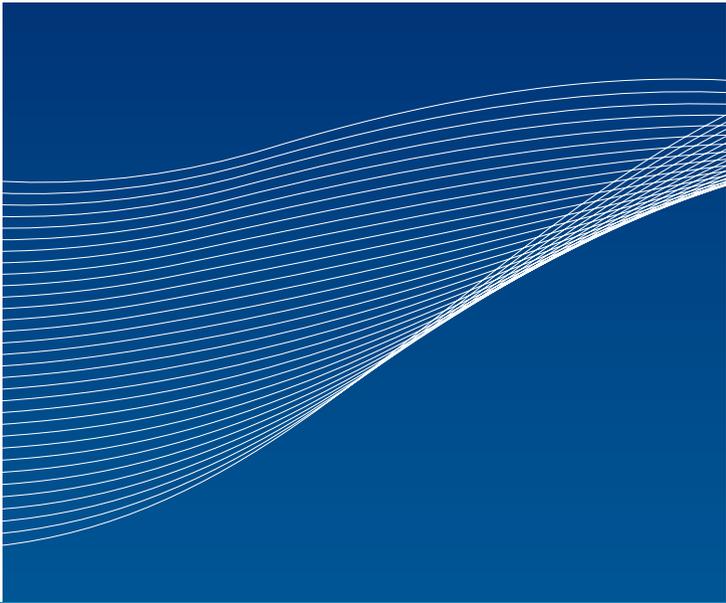
*The Weather Sphere* is growing to become the international leader in weather education and training, research and development, and operations and services. More than 38 weather-related companies, agencies, and units from university, federal, state, and private-industry sectors work together on a variety of research and commercialization activities.

Oklahoma meteorologists are being called on to predict wind velocities for developers to aide in wind tower construction. However, according to the U.S. DOE, these meteorologists may find themselves on the permanent payroll. System operators can significantly reduce the uncertainty of wind output by using wind forecasts that incorporate meteorological data to predict wind production.

Officials expect the new *Helmerich Advanced Technology Research Center* on the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa ([www.osutulsa.okstate.edu](http://www.osutulsa.okstate.edu)) campus to play a leading role in the enhancement of Oklahoma's advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and related sectors.

Helmerich ATRC faculty, research staff, graduate students, and visiting scholars will develop and commercialize the next generation of composites and materials for advanced manufacturing in four core areas: materials science and engineering; bio-based technologies; energy technologies; and information and control technologies. Across those four areas, Helmerich ATRC will develop new materials from the application of nanotechnology to ceramics, composites, aerospace materials, polymers, and metals.





## OKLAHOMA IS: *Resources*

### **Web Resources**

***Oklahoma Wind*** at [www.OKcommerce.gov/wind](http://www.OKcommerce.gov/wind)

Commerce, through the Oklahoma State Energy Office, promotes the development of alternative energy by providing information, resources, and tools you can use to:

- Determine a specific location's wind potential
- Build a locally owned community wind farm
- Benefit from tax incentives, credits, and find financial resources for wind energy development
- Find equipment manufacturers, suppliers, and project developers
- Install a wind turbine to meet the energy needs of your home, business, or school
- Find fuel stations across Oklahoma that offer biodiesel, compressed natural gas (CNG), ethanol, and propane

At [www.okcommerce.gov/wind](http://www.okcommerce.gov/wind), you'll find a variety of free, step-by-step guides that take you through the process of developing wind energy projects of any size.

***Oklahoma Wind*** at [www.OKcommerce.gov/renew](http://www.OKcommerce.gov/renew)

Site selection consultants can quickly access the information they need about Oklahoma's emerging wind industry, and community economic developers can find resources and tools to help them land generation and wind-component manufacturing facilities.

## *Contacts*

### ***Oklahoma State Energy Office***

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405-815-5249 or 800-879-6552

### ***Oklahoma's Site Selection Fast Forward Team***

Fast Forward your entire relocation or expansion process – hiring, workforce training, site location, permits and more.

Christie Myers,

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405-815-5251 or 800-588-5959



***fast forward***

**OKLAHOMA**

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