

AWEA 2015 report: Minnesota is seventh in total wind power generation

Wind turbines in Minnesota generated 3,235 megawatts of electricity in 2015, the seventh highest wind-generated electricity total for states in the nation, according to the 8th annual U.S Wind Industry Annual Market Report Year Ending 2015, released April 12 by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Minnesota produced 17 percent of its electricity from wind power in 2015 (up from 15.9 percent in 2014), ranking it sixth best for wind energy as a percent of total state electricity generation.

Minnesota generated 9.8 million megawatt hours (MWh) of wind power in 2015, enough to power 896,000 homes.

Wind Energy Share of Electricity Generation, Top 10 States		
Ranking	State	Wind Percent of Total State Generation
1	Iowa	31.3%
2	South Dakota	25.5%
3	Kansas	23.9%
4	Oklahoma	18.4%
5	North Dakota	17.7%
6	Minnesota	17.0%
7	Idaho	16.2%
8	Vermont	15.4%
9	Colorado	14.2%
10	Oregon	11.3%
TOTAL	U.S.	4.7%

Top 10 States for Wind Generation			
Ranking	State	Wind Generation (Thousand MWh)	Equivalent Average U.S. Homes Powered
1	Texas	44,959	4.11 million
2	Iowa	17,878	1.64 million
3	Oklahoma	14,018	1.28 million
4	California	12,228	1.12 million
5	Kansas	10,927	1.00 million
6	Illinois	10,733	982,000
7	Minnesota	9,797	896,000
8	Colorado	7,441	681,000
9	Washington	7,101	650,000
10	Oregon	6,675	611,000
TOTAL	U.S.	190,927	17.5 million

(Tables courtesy of the AWEA U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report Year Ending 2015)

The United States generated more electricity from wind in 2015 than in any other year. Wind power provided 4.7 percent of the nation's electricity during 2015, and the U.S. led the world in wind energy generation with 191 million MWh, enough to power 17.5 million American homes. The nation's generation of clean wind energy avoided an estimated 132 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to 28.1 million cars worth of carbon emissions. Wind energy installed more new electric generating capacity last year than any other energy source in America. The 8.6 gigawatts (GW) of wind power capacity installed last year surpassed the 7.3 GW of new solar photovoltaic capacity during 2015 and the 6 GW installed by natural gas.

Texas ranked No. 1 in total wind generation for 2015, with 44.9 million MWh. Iowa led the nation by producing 31.3 percent of its electricity from wind. Overall, 11 states generated at least 10 percent of their electricity from wind energy.

American wind power supported a record 88,000 jobs by the end of 2015, an increase of 20 percent in one year. Over 15,000 full-time equivalent jobs were added to the wind industry in 2015. Minnesota now employs more than 2,000 people in wind industry. Xcel Energy, serving Minnesota and multiple states, was the top investor-owned utility for wind power purchases, with 6,545 MW of total wind capacity in 2015. More than 200 MW of new wind is in development this year in

Minnesota for Xcel Energy, including the 200-MW Odell Wind project in Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan counties.

[More information on the AWEA report](#) is available.