



## OKLAHOMA KEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS

# ENERGY POWERING OKLAHOMA

### Wind Energy in Oklahoma

#### Quick Facts:

- Oklahoma currently ranks 4th in the nation in generating electricity from wind energy.
- In 2013, 14.8% of the electricity generated in Oklahoma came from wind power.
- Growth in the wind energy sector has led several state technical schools to start programs that train and certify workers.

We all know there is no shortage of wind in Oklahoma. The winds are even mentioned in our state song! The potential energy that wind can generate has and will continue to impact our state greatly.

There are many benefits to wind energy including employment opportunities, incremental tax revenue for the state and local energy usage. Wind energy doesn't create air or water pollution, and allows land to remain usable for farmers.

Three benefits include:

- **Local Use** - Wind energy can be used to generate power for your home, farm, or business! Oklahoma is home to companies harnessing wind power now! According to the American Wind Energy Association, 1,004,000 houses are powered by wind.
- **Employment** - Wind energy is a growing industry and needs skilled workers. Opportunities range from engineering to meteorology. Tech Schools and Universities in the state have programs that could boost your knowledge and make you invaluable to the wind energy field. In 2013, Oklahoma supported 1,000-2,000 jobs (directly and indirectly) in wind energy.
- **Renewable Energy** - Oklahoma currently has seven wind energy manufacturing facilities. These facilities generate 3,782 megawatts of renewable energy with 427 megawatts under construction right now. Wind power is the fastest-growing source of electricity production in the world and here in Oklahoma we are using it to our advantage.

Oklahoma is making an impact in alternative energy by using one of our greatest renewable energy resources, wind. This type of energy will help our state become more independent and cut down our carbon emissions tenfold. In addition, wind energy uses virtually no water, so when we have a dry season our wind power will not be affected.

### Let's do the research...

- Find three different careers in wind energy and research them.
- What career pathway do you need to take for each of them?
- Would you be able to attain the certificate or degree for this career in Oklahoma, if so, what institution would you attend?
- What is the expected yearly salary for each?
- What companies in Oklahoma could you seek employment from?



Oklahoma's future begins in the classroom.



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