



# ***Wind Energy in Georgia***

## ***What is Wind Energy?***

Wind energy is the ability to harness the wind's natural energy through a wind turbine to produce electricity. Just like traditional energy sources, the electricity produced by commercial scale wind energy can be sent through transmission and distribution lines to homes, businesses and schools across the region. A wind turbine can produce anywhere between 400 watts to 3.6 megawatts of power depending on the size and location of the turbine.

## ***Why Choose Wind?***

Wind is a clean, renewable and locally available energy resource. Wind energy has been proven to benefit communities through the creation of local jobs during construction and operations, increased tax revenues annually throughout a project's life, and land lease payments. By broadening the tax base and providing significant new revenues, wind projects can provide communities the ability to maintain a solid economic base, stable tax rates and an open, rural landscape.

## ***What is Georgia's Wind Potential?***

Wind energy is the fastest growing energy source in the world, with thousands of new megawatts (MW) of wind energy being produced every year in Europe and the United States. Currently there are more than 64,000 MW of wind energy installed worldwide, with 10,000 MW in the United States. Some developers and landowners are starting to explore wind energy in Georgia and are finding options both off shore and in northern Georgia. Please visit the website, [www.gawwg.org](http://www.gawwg.org) to review Georgia's wind resource maps that identify areas in the State with the most promising wind energy potential.

**Developed by the Georgia Wind Working Group**



### ***How Much Does it Cost?***

Wind energy is becoming increasingly competitive with other new sources of electricity, including coal and natural gas. According to the Department of Energy “the cost of energy from the wind has dropped by 85% during the last 20 years.” All electricity generation sources receive federal subsidies. Congress has attempted to level the playing field by adopting a tax incentive for wind energy called the Production Tax Credit. Currently there are no incentives in Georgia for utility scale wind energy development. A state metering law exists to encourage buy back of small-scale wind power up to 10 kilowatts for residential and up to 100 kilowatts for commercial applications.

### ***Where Can I Find Information for Developing Wind Energy?***

The Georgia Wind Working Group has developed a Georgia Wind Guidebook intended to provide individuals, community leaders, and utilities interested in developing wind with the tools and information needed to begin their project. The guidebook may be viewed at the website [www.gawwg.org](http://www.gawwg.org).

### ***The Georgia Wind Working Group: What We Do***

The Georgia Wind Working Group promotes the responsible development and use of wind energy by facilitating stakeholder collaborations, assisting with resource assessments, and enhancing public understanding of the benefits and impacts of wind energy.



***Visit us on the web at [www.gawwg.org](http://www.gawwg.org)***