



## BACKGROUND FACTSHEET

*On July 6, 2005, a broad national coalition of wind energy advocates – Wind Energy Works! – was launched to actively and aggressively engage in the public conversation about the merits of wind energy and act as a counterbalance to the misinformation being spread by wind energy opponents.*

### **What is Wind Energy Works!?**

The *Wind Energy Works!* coalition is a new national alliance that will support wind energy development across the country as the first major step toward a clean and safe energy future. The goal of the coalition is to provide a fact-based point of view to respond to those who question the size, scope, reach or impact of wind energy development.

The coalition and its members will be active and engaged in the public conversation about wind energy development. Members will be involved in education and outreach, at the local grass roots, regional and national levels, designed to counter the negative, often misleading, information espoused by wind energy opponents with the facts.

### **Who belongs to Wind Energy Works!?**

The *initial* organizations in the coalition include a diverse array of national, regional and local environmental, agricultural, economic development, faith-based and wind and renewable energy advocacy groups. Members include: Earth Policy Institute, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Izaak Walton League of America, Union of Concerned Scientists, the American Corn Growers Association, the American Corn Growers Foundation, Prowers County Development, Inc., and The Regeneration Project/Interfaith Power and Light. Wind and renewable energy advocacy organization members include: AWEA, Renewable Energy Long Island, Western Resource Advocates, the Renewable Northwest Project, Wind Power New York, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT), The Wind Coalition, Green Energy Ohio, Wind on the Wires, the Interwest Energy Alliance, Clean Energy Partnership, Renew Wisconsin, West Wind Wires, Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3), and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. This initial group will be supplemented over time by an even broader set of national, regional, state and local organizations.

## **Why was *Wind Energy Works!* created?**

Wind energy is one of the cleanest, most environmentally friendly energy sources in the world. By displacing energy from more harmful sources, wind energy development protects air quality, reduces global warming pollution, and reduces mining and drilling for fossil fuels. While wind energy cannot supply all of the electricity we need, using more of it will reduce the overall environmental impact of our society's energy use.

Unfortunately, wind energy opponents have, in recent months, generated a growing amount of misinformation designed to confuse the issues and ignore the many benefits of wind energy.

The coalition's vision is to become a broad-based alliance of independent voices providing a platform for organizations from the environmental, agricultural, business, health, social justice, faith, and academic communities to promote their combined expertise and perspective on the need for continued wind energy development. This effort will reach every corner of the country and every level of the wind energy conversation – from local town hall meetings to state media coverage to the floor of the U.S. Senate, the coalition's presence will be felt and its perspective will be voiced.

## **How will *Wind Energy Works!* be managed?**

The coalition will be managed by a steering committee made up initially of charter members that have indicated a willingness to provide guidance and direction to the coalition's activities. Current steering committee members include: Dan McGuire CEO of the American Corn Growers Foundation, Susan Sloan of the Wind Coalition, and Alan Noguee clean energy program director at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

## **What does *Wind Energy Works!* mean?**

*Wind Energy Works!* is intended to be a simple, effective, memorable statement of the value and benefit of wind energy development. ***Wind Energy Works! because...***

**It's effective:** it creates jobs, generates local tax revenues and supports local economies.

**It is a reality today:** wind energy is a viable energy source creating electric power for more than 1.6 million American homes.

**It is a clean, renewable, domestic source of energy that can be expanded across the country:** wind energy could provide at least six percent of the nation's electricity by 2020.

## **Where can you learn more about *Wind Energy Works!?***

Information about the coalition can be found on the American Wind Energy Association Web site ([www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)). For questions about the coalition, please contact Christine Real de Azua or Laurie Jodziewicz of AWEA in Washington, D.C. (202-383-2500).