Saginaw County MI, USA
Catch the Wind

As public demand for clean energy grows, and as the cost of producing energy from the wind continues to decline, wind energy will provide a growing portion of the nation's energy supply.

Saginaw County is the focal point of Michigan's renewable energy industry and a key factor in Michigan's transformation into a new era of prosperity and innovation. The resources, technology and motivation are here and ready for wind energy companies looking to jump-start their operations in the Midwest. Saginaw offers the benefits of a prime geographic location, a highly functional industrial base and an educated, trained workforce equipped for immediate placement.

The wind energy industry not only includes power generation, but also the manufacturing of parts for wind turbines and structures and their assembly. Because of the large size of some of these components, geographic proximity to the final site location is a major advantage. Michigan provides a geographic concentration of competitive and cooperative companies and industries.

Power Potential & Manufacturing

- The Michigan Public Service Commission recently designated the Thumb region, including parts of Saginaw, and nearby Bay, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties, as Michigan's most suitable area for wind energy development.

- Research by Michigan's Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth indicates the state could potentially generate 15,654 MW of power on land, and an additional 448,756, MW offshore. In addition, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates Michigan has more than 44,000 MW of offshore capacity potential. Many of the challenges of traditional offshore, such as tides, strong currents and saltwater, do not exist in the Great Lakes.

- According to NextEnergy, one of the nation's leading research catalysts and business accelerators for alternative and renewable energy, Michigan has 967 firms involved in wind turbine production.

- Saginaw County has 14 manufacturers in the turbine production supply chain and nearly $70 million has been invested in recent wind manufacturing development, creating 454 jobs.

- Saginaw County-based, Merrill Technologies Group (MTG) received an Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit through the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act of 2009. MTG was awarded $22,021,500 towards an investment of $73 million in advanced manufacturing equipment to support the production of nacelles for Northern Power's new 2.2 MW utility-scale wind turbine. The project will progress through prototype and pilot phases into serial production.

Centrally Located

Saginaw County is centrally located to manufacture, supply, install and upkeep wind turbines in the State of Michigan, all of the Great Lakes region and Canada. Endowed with an inter-modal infrastructure network that features 81 truck lines, four railroad companies, three airports, and over 30 port facilities that link with the St. Lawrence Seaway, Saginaw's inter-modal infrastructure can assist any business in servicing the world.

Supporting Green Power

Michigan has recently passed a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which mandates that 10% of Michigan's electricity needs come from renewable sources by 2015 and 25% by 2025. A 10% by 2015 RPS would generate a demand for approximately 1,250 new wind turbines over the next seven years.

Michigan utilities have quickly advanced wind generation systems to meet new requirements and support clean energy. Consumers Energy has begun the development of two wind farms - the Lake Winds Energy Park in Mason County and the Cross Winds Energy Park in Tuscola and Huron Counties. Consumers along with Detroit Edison, another major Michigan utility, have been working with ITC Transmission to upgrade the regional transmission systems. The investment may range from $500 million to $700 million depending on transmission voltage.

Installation and Servicing

Delta Community College is uniquely positioned in the region to provide education, workforce training and retraining opportunities in alternative energy and "green jobs". The College has offered education in engineering and skilled trades for many years, so moving into the industrial maintenance of large-scale wind turbines is a natural progression of long-time programs. Students in the program will earn an associate degree in Wind Turbine Technology, with an emphasis on mechanical and electrical courses.

Catch the Wind!

Saginaw County is equipped with a rich cache of manufacturing skills and expertise that enhances every capacity of wind energy production and installation.

Contact Saginaw Future for your site location and incentive package.

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