

power were installed in the U.S. in 2008 (for comparison, the average nuclear power reactor in the U.S. is approximately 1,000MW). More than 7,000 turbines are expected to be installed annually by 2015.

Locating Wind Products Manufacturing

Some industry strategists argue manufacturing of large wind components should be located in proximity to wind farms in order to avoid transportation difficulties. To-date, global logistic capabilities have met the transport challenge and the oft predicted rush to manufacture turbines, towers and blades in the Great Plains has been more of a modest flow than a flood. General Electric, for example, manufactures turbines in Pensacola, Florida, far from the wind fields of the near west.

One outcome (Continued on page 72)

Southern Idaho Gets Powered with Wind Energy

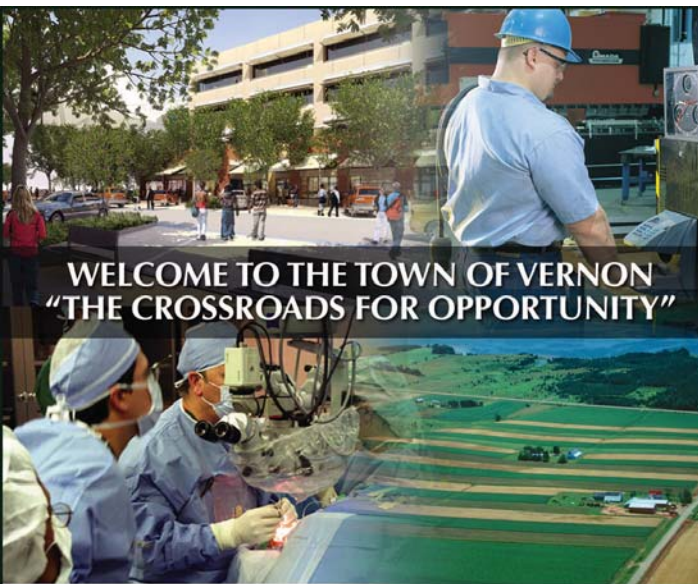
A dedicated effort has been underway in southern Idaho to increase wind energy production and technology to its economic base. As a result, wind power may become one of the leading sources of alternative energy in southern Idaho's region known as The Magic Valley.

Boasting an optimal average wind speed of about 13 miles per hour, the Magic Valley sits in an area of natural wind flow and consistent wind patterns in open spaces limiting the impact on residences and the environment. In addition, wind investors find open land and farmland in close proximity to existing hydroelectric power facilities. High voltage transmission lines are close to proposed development sites with tie-in locations in Northern Nevada offering the optimum opportunity to export energy to other states for revenue.

The Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization is working to promote the many wind energy opportunities in this region and attract wind farm developers and manufacturers/remanufacturers of the parts used to maintain wind turbines. Adding to the appeal of this region for wind energy development, the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) is creating a program to train workers in maintaining and operating wind turbines. CSI is slated to launch their wind energy program in fall 2009.

The country's demand to seek out, grow and improve alternative energy sources like wind energy will certainly rise. Southern Idaho, with its ideal location for wind energy is well poised to take part in this growth.

For more information, please visit www.southernidaho.org.



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