

# WINDUSTRY™

...harvest the wind

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# Windustry E-Newsletter

February 2009

## Dare to DREAM

### Double Renewable Energy in America by 2012

The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) has issued a Dare to DREAM™ call to action asking renewable energy organizations to offer plans in response to President Barack Obama's challenge to advance renewable energy and create new clean energy jobs with a goal to double alternative energy production in the next three years.

#### Community Wind Energy



At the Sixth Environmental and Clean Energy Inaugural Ball in Washington, D.C. on January 20, 2009, ACORE invited guests to respond to President Obama's challenge. Windustry's Executive Director Lisa Daniels described the importance of Community Wind calling for "local ownership of wind energy projects, large and small, to keep energy dollars local with more green jobs, more local bank loans to local entities, and to grow the supply chain in rural areas." Daniels explained that "Putting wind projects on the local distribution grid helps get more wind energy in place quicker...Obama wants shovel-ready wind energy projects."

[Watch the video](#) of Lisa Daniels speaking at the Inaugural Ball. You can even visit [Windustry on Facebook](#) to watch the video and add your comments. For information about the Dare to DREAM initiative, visit [ACORE](#).

## Wind Energy Would Benefit from Smart Grid



The U.S. electrical grid's basic structure has changed little since Thomas Edison switched on the distribution system in 1882, according to David Talbot in the feature article "[Lifeline for Renewable Energy](#)" in the February 2009 issue of *Technology Review* published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The article points out that the U.S. grid's regulatory structure is also antiquated with responsibilities spread between federal, state, and regional authorities, resulting in a national transmission problem.

Most of the applications for grid connections are in gridlock, unable to break through regulatory delays. "The system should be plug-and-play, but it's not," comments Windustry Executive Director Lisa Daniels in the article, explaining how "bulldozer ready" planned wind energy developments can be sited near existing power substations yet wait years for a grid connection.

**"The system should  
be plug-and-play,  
but it's not."**

-Lisa Daniels  
*Technology Review*

Windustry is following this issue, since the growth of Community Wind relies upon an expanded, distributed, smart grid:

EUCI is offering a [Wind Energy Integration Into Power Grids](#) course March 2-3, 2009 in Denver Colorado.

ITC proposes a [Green Power Express](#) transmission project to integrate wind and other renewables across the Midwest.

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act How Will Stimulus Bill Help Community Wind?

Now that Congress has passed and President Obama has signed the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), how will this help to stimulate Community Wind projects? According to Denise Bode, American Wind Energy Association CEO, "the stimulus bill contains a number of provisions aimed at helping our industry continue the very strong growth in new installations and new jobs we have seen over the past few years." Some of the provisions include:



- 3-year extension of the federal wind energy production tax credit (PTC)
- Option for a 30% investment tax credit (ITC) instead of the PTC



### Quick Links

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- Option to convert the ITC into a grant for projects placed in service before 2013
- Additional loan guarantees, bonds, and tax incentives

President Obama's goal with the stimulus package is to create a wide variety of initiatives to jumpstart the American economy. This opens up new sources of funding for renewable energy at a time when the Wind Energy industry is set for growth despite being stalled by the economic downturn. These programs will allow Community Wind projects to take advantage of more funding opportunities.

[Read More at Windustry](#)

## Wind Energy Jobs Grew 70% in 2008



The United States wind industry created 35,000 new jobs in 2008, according to a news report by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). 85,000 workers are now employed in the wind industry including jobs in manufacturing, development, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance. Wind turbine and turbine component manufacturers added or expanded 55 facilities.

[Read More at Windustry](#)

## On the Windustry Trail...

Windustry staff had a busy month working on Community Wind:

- We participated in a panel on "Wind Opposition: Facts, Myths and Solutions" at **Siting, Zoning, and Taxing Wind Farms in Illinois** sponsored by the [Illinois Wind Working Group](#).
- We presented on "Legal Issues with Landowners Leasing Agreements" at **Harvesting Clean Energy Conference in Montana** sponsored by [Harvesting Clean Energy](#), a program of [Climate Solutions](#).
- We attended **Minnesota's Renewable Energy Roundtable** sponsored by the [Agricultural Utilization Research Institute](#).
- We helped sponsor the **CERTS 2009: Harnessing Resources & Teamwork for Minnesota's Energy Future** conference and we presented on "Community-Based Energy Development" and "Small-Scale Wind."
- We helped sponsor the **Small Wind Turbine Installation Workshop**

organized by [Minnesota Renewable Energy Society](#).

- We organized the [Great Lakes Regional Wind Energy Institute Annual Meeting](#) bringing together Wind Working Groups from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Illinois.
- We participated in the **North Dakota Wind Conference** sponsored by Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
- We participated in the **Agricultural Outlook Forum 2009** sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) with a panel on "Wind Power: What's In It for Rural America?"