



2008 Farm Bill Update

On May 22, 2008, Congress overrode the President's veto of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the "Farm Bill"), passing the bill into law. The Farm Bill has historically covered not only farm regulations, but also food security and protection of environmental resources. Biofuels, [wind energy](#), solar power and ethanol production are all addressed in the new Farm Bill 2008.

There are a total of 14 titles in the Farm Bill. Renewable energy, specifically wind generated energy, is mainly addressed by [4 titles: Conservation, Rural Development, Research, and Energy](#).

Similar to the previous [Value-Added Producer Grants](#) and [9006](#), the 2008 Farm Bill will offer both grants and guaranteed loans for eligible projects. The procedures for applying under the new Act have not been announced yet, but both the rules and allocations are expected to be the same as they were previously so the application process is not likely to change.

As a result of the delay in passing the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress has extended many of the programs from the 2002 Farm Bill including the Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program. On March 6, 2008 the USDA announced the availability of funding for these programs under Section 9006. The deadline for applications is June 16, 2008.

More information about the 2008 Farm Bill:

- For the most up-to-date application information, contact your [state Rural Energy Coordinator](#).
- Check the [USDA website](#) for more information.
- Download "[Farm Bill FAQ](#)" (a PDF file) from the Windustry website.
- Watch [Windustry's Farm Bill web page](#) for updates. (This page has links to other resources as well.)

Community Wind at WINDPOWER 2008

WINDPOWER 2008, the largest annual gathering of the wind industry in the U.S., was held the first week of June in Houston, TX. This year, community wind was on people's radar screens more than ever before.

On Monday, June 3rd, Windustry hosted our annual community wind energy luncheon which attracted 77 community wind stakeholders and experts to advance the dialogue and expand the market for community owned wind projects. At the luncheon, the [American Wind Energy Association](#) (AWEA) announced that their board unanimously voted to provide resources to support a Community Wind Working Group. The Community Wind Working Group will create a vision and a roadmap aimed at accelerating community wind development in the United States. Important topics of the working group will include policy, transmission upgrades, business model development and access to turbines. AWEA's political and financial support for a Community Wind Working Group will be an important part of growing community wind and getting more community wind projects in the ground.

Community Wind was also a topic throughout the conference's breakout sessions. At one session, attendees learned about successful community wind projects, how to manage a community owned project, and how to avoid common obstacles. This session was well attended and spurred some wonderful ideas and discussions. More information about sessions at WINDPOWER 2008 can be

found on the conference website, www.windpowerexpo.org.

Welcome Summer 2008 Interns!

Windustry is pleased to welcome Christopher Bassett, Dan Craigie, Tiffany Finley, and Christina Mills as interns for the summer of 2008. They'll be helping us with a variety of projects this summer, including answering the hotline, creating new educational resources, updating [the website](#), and working at the [Wind Energy Center at the Minnesota State Fair](#).

Christopher holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and plans to pursue masters work in the same field at the University of Washington in the fall. Dan is also a graduate from the U of M and is currently a student at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs studying public policy. Tiffany is a graduate of Dennison University in Ohio and is planning to head to Sweden in the fall to pursue a masters degree in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability. Christina graduated from Hamline University School of Law in 2007 after receiving a Biology degree from St. Olaf in 2004.

Join us in welcoming all four of our 2008 summer interns!

Windustry promotes progressive renewable energy solutions and empowers communities to develop wind energy as an environmentally sustainable, community-owned asset. Through member supported outreach, education and advocacy we work to remove the barriers to broad community ownership of wind energy.

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