

Gigawatts of Wind Energy Flowing into the South



While the southern region has potential for both land-based and offshore wind, **transmission provides an opportunity to bring low-cost wind power to energy users by wire.**

States across the Midwest have abundant wind energy resources, but are often located in remote areas with low energy demand. As a solution, wind farms in the Great Plains can be connected to the transmission grid and deliver energy to homes and businesses throughout the south.

Many utilities across the south already recognize the opportunity to secure wind as a part of their portfolio. **In fact, 3.5 gigawatts of wind energy power purchase agreements (PPAs) are already in place in the Southern Wind Energy Association region, with more planned.**

Southern Utility:	PPA Capacity (MW)
Alabama Power	404 MW
Appalachian Power	495 MW
Arkansas Electric	373 MW
Georgia Power	250 MW
Gulf Power (Florida)	272 MW
SWEPCO (Louisiana)	469 MW
TVA	1,242 MW
Total:	3,505 MW

Because the southern region lacks major renewable energy policy incentives, the majority of these PPAs have been made by the utilities voluntarily. **Utilities are making wind energy purchases because they lower the costs for their customers.**

Georgia Power: "Adding wind energy to our generation mix underscores our commitment to a diverse portfolio that offers **clean, safe, reliable, sustainable and low-cost electricity for years to come.**"

Alabama Power: "These agreements are good for our customers for one very basic reason, and that is, **they save our customers money.**"

TVA: "Wind power is a **clean and limitless source** of energy that directly enhances TVA's mission of environmental stewardship."



Credit: EDP
Renewables

Georgia Power recently signed a 20-year PPA for 250 MW of wind power from the Blue Canyon wind farm in Oklahoma.

Wind power prices are continuing to drop and in many cases, wind energy is now cheaper than coal and natural gas. As utilities become more adept at handling wind energy, there appears to be a desire to purchase higher quantities of wind power. Wind power has the potential to boost local economies and bring more renewable energy to the southern region at a cost-effective and reliable price.

In addition to existing transmission lines, proposed high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission projects can connect massive quantities of wind energy to the South.

By engaging in utility integrated resource planning processes, the Southern Wind Energy Association provides technical expertise and information directly to decision-makers. **Some 90% of utilities announce renewable energy procurement or procurement processes following SWEA's IRP intervention.**



The **Southern Wind Energy Association (SWEA)** promotes wind energy use and development throughout the South. SWEA focuses on onshore wind energy development within the region, as well as importing wind power from outside the region. SWEA identifies and removes barriers to wind development at the federal, state and local levels by focusing on regulatory and legislative work. Encouraging favorable attitudes, regulation and policies for the adoption of wind energy throughout the South is SWEA's primary charge. To learn more about SWEA, visit southernwind.org or contact simon@southernwind.org

Sources:

- AECC (February, 2016): "[2016 Integrated Resource Plan.](#)"
- TVA: "[Wind Energy Contracts](#)"
- SWEPCO: "[Wind Power Purchases](#)"
- Georgia Power: "[Wind Energy, Energy Resources](#)"
- Gulf Power (May, 2015). "[PSC approves gulf Power Wind Project](#)"
- Alabama. Power: "[Winds of Change](#)"
- Appalachian Power (January, 2016): "[Pre Qualifications for RFPs](#)"