

Wind News

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National Wind plans first community wind project in Texas

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Minnesota-based wind developer National Wind is teaming up with Colorado company KRS Energy to develop a 300-megawatt wind project in northern Texas.



Buffalo Wind could have transmission access to the Southern Power Pool states as well as the Texas grid

The two companies have launched a joint venture named Buffalo Wind Energy LLC to develop the utility-scale community wind project in west central Randall County.

The partnership has 14,500 acres under lease between the towns of Amarillo and Umbarger, with direct participation in the project from 12 local families.

Over the past year, the firms have been working with an advisory board, comprising four representatives from the local families, to shape the project and build local interest and participation.

Todd Vincent, a member of the Board of Advisors, said: "Although Texas has more installed wind projects than any other state, it has little community wind development.

"I like that community wind allows for a local advisory board structure – I feel more involved in the process. The local advisory board allows the community to have a collective voice at the table, a voice that really matters," added Mr Vincent.

Texas

National Wind, which has its headquarters in Minneapolis, has been involved in 14 completed wind farms so far, providing 4,000MW of renewable energy.

But this is the first time the company has helped develop a wind project in Texas.

Travis Moen, Project Developer for National Wind, LLC, said: "Studies show that community wind projects increase local economic impacts up to five times more than that of non community-based projects."

The wind farm developers see the Buffalo project as particularly interesting because it could have transmission access to sell power to the Texas grid (ERCOT) or the Southern Power Pool area north of Texas.

Projects like these help rural Texas communities reinvent themselves" - John Kellogg, KRS Energy

They also point to the benefits the project could have for an area of rural Texas.

John Kellogg of KRS Energy said: "Projects like these help rural Texas communities reinvent themselves, adding permanent jobs, local tax base and a steady stream of income to local landowners. They help provide support during these more challenging economic times."