

Study Increases Iowa's Wind Power Potential

In another boost to Iowa's renewable energy efforts, a new study by the American Wind Energy Association has increased Iowa's potential for generating wind energy.

Iowa now has wind generation of about 3,670 megawatts, and the study has increased Iowa's potential to 370,000 megawatts, about four times greater than previously estimated. This places Iowa 7th in the country in potential.

The main reason for the increased estimate is better technology. Improvements in wind technology, as wind turbines are much taller and able to tap stronger winds, have made turbines more productive.

New wind resource potentials are available at www.windpoweringamerica.gov. According to the site, in the United States today, wind energy installations produce enough electricity on a typical day to power the equivalent of more than 9.7 million homes.

Iowa is 2nd in the nation, only behind Texas, in actual wind power production. In addition, Iowa continues to be one of only two states in the nation to manufacture three main components of wind-mills.