



farm. US Wind Force has also announced plans to seek a permit for 50 windmills on Jack Mountain in Pendleton County. The projects signal West Virginia's growing place in the green energy universe.

## Industry Momentum

The American Wind Energy Association says that 2005 was the most productive

year in history for the nation's industry, as nearly 2,500 megawatts—or over \$3 billion worth of equipment—were installed in 22 states. The trade group is predicting the momentum will continue in 2006 and 2007, the years the West Virginia projects would come on line if approved.

AWEA says already-installed wind farms will produce as much electricity as 2.3 million households use. Harnessing the wind's power goes back 5,000 years, but it wasn't until the late 19th Century that people began using wind to power electricity-producing turbines. Development remained slow until the oil shortages of the 1970s.

Since then windmill technology has improved, although even the most efficient turbines are able to extract only about 40 percent of the available "kinetic energy;" scientists estimate the cap at about 59 percent. Still, just manufacturing the turbines is estimated to become an \$80 billion business worldwide by 2010.

Much of that growth is powered by Europe, where the European Union has mandated that 20 percent of energy be produced by renewable resources, which include wind and solar, by 2020. In Denmark, a world leader in using wind energy, 20 percent of electricity already is generated by the wind alone. The European Wind Energy Association says capacity within the EU increased by 20 percent in 2004 and 18 percent in 2005, reaching the EU's 2010 capacity goal five years early.

In the United States, AWEA estimates that wind power will reduce by 5 percent the amount of natural gas used for electricity production in 2006, helping lessen the pressure on rising natural gas prices. California edges out Texas as the domestic leader in wind-generated energy, followed by Iowa, Minnesota and Oklahoma. In the East, New England is leading the

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Peace Point Equestrian Center

### Up-Coming Events:

- Summer Camps (for kids and adults) June & July
- Cowboy U June & July
- Endurance Ride September 29
- Rodeos Mid October & Early

