

CATCH THE WIND

The Economics of Significant Wind Power Development in Canada

In recent years increasing world-wide awareness and concern over air quality has created a move towards more environmentally friendly electricity generation sources such as wind power. In keeping with this broader global trend, interest in renewable sources of energy for electricity generation is growing across Canada, as provinces seek clean and cost effective alternatives to traditional generation from fossil fuels.

Wind power is one of the fastest growing energy sectors in the world, with annual growth rates averaging more than 25 percent for over a decade. In fact, Canada became only the twelfth country in the world to have installed capacity of wind power of more than 1000 MW (1 GW) last year. This growth is fueled by a combination of (a) cost reductions from economies of scale and technology alliances, (b) increased demand for emissions-free electricity, and (c) higher prices of alternate energy sources.

The development of wind power offers significant opportunities, as Canadians—individually and at all levels of government—make sustainable development and a clean environment a much higher priority. The quality of wind resources is specific to each location, and large-scale wind farms in Canada are only a recent phenomenon. The costs/benefits of wind power have yet to be fully defined. This CERI study provides a much-needed ***objective, independent and reliable assessment of the issues***, examining the role of wind power development in Canada's energy mix, and identifying the key costs and economics issues critical to understanding wind power as a viable alternative renewable energy source.

Did you know...?

- The AESO has received expressions of interest in wind power totaling over 3000 MW? Some wind regimes in Alberta are cost competitive with natural gas?
- There is a set of emerging best practices with respect to wind integration studies?
- Integration costs depend on market structure, market penetration of wind power, and the overall portfolio of generation assets the system operator has to manage.

CERI's ***comprehensive three-volume report*** assesses the status of the sector in Canada, presents the federal/provincial encouragements to wind power, analyzes the comparative costs of energy sources, identifies the issues and challenges of integrating wind into the grid, and projects the likely market penetration of wind power. Check out the Table of Contents for the three-volume report at http://www.ceri.ca/Publications/publications=publications_studies.asp

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The Economics of Significant Wind Power Development in Canada

Vol. 1 - Current Status of Wind Power in Canada and Selected Countries

Vol. 2 - Levelised Unit Electricity Cost of Wind Power and Alternate Technologies

Vol. 3 - Integrating Wind Power into Electricity Systems: Issues and Challenges

	CERI Members	Non-Members
Full Report	C\$ 12,500	C\$ 17,500
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