

Gigawatts of Wind Energy Flowing into the South



While the southern region has great 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 plains can be connected to the transmission grid and deliver energy to homes, businesses, and institutions throughout the south.

Many utilities across the south already recognize the opportunity to secure wind as a part of their portfolio. **In fact, nearly 3.6 gigawatts of wind energy power purchase agreements (PPAs) are already in place in the Southern Wind Energy Association region:**

Southern Utility:	PPA Capacity (MW)
Alabama Power	404 MW
Appalachian Power	375 MW
Arkansas Electric	373 MW
Georgia Power	250 MW
Gulf Power (Florida)	178 MW
SWEPCO (Louisiana)	469 MW
TVA	1,542 MW
Total:	3,591 MW

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

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 the utilities become more adept at handling wind energy, there appears to be a desire to purchase higher quantities of wind power. Additional purchased wind electricity 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, high voltage, direct current transmission projects have been proposed to 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.** Through IRP advocacy, **86% of utilities announce wind 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](#)"