

Can renewable energy meet the urgent challenge of climate change?

What wind energy can contribute to the climate solution

EESI Briefing
Randall Swisher
Executive Director
American Wind Energy Association
May 6, 2008

awea american wind
energy association



Who is AWEA ?

- ▲ American Wind Energy Association
 - www.awea.org
- ▲ National Trade Association for Wind Industry
 - Represents every link in the wind value chain
- ▲ Currently more than 1400 business members

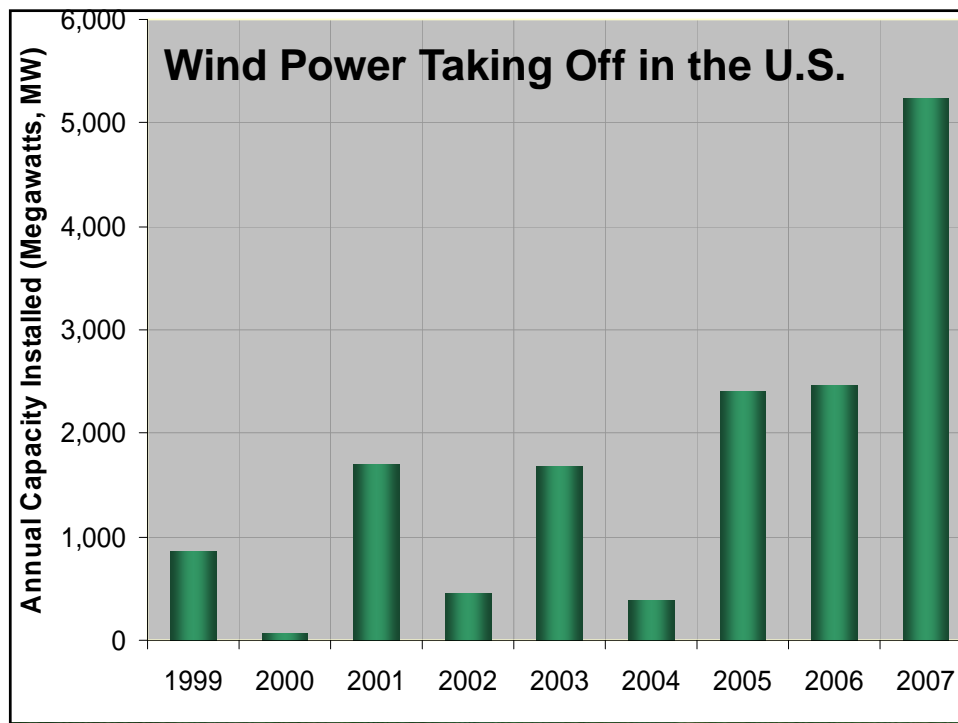
awea american wind
energy association

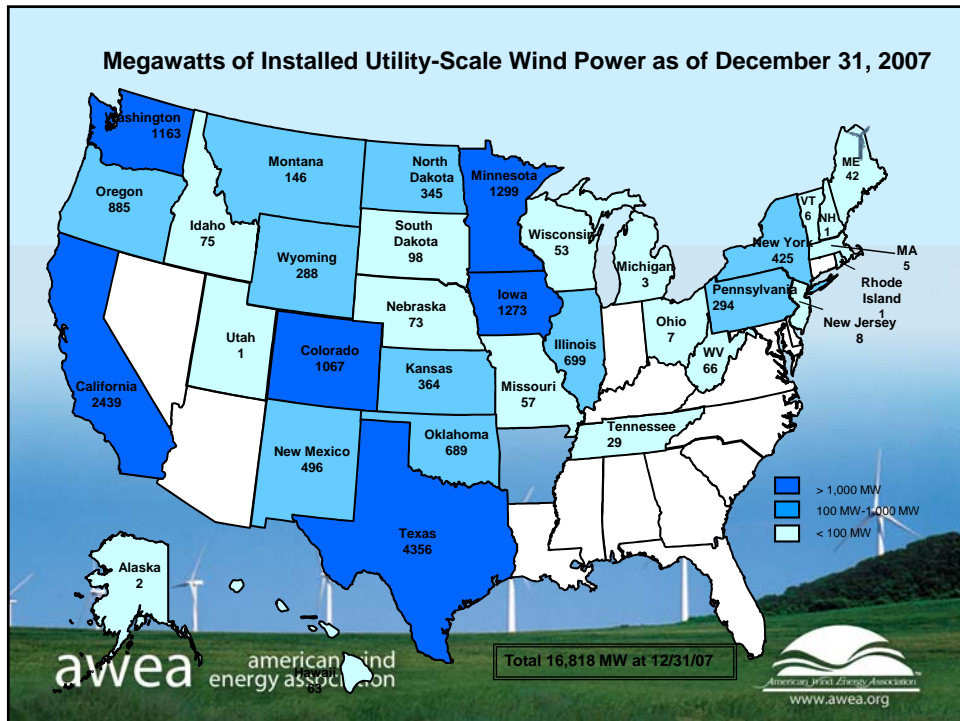
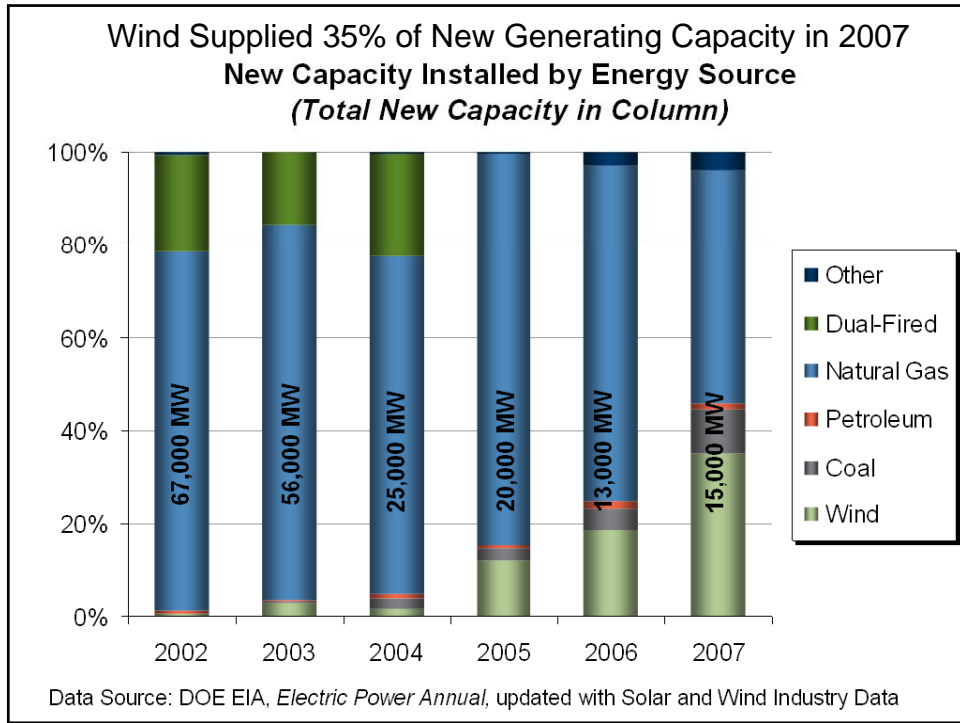


Wind power growth and climate contribution today

- ▲ A record 5,244* MW of wind power installed in 2007
 - ▲ an increase in total capacity of 45% in a single year
- ▲ Wind power was second to natural gas in new capacity added for third year in a row
- ▲ Cumulative: nearly 17,000 MW of wind power installed
 - ▲ prevented 28 million tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted last year

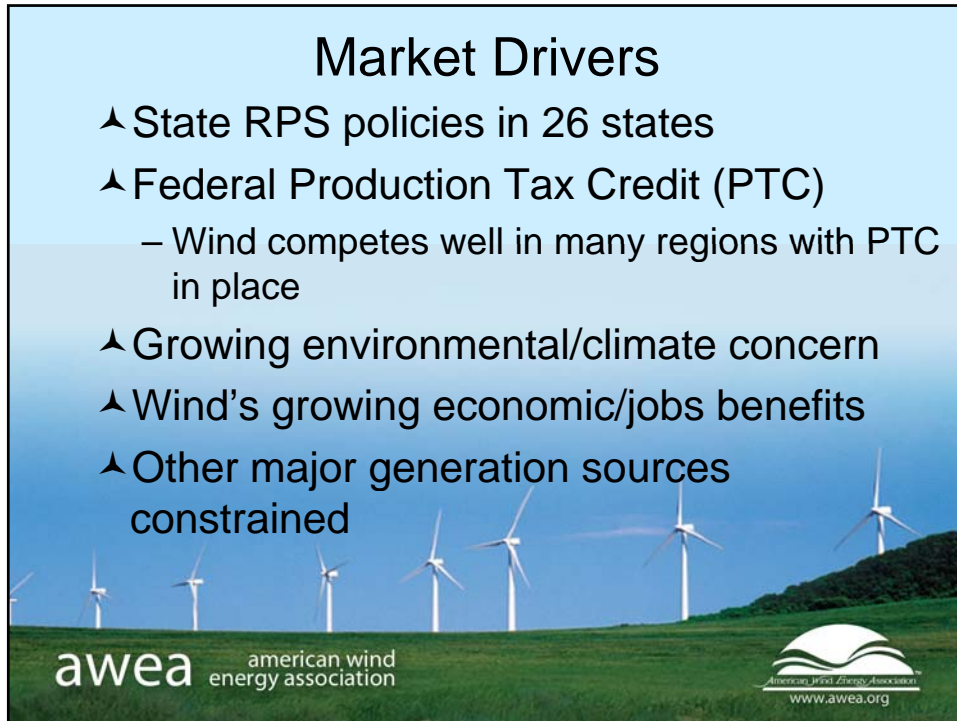
* Preliminary Number





Market Drivers

- ▲ State RPS policies in 26 states
- ▲ Federal Production Tax Credit (PTC)
 - Wind competes well in many regions with PTC in place
- ▲ Growing environmental/climate concern
- ▲ Wind's growing economic/jobs benefits
- ▲ Other major generation sources constrained

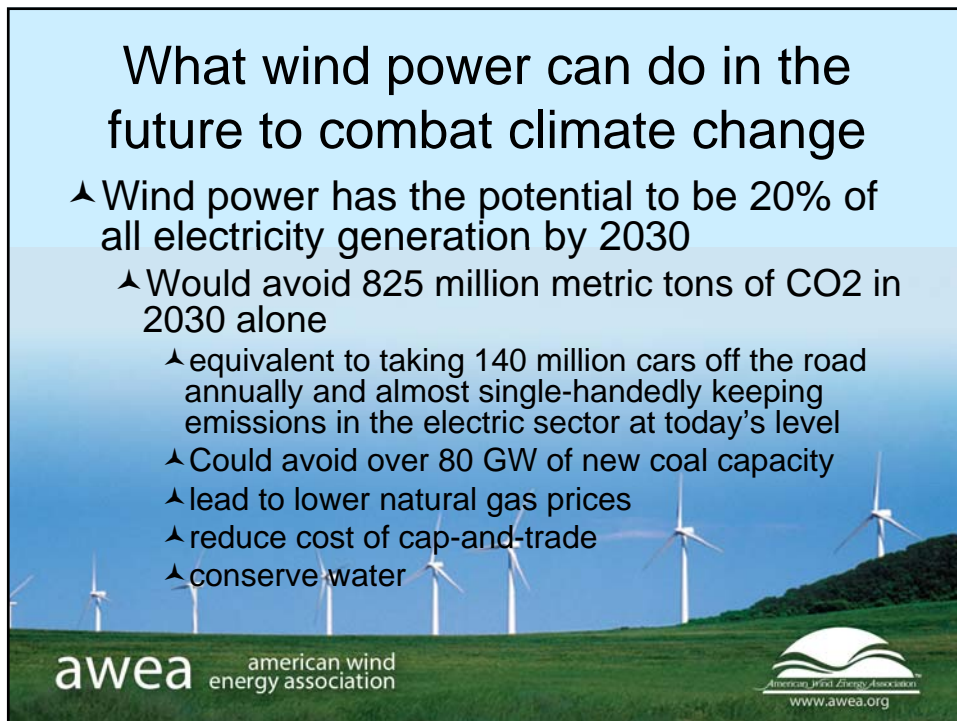


awea american wind
energy association



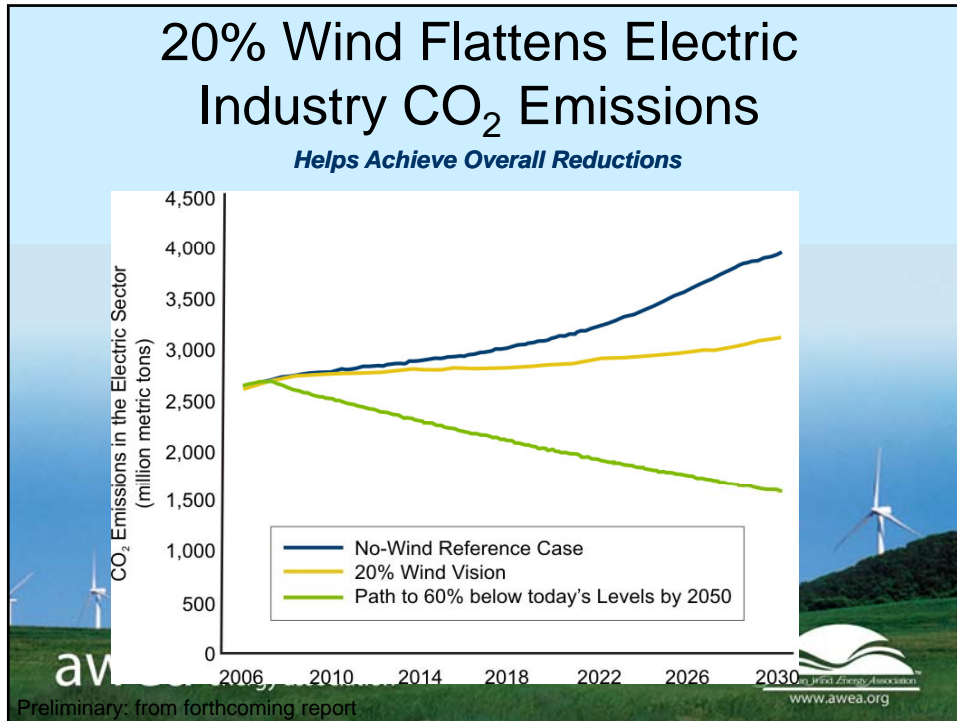
What wind power can do in the future to combat climate change

- ▲ Wind power has the potential to be 20% of all electricity generation by 2030
 - ▲ Would avoid 825 million metric tons of CO₂ in 2030 alone
 - ▲ equivalent to taking 140 million cars off the road annually and almost single-handedly keeping emissions in the electric sector at today's level
 - ▲ Could avoid over 80 GW of new coal capacity
 - ▲ lead to lower natural gas prices
 - ▲ reduce cost of cap-and-trade
 - ▲ conserve water



awea american wind
energy association



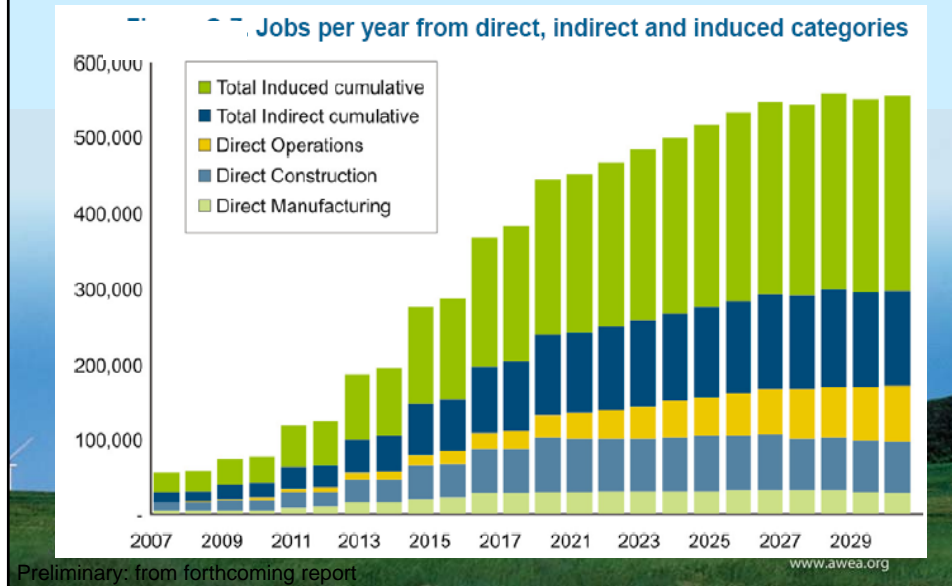


What wind power can do in the future to combat climate change

- ▲ Following the 20% scenario beyond 2030
 - ▲ Wind power has the potential to lead to cumulative reductions of 15 billion metric tons of CO₂ by 2050



20% Wind Job Benefits



Policies to support wind power in climate legislation

- ▲ Financially recognize renewable energy emission reduction contributions:
 - ▲ If free allocation, distribute via output-based method
 - ▲ Alternatively, create set-aside pool for renewables
 - ▲ Use a portion of auction revenue to fund a long term production incentive
 - ▲ Use state allocation and auction revenues to incentivize small wind (turbines 100KW or less) and other distributed generation

Policies to support wind power in climate legislation (cont'd)

- ▲ Integrate energy and environmental policy by including:
 - ▲ A renewable electricity standard
 - ▲ Incentives for transmission expansion and upgrades via auction revenue and complementary policies (will be necessary for any carbon-constrained generation portfolio)
 - ▲ Incentives for manufacturers to enter the supply chain for renewable industries
 - ▲ Support for training workers for green jobs



Conclusion

- ▲ There is no reason to wait for new technologies to begin to address climate change
- ▲ Wind and other renewable technologies are solutions that are readily and widely available **today**.



Thank You!

For additional information, contact:
Tom Vinson, Environment Legislative Manager at AWEA
(tvinson@awea.org)

