



Home Grown Energy on The Palouse

Welcome to Palouse Wind.

Through the Palouse Wind project, Whitman County will have a new way to harvest economic benefits with wind energy. In fact, this inexhaustible resource is a natural progression for one of America's most productive farming regions. Wind from the Palouse is ready to be harnessed to enhance the local economy for many years to come, while at the same time increasing America's energy diversity and security.



About Palouse Wind

The Palouse Wind project, with a potential generating capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (MW), is situated on wheat farms in northern Whitman County. Wind power from the project will interconnect to the Avista 230 kilovolt (kV) Benewah-to-Shawnee transmission line. A wind farm of this size will be the largest renewable energy facility in Whitman County.

The Palouse Wind project is located between the town of Oakesdale and State Route 195 on the hills surrounding Naff Ridge. Given the orientation and elevation of this area, it is situated perfectly to capture the prevailing Southwest wind.

Local Partnership

Avista Utilities, through a recent request for proposal process, has chosen to purchase power generated by the Palouse Wind project. This will be the first wind project built in Avista's service territory helping Avista meet Washington State's renewable portfolio standard. Recent market changes, including lower costs of materials and services, tax incentives, and a reduction in equipment costs made this an excellent time for Avista to enter into long-term agreement. In addition, Palouse Wind is in Avista's own back yard, which further reduces transmission, interconnection, and overall project costs. Palouse Wind will generate enough clean, renewable energy to power the homes of about 30,000 Avista customers, making this a true "home grown" energy partnership.

Economic Benefits

Palouse Wind represents a major investment in Whitman County and the Inland Northwest. The increased spending will benefit a wide range of local businesses and residents.

- > \$30 million during construction
- > \$1.5 million/year during operations

Temporary construction jobs and numerous permanent jobs will be created to support the operations and maintenance of the wind farm.

- > 100+ jobs during construction
- > Up to 10 permanent jobs to operate and maintain the project
- > A total of 10 indirect jobs will likely be created from increased spending in the County

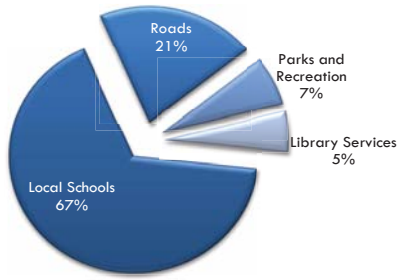
WIND JOBS

- > Concrete, Gravel, Fencing
- > Civil Equipment Operation
- > Security
- > Trucking, Vehicle Fuel & Repair
- > Road Maintenance
- > Engineering & Environmental
- > Groceries, Office, Hardware
- > Restaurants, Lodging
- > Title, Escrow, Legal
- > Tourism

Beneficial Tax Revenues

Tax payments received by the County could be used to lower tax rates, improve schools, maintain roads and enhance local services. It is estimated that over the life of the project \$700,000 will be generated in tax revenues per year. Additionally, sales tax collected on all goods and services purchased within Whitman County related to the project will contribute to the county general fund.

Distribution of Annual Tax Revenue to Local Services



Palouse Wind Granted Conditional Use Permit

On May 23, 2011 First Wind received the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Palouse Wind. The CUP is a necessary approval to build and operate a wind farm in Whitman County. The CUP was reviewed and approved by an independent, specialized Hearing Examiner.

From the project's inception, numerous surveys to identify and minimize impacts to natural resources and public services have been conducted. Under the State Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement, Whitman County went through an eight-month review.

The project is designed and will be constructed to meet the standards and measures required by the CUP.

Environmental Stewardship: Staying in Tune with Community Needs

At First Wind we believe that responsible wind power development is more than just a business: it's a long-term commitment to communities. The Palouse Wind project team has and will continue to work with Whitman County and its residents to develop a wind farm that minimizes impacts to the environment while benefiting on-going agricultural practices and local services to the community. Please stop by First Wind's local office in Oakesdale, WA for more information.

About First Wind

First Wind is an independent wind energy company exclusively focused on the development, financing, construction, ownership and operation of utility-scale wind projects in the United States. Based in Boston, First Wind has wind projects in the Northeast, the West and in Hawaii, with the capacity to generate up to 696 megawatts of power. For more information on First Wind, please visit www.firstwind.com or follow us on Twitter @FirstWind.

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