

## Wind Power and Wildlife

### More Information

- As of June 27, 2009, U.S. wind generation capacity was 28,206 Megawatts (MW) from more than 26,000 turbines (3,406 MW currently under construction). [www.awea.org/projects](http://www.awea.org/projects)
- As of 2008, the U.S. had the largest installed wind generation capacity in the world surpassing Germany. [www.gwec.net](http://www.gwec.net)
- The US Department of Energy estimates that wind power can provide 20% of US electrical needs by 2030. [www1.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/pdfs/41869.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/pdfs/41869.pdf)
- The greatest potential for wind power generation occurs in the American Upper Midwest and Great Plains states, but significant activity is currently underway or projected in the Appalachians, the southwest, California, and Texas. [www.eere.energy.gov/de/wind\\_power.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/de/wind_power.html)
- Many species of birds migrate in and through the U.S. annually. Approximately 250-300 species of birds migrate within or through the United States. [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/birds](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/birds)
- 47 species of bats are found in the U.S. Some species are highly migratory, and some congregate, give birth, and hibernate in extremely dense groups. [www.batcon.org/index.php/all-about-bats/species-profiles.html](http://www.batcon.org/index.php/all-about-bats/species-profiles.html)
- No mandatory environmental impact guidelines exist for wind power, though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established interim voluntary guidelines in 2003. [www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/wind.html](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/wind.html)

#### Additional Websites:

- [National Wind Coordinating Collaborative](#)
- [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)
- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)
- [Bat and Wind Energy Cooperative](#)
- [American Wind Wildlife Institute](#)