

North Central



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REGIONAL PARTNERS ATTEND LARGEST WIND POWER EVENT IN THE WORLD

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA— The U.S. wind energy industry recently hosted the world's largest wind conference in Chicago, with nearly 1,300 exhibiting companies and 23,000 attendees.

North Central Iowa Alliance (NCIA) partners Beth Bilyeu, Angela Determan, Gregg Gillman, and Karen Mitchell represented the region along with nearly 40 other representatives from the Iowa Department of Economic Development and regional economic development partners throughout the state.

The NCIA seven county marketing alliance has had representation at the wind power event over the past three years as well as the Husum, Germany Wind Show in September 2008 and wind industry supply chain tradeshows.

“With our heritage of manufacturing excellence and competitive business climate, Iowa has attracted nine wind related companies. Our region has the road infrastructure, multiple opportunities with Class I and II rail providers as well as trans-loading facilities, skilled workforce and NIACCs wind turbine technician program that allows us to be very competitive in attracting wind industry manufacturers and supply chain. Our NCIA partners are serious about our efforts to be competitive in the wind industry and our region has great opportunity, said North Iowa Corridor EDC project manager Angela Determan.”

Both Determan and Karen Mitchell, Franklin County EDC have both been active within the wind industry on behalf of the NCIA. Mitchell said, “It is just a matter of time before we feel we will be successful in our efforts. We have hosted several companies regionally and know that when one selects our area we all win.”

“The size and breadth of this show are a clear indicator that the wind energy industry is a hub of business activity even in this hesitant economy,” said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. She added, “What we heard loud and clear from the industry assembled here in Chicago was a call to enact a national Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) to secure a stable and growing market for renewable energy.” A poll released by AWEA at WINDPOWER showed that over 75% of Americans, including 71% of independents and 62% of Republicans, support an RES requiring that 25% of the nation's electricity be generated from renewable energy by 2025.

WINDPOWER 2009 highlights include:

- Exhibitors from 48 states, and representatives from all 50 states and from 70 countries were present at WINDPOWER, demonstrating the industry's national and international scope
- The exhibition hall exceeded 290,400 square feet—more than the 2008 (168,700 square feet) and 2007 (92,500 square feet) WINDPOWER shows combined.
- WINDPOWER welcomed over 23,200 attendees, up from 13,000 in 2008; 1,300 in 2004; and 1,000 in 2001.
- Five Governors (Governors Chet Culver of Iowa, Jim Doyle of Wisconsin, Jennifer Granholm of Michigan, Pat Quinn of Illinois, and Ted Strickland of Ohio) addressed the conference. The Governors of Kansas and Pennsylvania were also present. States and their offices of economic development are competing to attract wind turbine supply chain companies and create good jobs. At least 19 state or regional economic development offices were exhibiting at WINDPOWER.
- Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Energy Secretary Steven Chu (via a taped speech) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff also addressed the conference. Both noted the value of a national Renewable Electricity Standard in creating jobs, helping hold down costs for consumers, and diversifying the nation's electricity portfolio. "At no time in our history has the time for a new energy policy been so urgent. This is an opportunity that Americans cannot afford to miss," said Secretary Salazar.
- T. Boone Pickens, who planted wind energy firmly in the public consciousness with his high profile campaign, again pointed to the need to get off foreign oil by using more renewables to produce electricity and more natural gas for transportation.

NCIA partner Gregg Gillman, North Iowa Corridor EDC stated, "with our area being directly impacted with the over 50% growth in wind energy capacity in 2008, we have already benefited significantly in our region from wind." We are in position to go to the next level with manufacturing and supply chain."

For more information on the wind industry go to www.awea.org or www.iowawindenergy.org/.

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About the North Central Iowa Alliance (NCIA):

NCIA is united in our efforts to attract and retain business to North Central Iowa. The Alliance is a strategic marketing partnership. The progressive counties of Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, and Worth have joined together to facilitate business expansion and attraction to their seven county region. Find more information on NCIA or expanding or relocating in north Iowa at www.northcentraliowa.net.

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