

WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT

One of the most viable sources of electric energy is a wind farm or wind generation project, which is a **cluster of wind turbines or engines that are powered by the wind** to produce electricity, located in the same area and proximate to one another.

Wind farm development can be summarized in a series of stages:

- # **Finding a suitable location** means the right combination of wind conditions and available wind resources, the availability of power transmission lines and sufficient land to accommodate the wind project. This might be the most important stage.
- # Secure agreement from the **landowners**.
- # Conduct **environmental studies** including a Critical Issues Assessment, an Environmental Site Assessment, a Jurisdictional Wetland Determination, a Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment and a Telecommunications Study.
- # Install one or more **meteorological towers** to measure onsite wind data.
- # Choose the appropriate **wind turbine model**.
- # Submit interconnection application and **negotiate interconnection agreement**.
- # Begin building and construction, which can take 12 - 18 months. At this stage, project financing activity gets underway to **secure capital** for further wind project development.
- # Start operations. Once fully operational, it only takes a small team to run and maintain the wind farm, and it can remain running, **producing clean and renewable energy for more than 25 years**.
- # **Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service** and the appropriate state parks and wildlife organization as well as avian point counts, bat monitoring and other bird studies continue throughout the life of the project.

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