



berkshirewindcoop.org

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Berkshire Wind Power Project Facts

Overview

The Berkshire Wind Power Project, constructed on the ridgeline of Brodie Mountain in Hancock, Mass., is a 19.6 megawatt (MW) wind power project located at one of the Commonwealth's best inland wind power sites. The project has been constructed in two phases, with Phase I, consisting of 10, 1.5 MW wind turbines beginning commercial operation in 2011, and Phase 2, consisting of 2, 2.3 MW wind turbines beginning commercial operation in 2019. The project is currently the Commonwealth's second largest inland wind farm.

The project is owned by the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation, which is comprised of 17 non-profit public power entities, including the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) and 16 consumer-owned municipal light plants (MLPs) located in the communities of Ashburnham, Boylston, Chicopee, Groton, Holden, Hull, Ipswich, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Russell, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield and West Boylston.

Project Benefits

The Berkshire Wind Power Project embodies the energy, environmental and economic benefits of renewable generation. The Cooperative was formed and the project undertaken because these benefits are desired by the customers of the MLP members of the Cooperative, and necessary to meet the goals of the Commonwealth to increase renewable generation and reduce emissions from the power generation sector.

- The project is a renewable resource and can generate enough electricity to serve nearly 7,800 homes
- The project will offset the production of nearly 800,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide and the use of 1.45 million barrels of oil
- Construction of the Berkshire Wind Power Project created the equivalent of approximately 50 full-time jobs, both union and nonunion, including construction, engineering, manufacturing and other work for more than 20 Massachusetts companies.
- The Cooperative provides stable revenue to the host communities of Hancock and Lanesborough, through payments in lieu of taxes

Phase II Turbines

Following in the success of the original Berkshire Wind Phase 1 project, Phase II, completed in 2019, further maximizes the potential of the site and takes advantage of eight years of improvements in wind turbine design and construction. Despite being the same height as the existing 10 turbines in Phase I, the two new Phase II turbines feature longer blades and improvements in blade technology that allow the new turbines to begin operating and generating power at lower wind speeds. As a result, they can generate more output per turbine.

Developed by Municipal Utilities Serving the Communities of:

ASHBURNHAM | BOYLSTON | CHICOPEE | GROTON | HOLDEN | HULL | IPSWICH | MARBLEHEAD | PAXTON
PEABODY | RUSSELL | SHREWSBURY | STERLING | TEMPLETON | WAKEFIELD | WEST BOYLSTON