

Technical Assistance Project

Wind and Hydropower Program



TAP Helps States and Local Governments Reach Their Wind Power Goals

What Is TAP?

The Technical Assistance Project (TAP) gives state and local officials quick answers to their energy policy questions regarding wind power in their states. TAP provides access to wind energy experts at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratories, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). These experts help states with individualized, short-term assistance in areas not covered by other DOE programs, such as:

- System benefit charges or other rate-payer funded utility and renewable programs
- Renewable portfolio standards
- Use of wind technologies to help states and localities address air emissions
- Use of wind energy on state and local public lands
- Use of wind energy technologies for state and local disaster relief, mitigation, and planning.

TAP considers requests that go beyond these areas on a case-by-case basis. Each project offers between 30 to 60 hours of lab expertise. Funding covers time and travel for laboratory experts and is not distributed to the applicant.

Since January 2004, TAP has responded to 41 requests related to wind power in 24 states.



Small wind turbines like this 10-kW Bergy XL.10 can provide electricity for homes, farms, and ranches.

TAP Helped Indiana Discover Its Wind Power Potential

During the 2006 Indiana General Assembly, the House Committee on Commerce, Energy and Utilities considered renewable portfolio standards (RPS) legislation. Representative Don Lehe contacted TAP for information on prospective renewables in the state. Wind developers are interested in siting projects in Indiana, and an RPS can help the process.

Under DOE's Wind Powering America Program, NREL principal research scientist Dennis Elliot recently led a team of experts in updating the Wind Energy Resource Atlas using current technologies and calibrations. New data showed that Indiana has significant wind potential (at least 40,000 megawatts).

Rep. Lehe subsequently introduced House Bill 1379 during the 114th General Assembly. In support of HB 1379, the Indiana RPS Working Group commented, "NREL acted in a professional, unbiased manner." Although this RPS bill did not pass, it was held over for committee study and reintroduced as HB 1122 in the 2007 legislative session.

How to Apply

The application process is quick and simple. Many projects begin to receive assistance within a week or two.

For more information or to apply for TAP assistance contact:

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For More Information:

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF or 1-877-337-3463
www.eere.energy.gov/

TAP Provides Wind Energy Expertise across the Country

Utah: In 2005, TAP assisted the state energy office with overlaying state lands information and wind resource information. In 2006, TAP analyzed the economic costs, benefits, and effects of wind power compared to coal and natural gas for electric generation using the Jobs and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) model.

Nevada: In 2004, NREL's National Wind Technology Center staff held a Jobs and Economic Development Impact Train the Trainer session for Nevada county, state, and federal officials.

Oklahoma: In 2004, TAP provided on-site consultation to the Oklahoma Wind Power Assessment Committee on available renewable energy resources in the state.

West Virginia: In 2005, TAP provided the West Virginia Development Office analysis on the feasibility of a small wind demonstration at a West Virginia public facility.

"We were very satisfied with the assistance and overall product provided...We also appreciated their assistance in providing expertise on other wind energy development issues. Overall, we feel the team was outstanding in the assistance they provided to us."

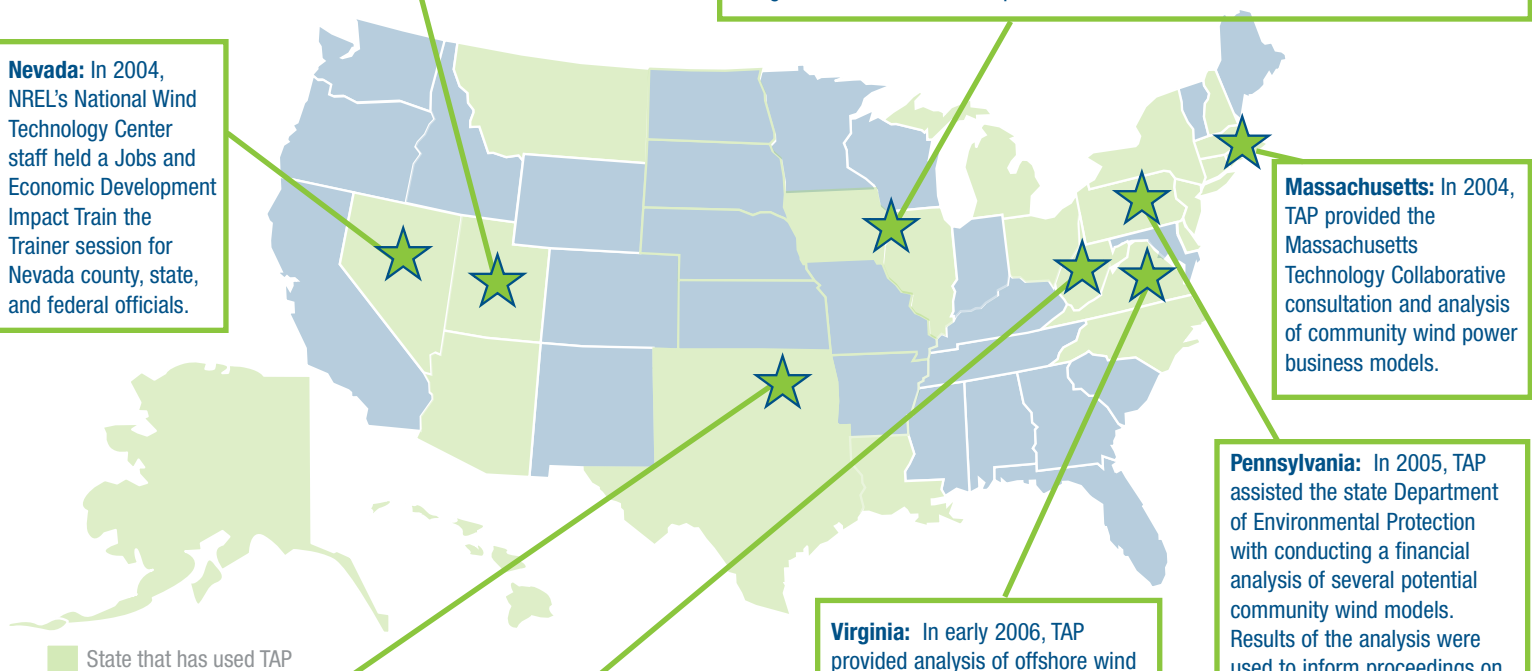
Iowa: In 2005, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources asked TAP to review an Iowa State University report studying bird and bat behavior and mortality at the Top of Iowa wind farm. In addition to reviewing this document, NREL staff provided information to inform the discussion on potential mitigation measures and the adoption of guidelines for wind developers.

"I think this is a great program – I really appreciate having the ability to tap into the lab's expertise to guide our state activities – it greatly shortens the learning curve and helps us avoid re-inventing the wheel."

Massachusetts: In 2004, TAP provided the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative consultation and analysis of community wind power business models.

Pennsylvania: In 2005, TAP assisted the state Department of Environmental Protection with conducting a financial analysis of several potential community wind models. Results of the analysis were used to inform proceedings on the net metering portion of the state RPS.

Virginia: In early 2006, TAP provided analysis of offshore wind resources to inform state legislators during the 2006 legislative session.



The National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a DOE national laboratory, produces *Technical Assistance Project* fact sheets for:

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