

Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership



Harness the wind of Southern Alberta



Wind Power 2009

Southern Alberta takes wind seriously

Encompassing prairie fields and rolling foothills east of the Rocky Mountains in Western Canada, the Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP) region is well known for its strong, steady winds.

With the Canadian Rockies in the west towering over 4,000 metres (13,123 feet) high, down to the grassland plains in the east at only 1,000 metres (3,281 feet) above sea level, this abrupt geographic shift provides the SAAEP region with Canada's most consistent, high quality and accessible wind regimes.

Southern Alberta pioneered the wind industry with the establishment of Canada's first commercial wind farm at Cowley Ridge, a result of the provincial government's utilities deregulation to encourage independent power generation in the 1990's.

Green energy sources are in high demand by Albertans. Wind energy meets almost 5% of the province's power requirements and applications have been filed to increase Alberta's wind energy 15 times over 2008 levels, to 7,500 MW within 10 years.

Conditions could not be better for "green collar" wind energy jobs in power generation, transmission, manufacturing, maintenance and more. Join us in Southern Alberta, where the abundant natural resources combined with the joint forces of 39 municipalities create a prime landscape for wind power investment.

SAAEP is a partnership between Economic Development Lethbridge, SouthGrow Regional Initiative and Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance that represents 39 municipalities committed to promoting the region as a leader in alternative energy production and manufacturing.

Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership



If proposed provincial targets are reached, wind energy capacity will increase in Canada by 500% from 2 GW in 2008 to 12 GW by 2016.

Training the wind workforce

Lethbridge College offers a dual stream Wind Turbine Technician (WTT)/Pre-Employment Electrician program.

This program allows graduates the choice of working in the wind turbine industry and/or continuing on to completing their journeyman electrician certification with interprovincial Red Seal Certification. Students enrolled in the WTT program receive training from BZEE-certified instructors and are BZEE-certified upon graduation. This is one of the first programs in Canada to provide this level of training.



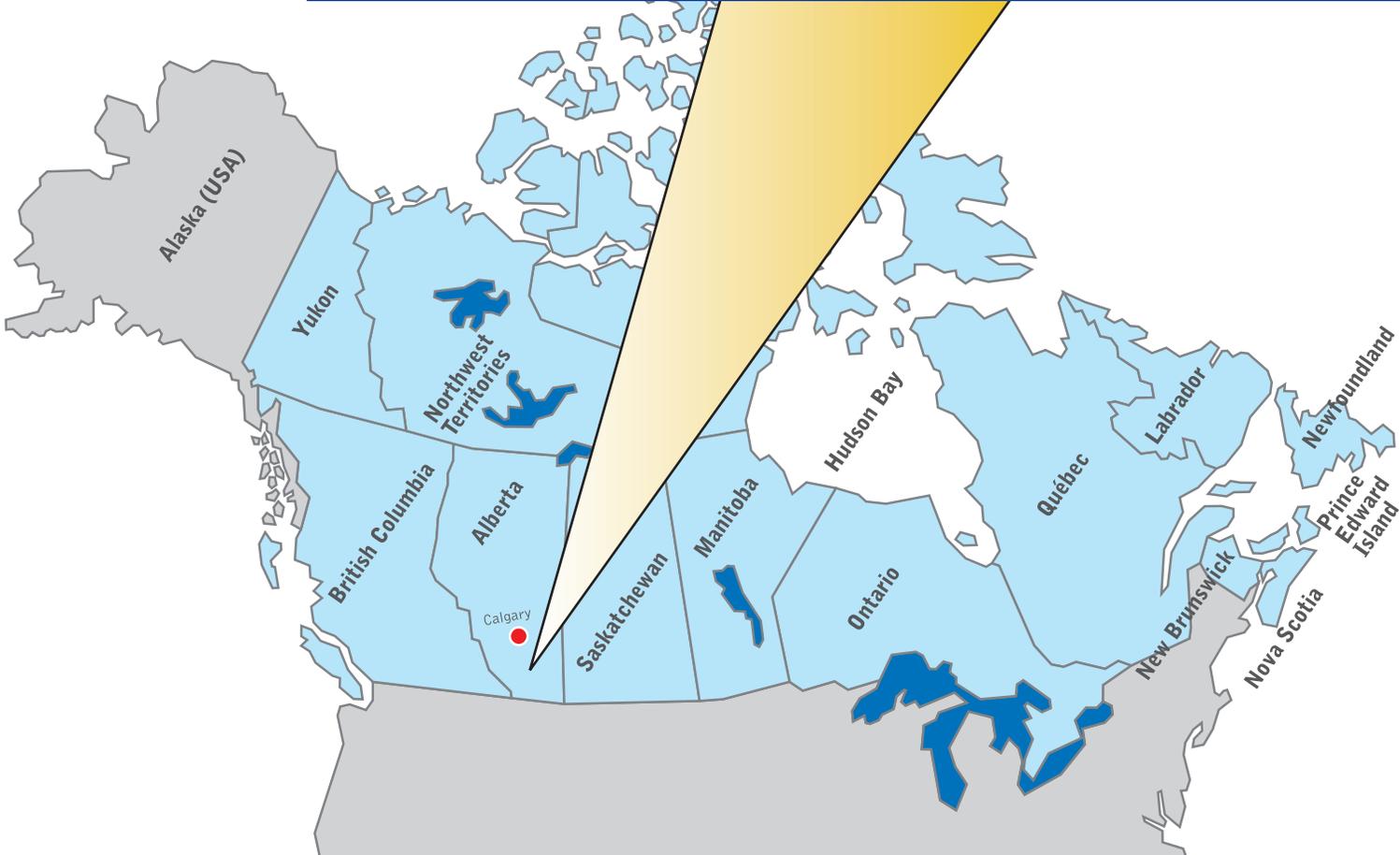
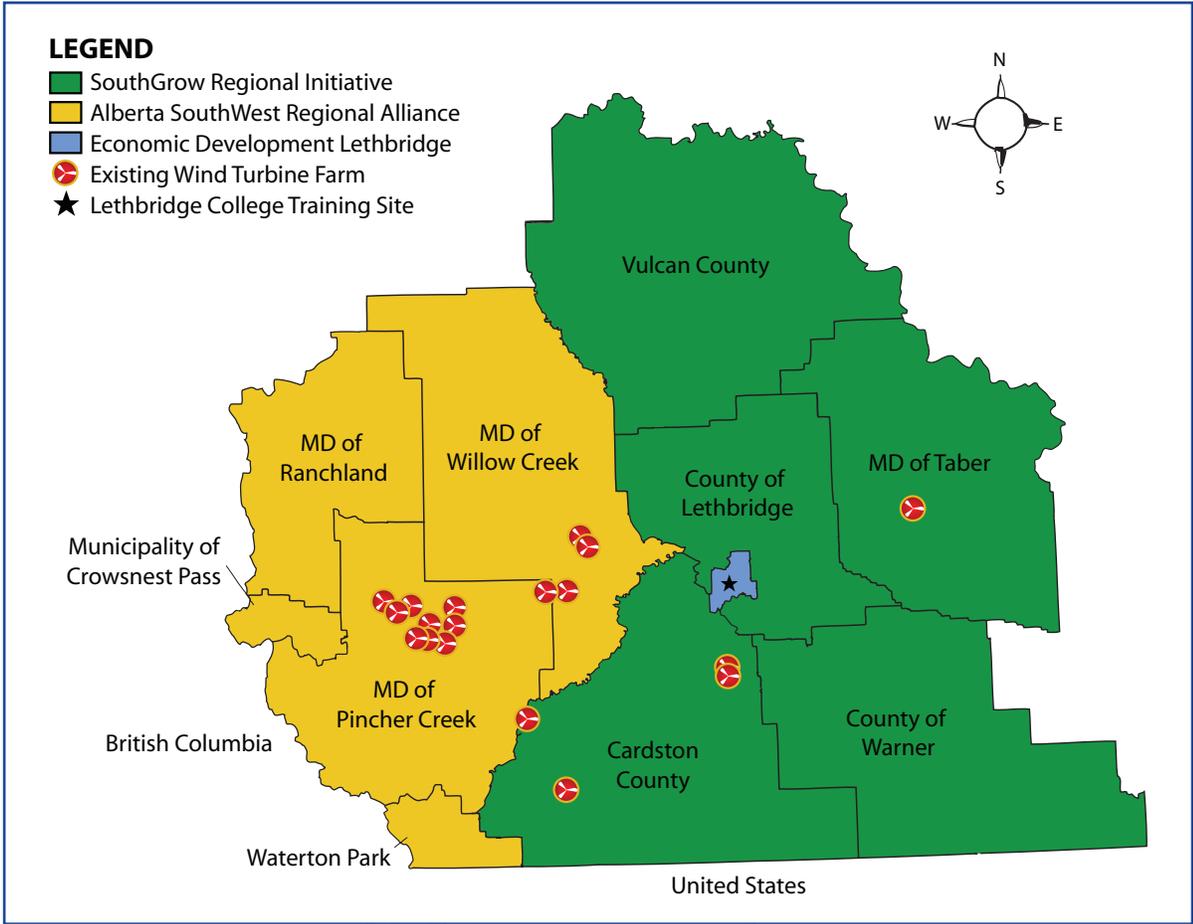
The Canada Wind Energy Association regards the Pincher Creek area (SAAEP region) as one of the nation's strongest wind power regions.

Quick Facts

- **Partners:** 39 municipalities are represented by three economic development regions: Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance, Economic Development Lethbridge and SouthGrow Regional Initiative
- **Population:** approximately 170,000 residents (2006 census)
- **Land base:** over 8.6 million acres
- **Largest metropolitan centre in the region:** Lethbridge, Alberta with over 80,000 residents
- **Proximity to major metropolitan centres:** Calgary 235 km (146 miles) and Edmonton 514 km (319 miles)
- **Rail access:** Canadian Pacific Railway, commercial yard and inland terminals
- **Airports:** Lethbridge County Airport (regularly scheduled commercial services and charter/cargo availability), Pincher Creek Airport (fourth longest runway in Alberta)
- **USA border:** 24 hour port of entry at Sweetgrass/Coutts crossing, just 100km (62 miles) south of Lethbridge
- **Major highways:** Highways 2, 3, 4, 5 (including the CANAMEX trade corridor, linking Canada, the USA and Mexico)
- **Post-secondary education:** Lethbridge College and University of Lethbridge
- **Economic engines:** agriculture, education, manufacturing and tourism
- **Labour:** a complete range of energy service companies, electrical, mechanical, and environmental workforce; specialized training offered by Lethbridge College
- **Real Estate:** Highly competitive commercial and residential Real Estate; heavy industrial serviced land ready
- **Taxes:** Favourable corporate and personal income tax rates in Alberta; NO sales tax, NO inventory tax, NO machinery and equipment tax, NO payroll tax in Alberta; NO business tax in the city of Lethbridge
- **Lifestyle advantages include:** short commuting distances, warm Chinook winds in winter, skiing, golfing, hiking and more in the nearby Rocky Mountains

The cost of doing business in the SAAEP region is very competitive. Lethbridge, Alberta, the largest metropolitan centre in the region, was rated as one of the top 10 cost-competitive communities in North America (2006 Competitive Alternatives Study of International Business).

Currently more than 520 MW of wind generation capacity is installed in Southern Alberta. Forecasts indicate over 2,700 MW of additional wind generation will occur in Southern Alberta over the next 10 years.



Alberta Electrical Systems Operator projects a \$2 billion investment over the next two years to expand the Southern Alberta transmission system.

Government Incentives:

- The Wind Energy Institute of Canada lists thirteen sources of funding that can be utilized by projects focused on research, development and demonstration of wind energy.
- The Alberta government recently passed the micro-generation regulation, which is intended to promote development of environmentally friendly energy by electricity customers.
- Alberta's new Research and Development incentive program offers a tax credit worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to \$4 million, for a maximum credit of \$400,000.

Join us in Southern Alberta

Join us

Others who are here:

- An abridged list of major wind generators/developers already operating in the region includes: Canadian Hydro Developers, TransAlta Wind, Enmax, Suncor Energy and Enbridge Inc.
- Equipment suppliers from international manufacturers include: Acciona (Spain), Vestas (Denmark), GE Wind (USA) and Enercon (Germany).
- Three of the world's leading wind energy Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) have service and operation technicians in the region: Vestas Wind Systems, Enercon (Germany), Acciona Windpower (Spain), with GE Winds and Siemens Canada having Calgary-based representatives.

Within Alberta, there is an estimated 11,500 MW of proposed "wind interest" applications. Over 7,500 MW of these proposed wind applications are from Southern Alberta.

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Economic Development
LETHBRIDGE



To learn more about the SAAEP region, community wind projects, or for help with expansion, relocation or new development options for your firm visit www.saaep.ca or contact:

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