

Today is Global Wind Day, a time to take stock of the global success story that was once a niche technology.

The wind supply chain is benefitting regions across the globe, including economically less-advantaged ones. Citizens are benefitting from shared ownership of wind farms. Wind farms are also contributing to local economic activity through the taxes they pay to local governments - covering up to 25% of municipal revenues.

The wind industry has brought jobs and investment to many regions, including ones that have depended on traditional industries worldwide, from shipbuilding areas such as Spain and Portugal to gas-driven economies such as New Mexico, according to a news release from WindEurope, a Brussels-based association promoting wind power in Europe.

Global Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually on June 15, as a coordinated action between WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council and the national associations to introduce the general public to wind energy through a series of activities. After a record year of wind installations in 2017, Europe has an installed capacity of 169 GW, WindEurope said. Wind now provides 12% of Europe's electricity and 44% in Denmark and 22% in Germany. Globally there is now 539 GW of wind energy installed. Four US states get more than 30% of their electricity from wind, as does Uruguay and the state of South Australia.

Less CO2 and cleaner air

WindEurope CEO Giles Dickson said: "Onshore wind is now the cheapest form of new power generation in most of Europe, and offshore wind is not far behind with costs having fallen over 60% in three years. It's now getting easier and cheaper to integrate wind power into the energy system. As a local resource, wind also means much less money spent on fossil fuel imports. And of course it means less CO2 and cleaner air. From a niche technology, wind energy is now an industrial success story. It's 260,000 high-skilled jobs in Europe. It's a €36bn contribution to EU GDP and €8bn worth of European exports. And wind is making an impact also on a more local level. Whether it's providing local jobs and investment in the supply chain or wind farms contributing taxes to local municipalities, wind energy is having a positive impact in communities across Europe".

GWEC Secretary General Steve Sawyer said: "Wind power not only provides clean, emission free power, local industry and employment, and attracts both domestic and international investment, it is an industrial lifeline for rural communities around the globe.

"From west Texas to northeast Brazil; from the Cape region of South Africa to coastal Morocco; from Xinjian, Gansu and Inner Mongolia in China to Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota in the US; and across the southern half of India, wind power creates local jobs that

give the younger generation an opportunity for good jobs near to home, rather than migrating off to the big city, wherever it may be. The value of building vibrant rural economies cannot be measured only in numbers, but through the social cohesion and strengthened communities they bring in a world sorely lacking in both.”

Source: [balkangreenenergynews](#)