Employment and Education

Wind-Related Jobs and Employment Opportunities

Clean energy is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, offering many opportunities for careers across a wide variety of businesses. For more information, see the Michigan Green Jobs Report. To pursue a wind energy career, students in local communities will need general as well as specialized training. A number of colleges and universities in Michigan and across the U.S. now offer specializations in various clean energy fields, or even full degree programs. Michigan postsecondary schools provide a host of alternative energy-related programs. Community colleges can also be a great resource if you want to get certified for a particular trade or get a two-year degree with clean energy credentials. And, many other organizations offer courses and seminars on energy efficiency and renewable energy topics - in some cases for free.

Michigan Higher Education Programs: Construction Trades / Energy Efficiency / Clean Technology
U.S. Department of Energy, Education and Professional Development
Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Certificate program in Wind Energy Technology
Michigan Community College Network, Wind Energy Programs
Michigan Department of Education, Career and Technical Education

Additionally, Brion Dickens has information regarding the 15 Michigan high schools where he has launched wind turbine programs. For more information regarding these programs, Mr. Dickens can be contacted at (989) 453-3732 or email woodland@airadvantage.net.
Wind can also be a central component of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculum's all across the U.S. Communities that house wind businesses and/or wind turbines have an opportunity to harmonize these resources with their local schools and STEM programs. Several organizations, such as the Girl Scouts also promote alternative energy as part of an effort to encourage young women to enter into STEM related professions. The following resources are particularly important for schools in local communities that house wind interests:

Girlsgotech.org - Girl Scout Central site for young women interested learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) professions and courses of study.

KidWind - Michael Arquin began the Kidwind Project when he was a 6th grade science teacher in California. Unhappy with the high price and poor quality of commercial products available for teaching wind energy science, he set out to develop his own. Michael developed the KidWind idea through a fellowship at the Wright Center for Science Education during the 2003-2004 academic year. The original KidWind website was launched in January 2004 with free lessons plans and other wind energy science ideas for the classroom. In the fall of 2004, Michael invested an initial $1,000 in developing and selling wind energy kits online. KidWind's first headquarters was the basement of Michael's home in Arlington, Massachusetts. KidWind now has an office and a warehouse, selling thousands of kits annually to kids, parents and teachers all over the world.

Michigan Renewable Schools Program - Energy Works Michigan is a non-profit technical resource that administers the Michigan Renewable Schools Program, a 5-year $8M program funded by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Energy Works provides schools with technical assistance and incentive funds. To date, Energy Works has partnered with 67 public and private K-12 schools and districts throughout the State of Michigan. Energy Works will partner with approximately 90 additional Michigan K-12 schools beginning September 2011.

ScienceEducation.Gov - connects teachers and students to free, federally funded Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

U.S. Department of Energy, K-12 Lesson Plans and Curriculum

Wind For School Program - Wind Powering America program to support wind-related education.