

WIND ENERGY

OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHWEST IOWA

Northwest Iowa, a wind-rich region



Iowa, a leader in wind energy

Iowa leads the nation in wind power generation both in quantity and as a percentage of total power output. A robust supply chain has been developed, which includes the manufacturing of all major wind components. Northwest Iowa is a leading wind energy region in the state.



27.4%

First in the nation in percentage of power generated from wind



3rd

Third in the nation in total wind power capacity



over 5,700 megawatts

First in the nation in megawatts of wind power generation



100%

All major wind turbine components are manufactured in Iowa



Plans are underway to build high-voltage transmission line to move the energy to major metropolitan areas.

Manufacturing Employment

16%



8%

Nation

Skilled Workforce

Sixteen percent of the nearly 300,000 people in Northwest Iowa total labor market are employed in manufacturing, compared to a national average of eight percent.

worker labor market
300,000

Benefits of Locating to Northwest Iowa

- Wind-rich region
- Available skilled workforce
- Excellent transportation systems
- Education and training programs to prepare students and workers for careers in the Wind Energy Industry
- Available industrial buildings and sites
- Favorable business climate
- Access to Northwest Iowa Foreign Trade Zone

Northwest Iowa workers are reliable, loyal, adaptable, and productive



Transportation



Located in the middle of the United States, Northwest Iowa offers multi-modal connections to major markets in the Midwest and throughout the U.S. The Region offers easy 4-lane access to two east-west Interstates (I-90 and I-80) and two north-south Interstates (I-29 and I-35).

Northwest Iowa is at the center of the country's railroad network. Union Pacific (UP), Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), and the Canadian National (CN) all serve the region, as do the Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railway and the regional D&I Railroad. There are several private airports in the region, and commercial air service is available in nearby Sioux City, IA and Sioux Falls, SD.

Available Buildings & Sites



46
industrial &
commercial
facilities



400k+
square feet
available



69
industrial
& business
parks

Northwest Iowa Development is a six county regional economic development partnership that represents Cherokee, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, and Sioux counties.

Business Climate

Northwest Iowa's strong business climate is reflected in its relatively **low unemployment**, which was 3.5% in February 2015 compared to 4.1% for Iowa and 5.5% nationally. Iowa is a Right-to-Work state that offers a **business-friendly regulatory environment**. Attractive local and state business incentives are available to companies locating in the state, as well as Iowa companies that are expanding in state.

Education & Training

One of the key assets of Northwest Iowa is the Region's educational systems. Two of the K-12 school systems in Northwest Iowa have been named to the **Top 100 Schools** list compiled by U.S. News and World Report. Annually, the average scores of the Region's students on the **ACT and SAT college entrance examinations are significantly higher** than the national averages.

Customized job training available

Advanced Degrees

- Northwest Iowa Community College*
- Western Iowa Technical Community College**
- Dordt College
- Northwestern College

*The NCC Business and Industry Training Center offers courses in lean manufacturing, computer skills, quality assurance, and safety, plus "soft skills" training.

**WITT offers a Wind Energy Technician Program and nearby Iowa Lakes Community College offers a Wind Energy and Turbine Technology Program.