



# OKANAGAN WIND

NEWSLETTER **OCTOBER 2020** 🌞 49.9899° N, 120.1005° W



SEN301058

# Welcome to Okanagan Wind:

the first wind power facilities in the Okanagan region of British Columbia. Located on Crown land, the projects were developed in collaboration with the Upper Nicola Band, Westbank First Nation and the Penticton Indian Band.

The Okanagan Wind projects represent 4.2% of British Columbia's installed wind capacity, helping to green the province's electricity grid.

The Okanagan Wind projects were developed by Zero Emission Energy Developments, Inc. and are sponsored by InstarAGF Asset Management Inc., a Canadian-based owner and operator of essential infrastructure assets.



Our mission is to deliver clean electricity as safely and efficiently as possible, with maximum value to our stakeholders and the local economy.

49.9899° N, 120.1005° W



**TOTAL INSTALLED  
CAPACITY IS 30  
MEGAWATTS**



**ELECTRICITY IS SOLD TO  
BC HYDRO UNDER A 40-YEAR  
PURCHASE AGREEMENT**



**OVER THE COURSE OF  
CONSTRUCTION AN  
ESTIMATED \$20 MILLION  
WAS INVESTED IN LOCAL  
BUSINESSES**



**THE 10 SENVION TURBINES HAVE  
A HUB HEIGHT OF 100 METRES**



**THE FACILITIES GENERATE APPROXIMATELY  
100,000 MWH ANNUALLY: ENOUGH ELECTRICITY  
TO POWER THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY  
9,000 HOMES**

## The Green Path to Recovery

COVID-19 has had lasting effects on our communities, creating uncertainties that test our strength and perseverance. As we chart a course through this crisis together, seeking new methods and best practices to improve public health, lessen inequality and reduce our environmental footprint, it is important to focus on the resilience that clean energy gives to our communities, and how a sustainable, green recovery can profoundly shape an environmentally-friendly future.

Okanagan Wind is proud to add its name to the Resilient Recovery initiative, joining nearly 400 signatories that represent over 2100 companies across Canada who are calling upon the government to invest in green energy to create jobs, stimulate the economy and build a fossil-free future.

While we have all had to keep each other safe by self-isolating, Okanagan Wind continues to spin clean energy into our local grid, which helps to power our homes, businesses and our digital connectivity, which is perhaps more important than ever before. We are proud to supply sustainable energy to support that connectivity, keeping families and communities in touch when we need each other the most.

As we collectively seek ways to support one another through the balance of 2020, we remain focused on our mission to provide the Okanagan region with clean energy and opportunities for our community to work toward a more sustainable future. We are committed to community action, continuing our scholarship program to help fund post-secondary education opportunities for our future leaders. We are also dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable in our community through financial contributions to the Central Okanagan Food Bank and the Kelowna Women's Shelter – two organizations that strive to nourish, empower and educate our community members in need.

By supporting local initiatives in our community, educating the public on the benefits of clean energy, and lending our voice to the British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association, we are working toward our vision of a greener, healthier Okanagan and surrounding region. A resilient recovery is within our reach, and by continuing to strive for better socio-economic outcomes, together we can build a brighter future.

## Did you know?

- + The renewable energy sector added 176GW of energy capacity globally in 2019, and represented 72% of all new energy installation last year. (IRENA, 2020).
- + In 2019, Canada completed five wind projects that added 597 MW of new installed capacity, representing over \$1 billion of investment. Canada is home to the world's ninth largest wind generating fleet (Canadian Wind Energy Association, 2020).
- + The U.S. wind industry experienced its third strongest year on record in 2019, adding 9,143 MW of wind power to the grid. Another 44,000 MW of wind projects – representing over \$62 billion in investment – are either under construction or in advanced development (Wind Power Engineering, 2020).

## Wind Windup

- + As of July 1, 2020, the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) and the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA) will become the Canadian Renewable Energy Association, a unified front pushing for greener energy in Canada, encompassing wind, solar and energy storage.
- + Plans are underway to build a huge 10MW offshore floating wind turbine in the North Sea, aiming at reducing the levelized cost of energy for floating offshore. Average offshore turbines are 7.8MW.
- + The global offshore wind energy industry will require over 77,000 trained on-site workers by 2024

# Driving Resilience at the Local Level

To support our community through the pandemic and recovery, Okanagan Wind has contributed to the Central Okanagan Food Bank (COFB) and the Kelowna Women's Shelter (KWS), two charitable organizations within our own back yard. We asked Stephen Simpson, who has worked with Okanagan Wind from the beginning, why local engagement is so integral to Okanagan Wind, and how its impacts are felt across the community.



IN THE COMMUNITY

**Okanagan Wind:** Stephen, Okanagan Wind has always been involved in the local community. What were the founding principles shaping this direction?

**Stephen Simpson:** When Okanagan Wind first started as a greenfield project on Crown land several years ago, one of our first mandates was to collaborate with local First Nations groups to ensure that we had a representative voice at the table. Infrastructure, and energy projects in particular, are significant, long-lasting pillars in the community, so it is vital that these projects involve the people that they serve.

This directive led to hiring local companies during construction at Pennask and Shinish Creek, ultimately investing \$20 million in businesses in the Okanagan region, of which about 40% were First Nations-backed firms. Additionally, Okanagan Wind has established post-secondary scholarships, and has ongoing educational engagement with students through art, writing and a turbine naming contest, as well as facility tours to spark students' interest in wind energy.

Decisions are best made with a diversity of opinions at the table, and by establishing these partnerships, Okanagan Wind keeps the community at the heart of its business.

**OW:** Community involvement has been a driving factor behind Okanagan Wind's philosophy of stakeholder alignment. How can companies connect with their community?

**SS:** Communities are built and thrive upon the practice of mutual support. Looking out for one another helps ensure that everyone in our community has access to vital services, care and compassion.

Local organizations use resources around them to contribute to more circular and sustainable practices that can go on to support community members for generations. For example, the Central Okanagan Food Bank partnered with another local organization, the Start Fresh Kitchen, to start the Perishable Food Recovery Program. In addition to producing 900 meals a week, the program has already saved nearly two tonnes of food from being wasted and thrown in the landfill.

More broadly, by supporting local organizations, businesses can help increase equal access to health and education services, lower inequality and enhance opportunities for all.

**OW:** Renewable energy is one of Canada's fastest growing sectors, employing around 300,000 people across the nation. How does wind power and clean energy more broadly contribute to building more resilient communities?

**SS:** Renewable power is a long-term solution to society's need for energy autonomy and finding sustainable solutions that produce climate-friendly power for future generations. Now, possibly more than ever, building resilient power grids and the infrastructure to support them is key to creating robust energy delivery networks that will stand up to the challenges of climate change.

In the wake of the current global health crisis, municipalities are seeking ways to safely reboot economic activity in a way that lines up with national objectives around sustainable energy and climate change, and increasing diversity and inclusion in our businesses and public institutions. That's why initiatives like Resilient Recovery are important drivers of developing a greener future, helping to bolster the health and well-being of our cities and create a legacy of sustainability. This crisis is an opportunity to create lasting change in our communities.

**OW:** There are a number of initiatives calling for greater sustainability for future generations. What can other businesses and community leaders do to help drive change in their own neighbourhoods?

**SS:** Businesses and organizations with the "think globally, act locally" mentality can drive significant change in their own communities over time. Each small step leads to a leap forward and the opportunity to have a real and lasting impact on families and businesses around you.

Organizations of all kinds can also commit to greater diversity and inclusivity initiatives, which are needed to fully respect and integrate diverse voices and perspectives into the decisions that guide a community, and ultimately, our country.

Together, we can create a resilient social and economic recovery.



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For more information on the Okanagan Wind projects or to learn more about the benefits of wind energy, please visit [okanaganwind.ca](http://okanaganwind.ca)

