

Why choose wind?

✓ Wind is an inexhaustible, abundant energy source

Wind energy is a powerful energy resource that is freely available and will never run out. Australia is rated as one of the best wind resource sites in the world.

✓ Wind energy cuts greenhouse gas emissions

Every megawatt hour of wind energy generated in Victoria avoids producing 1 tonne of greenhouse emissions on average from traditional electricity generation sources. A typical 2 megawatt (MW) wind turbine in Victoria can reduce approximately 6,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per annum.¹

✓ Wind is an efficient way of generating electricity

Modern wind turbines are efficient, converting up to 50 per cent of the energy in wind to electricity.² Wind farms are sited to take advantage of consistent winds and provide wind energy to the grid about 90 per cent of the time.³ This means that 90 per cent of the time, some wind is blowing and energy is being generated by the turbines. The energy used to make wind turbines is quickly recovered by the amount of energy they generate.

✓ Wind energy reduces long-term energy costs

As wind is an energy resource that is free and infinite, wind energy has no fuel cost, no fuel supply risk and low operation and maintenance costs. The Government's Renewable Energy Target has made wind energy a cost effective, secure and competitive source of energy.⁴



Images of the wind farms are from Wonthaggi (Victoria)

1 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.2

2 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.6

3 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.6

4 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.8

Why choose wind?

✓ Wind energy is a developed technology being implemented globally

The technology to harvest energy from wind is well-proven and is being widely used around the world to provide reliable supplies of energy.⁵

Wind turbines are being installed at a rapid rate across the world. The global wind industry achieved rapid growth of 32 per cent in 2006.⁶ Australia has some of the best and most reliable wind resources in the world.

✓ Wind farms deliver many benefits for communities

At a local and regional level, building a wind farm will create job opportunities and greater levels of economic activity. Once it is built there will be job opportunities for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the wind farm based in the local area. Some wind farms may also become involved in the community in other ways. Generally, wind farms in Victoria and South Australia will also contribute a payment, similar to rates, to the local council.

As a non-polluting and efficient source of electricity generation, wind energy is one of the ways in which we can help meet Australia's energy needs while minimising harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

✓ Wind is a significant energy producer

An average 2 megawatt (MW) wind turbine can produce approximately 6,000 MW hours of energy per year (based on a 35 per cent capacity) – that is enough energy to power more than 850 homes a year.⁷

Images of the wind farms are from Cullerin Range (NSW) and Wonthaggi (Victoria)

⁵ Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p. 1

⁶ Clean Energy Council, 2007, *Wind Energy Fact Sheet*

⁷ Calculated based on formula contained in Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria (now Sustainability Victoria), 2003, *Policy and planning guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria (Appendix I)* using 2007 average Australian household electricity consumption data supplied by the Energy Supply Association of Australia

