Overview

The Amazon Wind Farm North Carolina - Desert Wind is the first coastal wind farm in the Southeast, which began producing power in 2017. It is located among farm fields in northeastern North Carolina in Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties, near Elizabeth City, where it will produce power for at least 25 years.

The wind farm is made up of 104 turbines and produces enough electricity to power the equivalent of about 61,000 homes each year. The wind farm is on land leased from 60 different landowners who receive compensation for the use of their land as well as the installation and maintenance of good roads at no cost to them or the taxpayers. Each turbine only takes about one acre of land, so given the wide spacing of the turbines, farmers continue to grow corn, soybeans, and wheat on their land, but with the benefit of harvesting the wind as well.

Where Else In The Southeast Is Wind Energy Feasible?

Recent improvements in wind turbines have made the Southeast a great place for wind energy, even though it was historically unfeasible.

Economic Development By The Numbers

- $6,000 annual lease payment to landowners for each turbine on their property
- $624,000 annual total lease payments to landowners
- $520,000 annual local tax revenue, which can fund schools, emergency services, & infrastructure
- 500+ number of workers at the peak of construction.
- $18.5 million amount spent locally during construction
- 17 number of full-time workers to operate the wind farm

This map shows where land is that may be suitable for wind farms with 140 meter hub heights. The darker the color, the more land that could be suitable. Map by NREL and AWS Truepower.