

US Air Force Renewable Energy Fact Sheet  
Current as of April 6, 2012

- The Air Force is a significant part of our nation's strategy to establish greater energy security and become more energy efficient through conservation and use of alternative and renewable energy sources.
- To successfully achieve the Air Force mission to fly, fight, and win in air, space, and cyberspace, the Air Force must have assured access to reliable supplies of energy, such as renewable energy, when and where we need it in support of the mission.
- Greater use of renewable energy and alternative fuels has positive environmental benefits by reducing greenhouse gas and other air emissions associated with fossil fuel combustion.
- The Air Force goal of obtaining 1 gigawatt, which is equal to 1,000 megawatts (MW), of renewable energy by 2016 is a step toward a goal of 25% of all installation electricity use coming from renewable sources by 2025.
- Progress to date:
  - FY 2011: 6% of facility energy came from renewables.
  - Currently: 131 projects at 56 installations generating 37 MW including wind, solar, ground source thermal, landfill gas, and others.
  - 50 additional projects under construction or awarded adding 19 MW.<sup>1</sup>
  - The Air Force is the #2 renewable energy user in the federal government.
- Two examples of these projects include:
  - Massachusetts Military Reservation has 3 wind turbines that produce 4.5 MW. This partnership with the Army National Guard will save \$26M over its lifetime.
  - Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada has a solar array that spans 140 acres generating 14 MW, saving the base about \$1M a year. When constructed, it was the largest photovoltaic array in North America.
- Over the next 3 years, the Air Force has 21 more renewable power-purchase projects planned with 148 MW capacity expected.
- The Air Force is partnering with private sector and government entities for the development and testing of alternative and renewable energy sources that meet our specifications for operational use with limited or no upfront costs to the government.
- Another of the tools the Air Force has are Enhanced Use Leases (EULs) which allow the Air Force to lease its land to third parties who build renewable energy generation facilities and then sell the power into the market place or back to the Air Force at a discount.
- The Air Force has 6 Energy EULs planned for the next 3 years that will total 610 MW.<sup>2</sup> Projects include:
  - Hill AFB, Utah – 15 MW waste-to-energy project and a 15 - 20 MW photovoltaic array slated for construction in 2013.
  - Edwards AFB, California – 350-440 MW photovoltaic array slated for construction between 2014 and 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> Air Force Energy Management Report FY 2011 p. 3

<sup>2</sup> Renewable Energy Game Plan 23 February 2012