



Point by Point, Wind Industry Debunks Anti-Clean Energy-Funded Denmark Study

Wind industry advocates in the U.S. spent part of this week debunking erroneous claims made in a study, funded by an anti-clean energy group, that is critical of wind power in Denmark.

Distributing the collection of misleading and false claims was the Institute for Energy Research, which also was behind a recent study that came to light this summer claiming that wind power has not created jobs in Spain. The U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory has already dismissed that report, stating that the report's conclusions are inconsistent with its content. Perhaps not surprisingly, attacks on wind power have increased as the clean renewable energy has grown to become a mainstream source for electricity generation—for the past few years, wind power has been one of the top two sources for new installed electric capacity.

Among other erroneous claims, the latest report states that wind power does not reduce carbon emissions in Denmark, which leads the world in wind penetration. However, it is widely accepted that wind power displaces the most expensive fuel source, commonly natural gas, in addition to coal and oil. Moreover, wind is used to reduce output from hydroelectric facilities so that more water behind dams is available at a later time to produce yet more emissions-free electricity. As for Denmark, according to the BTM Consult World Market update for wind in 2008, the wind energy produced in that country in 2009 will displace over 5 million tons of carbon dioxide across the European Union.

Denmark leads the world in wind power penetration, producing roughly 20% of its electricity from the clean renewable energy source. But in spite of the report zeroing in on this leading nation, wind has already proven to be a success in multiple other countries. Spain gets 12% of its electricity from wind, while Germany (7%), Portugal (9%), and Ireland (8%) all have high wind penetrations that in many cases continue to grow.

An AWEA fact sheet addressing the study is available online.

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