

Foundation Windpower

Anheuser-Busch, the country's leading beer producer, is brewing up its own electricity

Owner:

Foundation Windpower

Operator:

Foundation Windpower

Where:

Fairfield, California

Commissioned:

November 2011

Number of Turbines:

1

Capacity:

1.5 Megawatts

Cost of Completed Project:

4 million dollars

Financing:

Private

Electricity Goes To:

Anheuser-Busch's
Budweiser Brewery

Estimated Annual Wind**Speed:**

13.6 mph

Estimated Annual**Production:**

3500 MWh or
291 homes or
10% of the Brewery's
electricity

In 2009, the company's Budweiser Brewery in Fairfield, CA, entered into a private partnership with a local solar energy company, began tapping the sun's energy, and sparked Anheuser-Busch's growing interest in renewable energy. In November of 2011, Anheuser-Busch entered into a partnership with San Francisco-based Foundation Windpower and brought a 1.5 megawatt wind turbine online, further reducing the Brewery's dependence on commercially produced electricity.

The wind project's impact on the Brewery's electrical intake may not be surprising, but the details will blow you away. The 300-foot wind turbine at the Budweiser Brewery contributes to nearly 10 percent (1.2 MW) of the Brewery's electrical needs, but Anheuser-Busch doesn't own or maintain the turbine. The turbine belongs to Foundation Windpower, which also acts as an on-site energy dealer selling electricity directly to the Brewery under a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement. This unique business arrangement provides several advantages to both Anheuser-Busch and Foundation Windpower.

In 2007, Anheuser-Busch joined the ranks of the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Leaders program and promised to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to five percent below 2005 levels by 2010. By 2009, Anheuser-Busch achieved its goal and was recognized as a Climate Leader by the EPA later that same year, but the beer giant isn't sitting on its hops. Anheuser-Busch continues an aggressive company-wide initiative to reduce its impact on the environment, vowing to further reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 15% below 2008 levels by the end of 2013. The environmental stewardship of companies like Anheuser-Busch affect measureable reductions in energy consumption, but most importantly it creates a market for renewable energy.

While Anheuser-Busch provides the opportunity for renewable energy, it is Foundation Windpower's innovative business structure that propels much of its success. As a partner to environmentally conscience industry leaders like Anheuser-Busch, Foundation Windpower delivers energy solutions that help its clients meet their environmental goals. Through direct ownership, operation, and maintenance of its wind turbines, Foundation Windpower limits financial risk, provides clean renewable energy at a competitive price, and significantly reduces negative impacts on the environment, but it is Foundation Windpower's partners who reap the biggest rewards.

Foundation Windpower executes the financing, planning, and development of its projects, which allows its partners to focus on their primary industry—in this case, making beer. Additionally, because Foundation Windpower owns its projects, its partners are shielded from increased financial risk throughout the life of the project.



For companies that want to diversify their energy resources, a partnership with Foundation Windpower offers not only an attractive solution, but also a competitive one.

Foundation Windpower's wind projects transform onsite wind resources into clean, renewable energy that is sold to its partners at a competitive price. This transaction is detailed in the Power Purchase Agreement, a contract describing the expected electrical production and cost over a predetermined period of time. Power Purchase Agreements are often designed to compete with the partner's current electrical provider and offer financial returns for both Foundation Windpower and its partners. Although onsite generation financially benefits both Foundation Windpower and its partners, it also benefits the environment.

Most consumers receive electricity through the electrical grid, a vast network of generation facilities, transmission lines, and a local distribution network. Transmission lines, which carry electricity from the generation facility to the local distribution network, are often a prerequisite for wind turbine development and require the development of vast quantities of land. Because Foundation Windpower's onsite projects eliminate the need for transmission lines, they reduce negative impacts on the environment that could delay or stop a development project, especially in Foundations Windpower's market, California.

In 1970, the California State Legislature adopted the California Environmental Quality Act requiring local governments to review development proposals, to identify possible adverse environmental impacts, and to recommend project approval or denial. If the adverse environmental impacts cannot be adequately mitigated, development entitlements could be denied, bringing an end to the project irrespective of its merits. Foundation Windpower's approach delivers a one-two punch by eliminating transmission lines through onsite generation and siting its projects in previously developed areas like the Budweiser Brewery. As a result, Foundation Windpower's onsite generation technique not only benefits its partners, but all of California by reducing the cumulative impacts on the environment.

Without the help of its industrial partners, Foundation Windpower may not be able to affect this wide range of benefits. While many of Foundation Windpower's merits can be attributed to a creative business model, its success is driven by its partners and their business goals. For Anheuser-Busch that goal is energy conservation. Environmentally conscience industry leaders like Anheuser-Busch can wield its environmental influence and create a market for renewable energy—markets where innovative companies like Foundation Windpower thrive.

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