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South Dakota Changes Tax Law to Encourage Wind Energy

On March 14, South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds signed a bill designed to encourage more wind farms to be built in South Dakota. The bill cuts property taxes on wind turbines by basing the tax on the generation capacity of the turbines rather than on construction costs. This is especially important given recent increases in the cost of constructing wind farms. The law also taxes a wind farm's gross receipts, but allows for rebates to help pay for transmission lines and other facilities. [Read the bill's complete text here.](#)

For more information about how you can support wind energy in South Dakota, visit our special [South Dakota web page.](#)

New Siting Handbook Available from AWEA

The [American Wind Energy Association](#) (AWEA) recently released a new Wind Energy Siting Handbook. You can [download a copy from the AWEA website.](#) The handbook is aimed at commercial-scale, land-based wind energy development. Although it is not specifically written for community wind, community wind projects face many of the same siting issues as any other wind development.

Topics covered in this new resource include:

- Wind Energy Basics
- Critical Environmental Issues Analysis
- Regulatory Framework
- Impact Analysis and Mitigation
- ASTM Environmental Site Assessments
- Public Outreach

Community Wind Energy 2008 is Coming Up on April 14-16

It's almost time for [Community Wind Energy 2008](#), the national community wind conference where hundred of folks working in community wind across the country will come together in [Albany, New York](#) on April 14-16. This is the [third Community Wind Energy conference](#) put on by Windustry, and it promises to be the best yet.

We've got a [great roster of speakers and panelists](#), an [impressive array of exhibitors](#), and high-quality networking events lined up. We're particularly excited about the [Monday night reception](#) because New York's Gov. Paterson and sixteen (and counting!) New York state legislators have confirmed they will attend.

There's still [plenty of time to register](#), but you'll want to make your [travel plans](#) soon!

If you've got any questions about the conference, be sure to take a look at the [conference web page](#) or [give us a call.](#)

Windustry is a non-profit organization working to increase wind energy opportunities for rural landowners and communities. We promote wind energy through outreach, educational materials, and technical assistance to rural landowners, local communities and utilities, and state, regional, and nonprofit collaborations.

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