



Xcel Energy Media Relations  
790 S. Buchanan St.  
Amarillo, TX 79101  
(806) 679-7773  
[www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com)

## **Xcel Energy commissions new Hale Wind Project**

*478 megawatts of clean wind energy enough to power 184,000 typical homes*

**PLAINVIEW, Texas** (July 15, 2019) – Hale County landowners, civic leaders and elected officials are joining Xcel Energy today in celebrating the completion of the new Hale Wind Project near Plainview, Texas – a clean energy resource that is now serving Texas and New Mexico customers with low-cost energy as it strengthens the local economy.

The new wind facility started commercial operations on June 28.

“Hale Wind is the culmination of years of planning by local landowners who were determined to reap the benefits of wind energy for their home communities while providing a clean energy resource for electric customers across a wide region,” said David Hudson, president, Xcel Energy – New Mexico, Texas. “Xcel Energy has been privileged to play a key role in making this dream a reality.”

Xcel Energy invested more than \$700 million in building the Hale Wind Project, and opened it on time and under budget. More than 300 workers were involved in its construction, and close to 20 permanent maintenance and operations jobs have been created. The Hale Wind facility is the first wind farm Xcel Energy has built and owned in its Texas-New Mexico service area, even though the company has been purchasing large amounts of wind energy for its customers since 1999.

Hale, along with the planned Sagamore Wind Project in New Mexico, is part of a large expansion of Xcel Energy’s wind energy capacity in its Texas-New Mexico service area. The company also has entered into new long-term contracts to purchase wind energy from NextEra Energy Resources wind facilities in Cochran and Crosby counties in Texas. The added wind resources are reducing fuel costs to customers in both Texas and New Mexico by using the area’s abundant winds as a fuel source for power generators.

“These fuel cost savings are already flowing through to our customers,” Hudson said. “Additionally, we are passing along 100% of the savings from the federal production tax credits that are being generated at the Hale Wind Project.”

Efforts to develop wind energy in Hale County began in 2008 when 350 landowners and 120 investors pooled land resources and began to court wind developers. Xcel Energy became involved when it gained approval to build and own what became the Hale Wind Project, covering a portion of the original footprint mapped out in 2008.

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In all, 239 Vestas wind turbines with a combined generating capacity of 478 megawatts were erected by Xcel Energy's builder, Wanzek, Inc. It is estimated the turbines will be capable of producing enough electricity to power 184,000 typical homes in the region.

The Hale Wind Project is impacting the local economy by boosting land values and providing more than \$1.9 million in annual royalty payments to landowners within the wind farm's footprint. Farmers and ranchers will continue to work their land as they have in the past, and don't give up valuable ground water because wind generators don't require water to operate. Additionally, Hale Wind will infuse the tax base with approximately \$22 million in property tax payments over 25 years, providing additional revenue to Hale County and the Petersburg Independent School District.

"The rural economy is greatly benefited by wind energy, which is why so many local landowners were eager to see this project come to life," Hudson said.

Xcel Energy will continue pursuing more renewable energy resources as it moves closer to its goal to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2030. The company aspires to be 100% carbon free by 2050. In 2018, 21% of the electricity supply for customers in Texas and New Mexico was derived from wind and solar. The company expects close to half of the region's electricity supply will come from renewable resources by 2023.

### **About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [xcelenergy.com](https://www.xcelenergy.com) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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