

E&U Agreement Will Make Harvard the Largest Institutional Buyer of Wind Power in New England

Engineering and Utilities (E&U) has signed a long-term agreement with First Wind, a Massachusetts based renewable energy company, to buy 10% of the power consumed on the Cambridge and Allston campuses from a wind farm in northern Maine. According to the EPA, this agreement will make Harvard the largest purchaser of wind energy by a college or university in New England!

One of E&U's roles is to purchase electricity for the University—annually that amounts to approximately 247,000,000 kWh. Under the agreement, E&U will buy 50% of the power generated by the soon-to-be-built Stetson Wind II facility near Danforth, ME as well as the associated Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). First Wind will begin construction of the facility immediately and it's expected to start generating clean, renewable power by mid-2010.

“The 15-year agreement enables the development of this clean energy resource and the subsequent lowering of the greenhouse gas intensity of the New England electric grid,” said E&U Manager of Energy Supply & Utility Administration Mary Smith. Electricity from Stetson Wind II will be generated by 17 General Electric, 1.5 MW turbines. This project follows Stetson Wind I, a 38-turbine, 57 MW-facility that went on-line in January.

“Universities play an essential role in confronting the global challenges presented by climate change and sustainability,” added Harvard President Drew Faust. “The research being undertaken at Harvard will have worldwide influence, but the Harvard community is also committed to searching for ways to reduce its environmental impact through changes in individual and institutional behavior, like purchasing wind power and other renewable energy, and the use of innovative technologies.”

Congratulations to Engineering and Utilities for taking a leadership role in helping the University reduce its environmental impact!