



Global Wind Day 2009 Report



Wind Day 2009 goes global!

Tens of thousands of people the world over celebrated the enormous benefits of wind power on Global Wind Day this year. From China to the Czech Republic, over 300 events and wind activities were organised in 35 different countries around the official Wind Day date of 15 June to spread the positive message about wind power.

“Wind energy is a driving force for climate protection, economic development and the creation of future-proof jobs,” said Sigmar Gabriel, German Environment Minister. “Global Wind Day 2009 demonstrated the enormous potential of wind energy to the public,” he added.

This year, for the first time, the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) joined forces with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and many national wind energy associations to coordinate Wind Day events across the globe, expanding from the pan-European events held in 2007 and 2008. From wind farm open days, conferences, exhibitions, workshops and information days to regattas, sporting contests and theatre shows, there was something for everyone, everywhere.

As a measure of the success of Global Wind Day, consider that in 2007 European Wind Day reached 18 countries and 35,000 people participated. By 2008, the event’s reach extended to 20 European countries and attracted 100,000 people. By 2009, as the European Wind Day went global, the 300 events in 35 countries across the globe reached up to 1,000,000 people.

“There is huge public enthusiasm for wind as a clean, sustainable source of energy that creates jobs and boosts local economies,” said Christian Kjaer, Chief Executive of EWEA. “Wind Day 2009 was the chance for people to actively show their support, and it was a real pleasure to see how much fun was had at the same time!” he enthused.

Global Wind Day sent the message across the world that wind energy is a key solution to the looming energy crisis

– our over-dependency on imported and finite fossil fuels – and the climate change crisis. It helped people realise that wind energy is a popular and mainstream power technology – a solution to our modern problems that is already working.

Participation in Wind Day 2009 stretched to Cameroon, Japan, Uruguay and New Zealand – countries traditionally outside the wind energy market. Steve Sawyer, Secretary General of GWEC, said: “public acceptance of wind energy is immensely important for keeping up the momentum of sustained growth, and Global Wind Day 2009 demonstrated that support for wind energy is truly global.”

To extend the global reach of the 2009 campaign, EWEA created a new website, www.globalwindday.org, for Wind Day coordinators to use as a template allowing all those involved in organising Wind Day to have the same website identity worldwide.



Wind Day around the world

A whole host of events from wind power parties to wind farm open days with special events for children took place in many different countries. However, some countries decided to put a special spin on Global Wind Day 2009, and here we highlight some of the most memorable.

For one day across Poland, television weather forecasters broadcast their meteorological predictions from the top of wind turbines. In total there were 15 windy weather forecasts. In one case, a Polish TV presenter, a big fan of renewable energy, climbed up a wind turbine, telling his audience about the benefits of wind energy as he gave the forecast.

In Spain, in addition to wind farm open days, children took part in kite flying and model aeroplane competitions. For adults there were paragliding events and an exhibition of Spanish artist Francisco Goya's paintings at a wind farm. The Austrians turned their attention to music with live concerts at wind farms, while in the Netherlands, an open air Don Quixote play held at a wind farm created a buzz.

More than 300 children took part in a pin wheel procession on Marina Beach, Tamil Nadu in southern India, while in New Zealand children participated in a kite flying competition.

In the United States a visual petition called 'why wind matters to me' was launched, and in Texas the public was captivated by a motorcycle tour of a wind farm. To the North, in Canada, a new wind energy map was inaugurated. Further south, in Uruguay, a new wind turbine started operating and the public was invited to watch.

To the east of the Americas, in Cameroon, a six-day workshop on how to build a wind turbine was held, while in Egypt a wind energy conference attracted many visitors.



Over in Scotland, visitors to one wind farm were able to see the inner workings of a turbine as well as discover



Map of Global Wind Day activities around the world

the colourful history of a wind farm which was once a US Navy base. At the same event, children and adults alike were invited to paint their hand prints on a huge canvas attached to one of the towering turbines. In England, RES opened its low-carbon Head Office at the former Ovaltine Egg Farm.

Across France, from Paris to Rennes, Bordeaux to Strasbourg, wind energy exhibitions invited the public to browse photo galleries and information stands, and some 42 wind farms opened their doors. Switzerland turned its attention to young people with lessons on how to make wind wheels, while in Sweden wind farms that were still under construction opened their doors so the public could see the beginnings of a wind farm.

In Italy, a huge life-size turbine dominated the Villa Borghese park in Rome, an event which attracted large numbers of visitors and received extensive press coverage. Over in Germany there were 30 events across the country, including a spectacular light illumination in the heart of Berlin during the "long night of sciences" with open museums during the night.

Over in Japan, there were wind farm open days and visits in Yokohama, Hokkaido and Komachi and in China, a Beijing wind farm opened its doors to the public and a workshop on low carbon technologies took place.

These are just a taste of the events of Global Wind Day 2009, and a small vision of what could happen at Global Wind Day 2010! President of the Greek Parliament, Minister Sioufas, neatly summed up the goal of Global Wind Day 2009 saying, "I congratulate the wind energy community on its initiative to increase public awareness on the need to develop inexhaustible renewable energy sources." All these events and more can be found on the new and improved website: www.globalwindday.org





Netherlands



Italy



Japan



Bulgaria



Greece



Spain



Italy



Germany



Romania



Austria

Wind Day around the world



Photo contest 2009 in partnership with Fotki, Samsung and National Geographic

public vote for his photo of a turbine reflected in a pool of water.

“The winning pictures show the aesthetic strength of wind turbines as symbols of modern technology and clean power in the midst of nature. In the most direct form possible, without words, these images show why the vast majority of European citizens support wind energy”, explained Christian Kjaer, EWEA Chief Executive. “We had a very high standard of entries overall and it wasn’t an easy decision, but I am very pleased with both the expert and the public choice of winner”, he said.

Depasse and Flamée each received a Samsung camera: a NV9 and a GX20 respectively.

Given the success of the 2007 photo competition, EWEA decided to organise a second wind energy photo contest in 2009. It was open to all photographers around the world who chose to find new ways of looking at wind energy, using new colours, contrasts with nature and modernity, wind farm landscapes, focussing on the mechanics involved in turbines and wind energy distribution or the human side of wind energy - from those working in the sector to those who believe strongly in the power of the wind.

Two winners were chosen: one by voters from www.fotki.com which hosted the contest, and the other one by a panel of experts from EWEA and National Geographic.

David Depasse, a photographer from Belgium, took a picture of a turbine and the moon that won the admiration of the expert panel, and Keith Flamée, from the UK, won the



On the left: Keith Flamée - the public's choice



On the right: David Depasse - expert panel's choice

Communication and promotion

For the first ever Global Wind Day, EWEA and GWEC combined forces to coordinate Global Wind Day 2009. We issued press releases including news updates on events around the world, and on the winners of the popular photo contest we launched in 2007 and held in 2009. EWEA and GWEC also distributed promotional tools to national Global Wind Day coordinators, including badges, caps, T-shirts and hand-held wind-wheels. Organisers could order large numbers of these promotional items through EWEA.



Next year, Global Wind Day, which will take place on 15 June 2010, will continue to promote this theme of spreading the positive message about wind energy worldwide



Coordinators

EWEA www.ewea.org

GWEC www.gwec.net

Partners

Australia Clean Energy Council
<http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/>

Austria IG Windkraft
<http://www.igwindkraft.at/>

Belgium (APERe) Association for the Promotion
of Renewable Energies
<http://www.apere.org/>

Belgium (ODE) ODE Vlaanderen
<http://www.ode.be/>

Bulgaria Association of Producers of Ecological Energy
<http://www.apeebg.org/>

Canada Canadian Wind Energy Association
<http://www.canwea.ca/>

China (CREIA) Chinese Renewable Energy
Industries Association
<http://www.creia.net/>

China (CWEA) Chinese Wind Energy Association
<http://www.cwea.org.cn/main.asp>

Cyprus Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation
<http://www.cys.org.cy/>

Czech Republic Czech Society for Wind Energy
<http://www.csve.cz/>

Denmark Danish Wind Industry Association
<http://www.windpower.org/>

Egypt Egyptian Wind Energy Association
<http://www.ewindea.org/>

Estonia Estonian Wind Power Association
<http://www.tuuleenergia.ee/>

Finland Finnish Wind Power Association
<http://www.tuulivoimayhdistys.fi/in+english>

France France Energie Eolienne
<http://fee.asso.fr/>
<http://www.enr.fr>

Germany German Wind Energy Association (BWE)
<http://www.globalwindday.de/>

Greece Hellenic Wind Energy Association
<http://www.eletaen.gr/>

Hungary Hungarian Wind Energy Association
<http://www.mszet.hu/>

India Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association
<http://www.indianwindpower.com/>

Ireland Irish Wind Energy Association
<http://www.iwea.com/>

Italy (ANEV) Associazione Nazionale Energia del Vento
<http://www.anev.org/>

Italy (APER) Associazione Produttori Energia da Fonti Rin-
novabili
<http://www.aper.it/newsite/index.php>

Japan Japanese Wind Power Association
<http://jwpa.jp/>

Lithuania Lithuanian Wind Power Association
<http://www.lvea.lt/>

Netherlands Netherlands Wind Energy Association
<http://www.nwea.nl/>

New Zealand New Zealand Wind Energy Association
<http://www.windenergy.org.nz/>

Norway Norwegian Wind Power Association
<http://www.norwea.no/>

Poland Polish Wind Energy Association
<http://www.psew.pl/>

Portugal Association of Renewable Energies
<http://www.apren.pt/>

Slovakia Slovak Wind Energy Association
<http://www.save.szm.sk/>

Spain Spanish Wind Energy Association
<http://www.aeeolica.es/>

Sweden Swedish Wind Energy
<http://www.svenskvindenergi.org/>

Switzerland Suisse Eole
<http://www.suisse-eole.ch/>

United Kingdom British Wind Energy Association
<http://www.bwea.com/>

United States American Wind Energy Association
<http://www.awea.org/>

