



Wind power is crucial for combating climate change.

40% of global CO₂ emissions are produced by the power sector

The power sector accounts for around 40% of global CO₂ emissions, and it is clear that we cannot win the fight against climate change without a dramatic shift in the way we produce and consume electricity. With dramatic increases in global power demand, renewable energy technologies must be rolled out quickly to provide emissions-free renewable electricity for industrialised and developing countries alike.

Wind farms can be deployed at large scale when we need them: now.

Science leaves no doubt: Global emissions need to peak and begin to decline before 2020, and a dramatic increase in renewable energy deployment is urgently required to help make this happen. While building a conventional power plant can take 10 or 12 years or more, a large wind farm can be put up in a matter of months, and a half completed wind farm is just a smaller power plant, starting to generate power as soon as the first turbines are connected to the grid.

A wind turbine runs practically emissions-free for 20 years

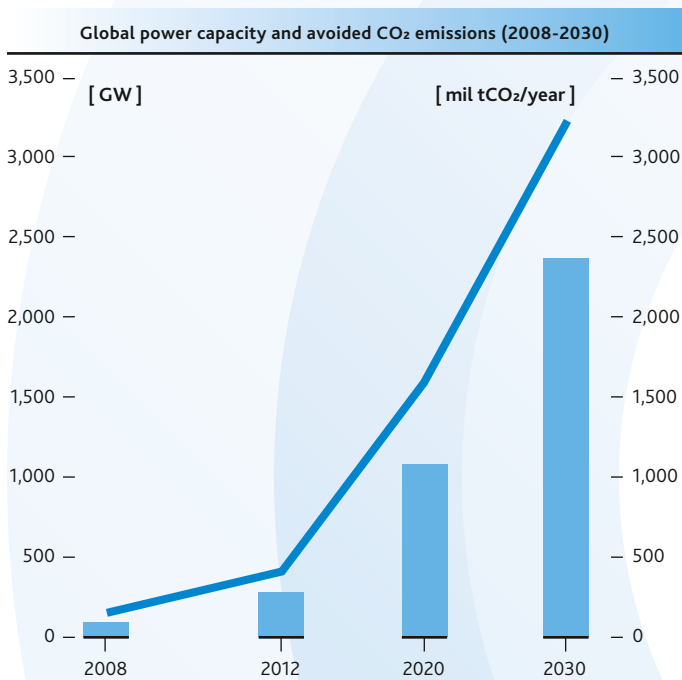
Wind energy is a viable alternative to burning polluting fossil fuels – it does not emit carbon dioxide or other air pollutants. Within three to six months of operation, a wind turbine has offset all emissions from its construction, to run virtually carbon free for the remainder of its 20 year lifetime.

Wind energy can be deployed anywhere in the world

Over 140,000 wind turbines are now producing electricity in over 70 countries around the world. This includes sites in Europe, Africa, Asia North and Latin America and Australia, and many turbines operate in severe weather conditions, in deserts, in snow, at high altitudes, and of course at sea. Wind energy can be used at large scale nearly anywhere, and the total wind resource is sufficient to power the entire globe several times over.

How much CO₂ can wind energy save?

Wind energy does not emit any greenhouse gases, and has an extremely good energy balance. The calculations on just how much CO₂ could be saved by wind energy is based on an assumption for the carbon intensity of the global electricity sector, i.e. the typical amount of CO₂ emitted by producing one kWh of power. Individual countries' emissions differ substantially, but here we use the IEA's estimate of 600g/kWh as an average value for the carbon dioxide reduction to be obtained from wind generation.



	2008	2012	2020	2030
GW	121	277	1,081	2,375
mil tCO₂/year	157	408	1,591	3,236

Source: GWEC

The most ambitious scenario by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) show that, with growth rates much lower than the 30% the wind sector has experienced over the past decade, global wind energy capacity could increase from 121GW at the end of 2008 to over 1,000GW by 2020 and 2,400 GW by 2030. This would result in annual CO₂ savings of more than 1.5 billion tons in 2020 and 3.2 billion tons in 2030.

Climate targets for Annex I countries

Under the Kyoto Protocol, industrialised (Annex I) countries have committed to reducing an aggregate 5.2% of their greenhouse gas emissions, with different targets for individual countries.



The IPCC's 4th Assessment Report has clearly shown that if we are to stand a 50% chance of keeping global temperature increase below 2°C, industrialised countries must reduce their emissions by at least 25-40% by 2020 (from 1990 levels), and developing countries' emissions need to deviate from business-as-usual in the range of 15-30%. In the run up to the COP15 climate summit in Copenhagen, most industrialised have already pledged emissions reductions, including:

Country	2020 pledge	Reference year
Australia	-5% up to -15% or -25%	2000
Belarus	-5% to -10%	1990
Canada	-20%	2006
EU-27, Liechtenstein, Switzerland	-20-30%	1990
Iceland	-15%	1990
Japan	-25%	1990
Monaco	-20%	1990
New Zealand	-10 to -20%	1990
Norway	-40%	1990
Russian Federation	-10 to -15%	1990
Ukraine	-20%	1990
US (House/Senate bill)	-17% to 20%	2005
Kazakhstan	-15%	1990

These Annex I pledges would add up to an aggregated 11-18% reduction of emissions from 1990 levels (including the US).

How can wind energy contribute to meeting the 2012 and 2020 commitments?

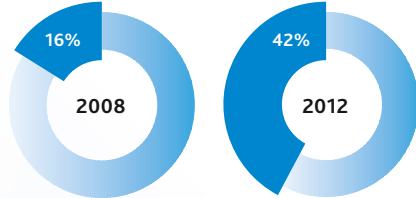
In 2008, wind energy saved 157 million tons of CO₂ globally, which corresponds to around 16% of the total Kyoto target for 2008.

Global wind energy is predicted to produce 680 TWh of electricity in 2012, thereby saving 408 million tons of CO₂. This would translate to around 42% of Annex I commitments under the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

In terms of the targets already stated by Annex I countries for the period up to 2020, global wind energy could contribute 76% (for a reduction of 11%) to 47% (18% reduction) of the total emissions reductions, i.e. 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ every year. Of course these emissions reductions are nowhere near what the science tells us is required, but even for a range of 25%-40% of reductions, wind power could still achieve 34% - 21% of these.

This means that even under the most stringent climate regime, one fifth of all emissions reductions of Annex I countries could be met by wind energy alone.

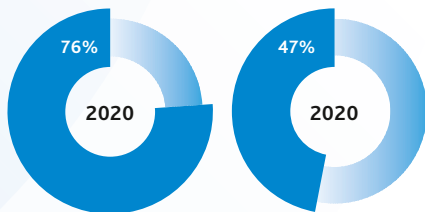
In terms of Annex I Kyoto 2008-2012 targets, global wind power can avoid...



16% of Annex I 2008 Kyoto target

42% of Annex I 2012 Kyoto target

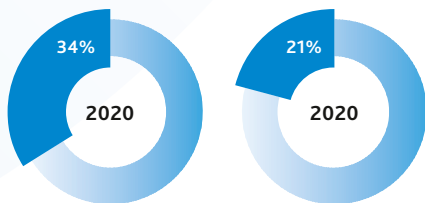
In terms of Annex I pledges for 2020, global wind power can avoid...



76% of Annex I 2020 pledges (11%)

47% of Annex I 2020 pledges (18%)

In terms of a 25% - 40% reduction by 2020, wind power can avoid...



34% of a 25% reduction by Annex I countries

21% of a 40% reduction by Annex I countries

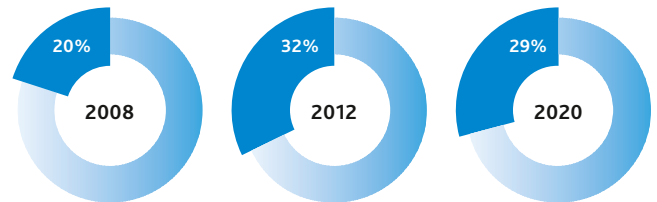
Annex I Countries

EUROPE

Europe is the region with the highest installed capacity of wind energy, and can therefore rely on wind power to substantially reduce CO₂ emissions and to reach both its 2012 Kyoto target and its pledge to reduce emissions by 20-30% by 2020.

In the European Union, wind power in 2008 avoided 91 tons of CO₂, or 20% of the EU's target for that year. In 2012, wind energy is forecast to save 146 tons of CO₂, which represents 32% of the EU's Kyoto target. In 2020, 29% of the EU's promised emissions reduction of 20% could be achieved by wind power.

In the EU, wind power will avoid as much CO₂ as...



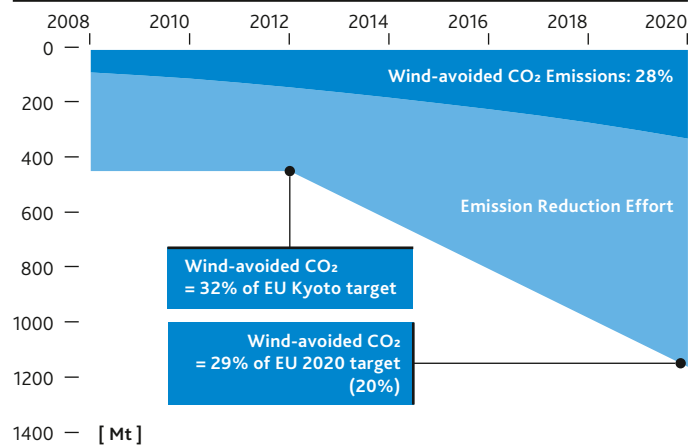
20% of the EU's Kyoto target

32% of the EU's Kyoto target

29% of the EU's climate target (20%)

From 2008-2020, wind energy will avoid 28% of the EU's reduction efforts as outlined in the 'Climate Package'. This figure is based on the Kyoto 2012 commitment and an EU 2020 target of 20%.

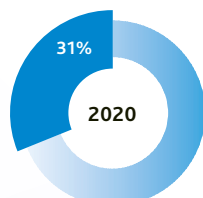
From 2008 - 2020, wind will avoid 28% of the EU cumulative reduction efforts from Kyoto until 2012 and the climate package up to 2020



UNITED STATES

In the US, wind power would produce 640 TWh of electricity in 2020, avoiding 385 million tons of CO₂. Based on the 17% reduction from 2005 levels envisaged by the US' Waxman-Markey bill (which would translate into a mere 4% reduction from 1990 levels), wind energy would account for 31% of the required emissions reductions between 2005 and 2020.

In the US, wind power will, in 2020, avoid as much CO₂ as...



31% of a 17% reduction from 2005 levels

Developing Countries

There are different models resulting in different visions of 2020 emissions for China and India (in Mt) in the energy sector.

Energy Sector Emissions (in Mt)		
	China	India
IEA – International Energy Agency	9,475	1,818
EIA – Energy Info. Admin. (US)	10,004	2,187
POLES – University of Grenoble	7,551	2,926

Since these estimations differ considerably, we use all three models in the figures below.

Raise your pledges!

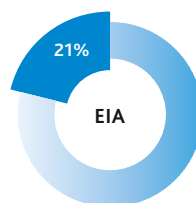
Wind energy is already making a significant contribution to emissions reduction in both industrialised and developing countries, and by 2020, substantial savings of CO₂ could be achieved. Under a new 2020 climate agreement, wind energy alone could contribute a very large portion of the emissions reductions under the pledges put forward so far. However, they are woefully inadequate to meeting the climate challenge.

Industrialised countries can and must review their pledges for reduction targets and raise them very substantially, as well as assisting developing countries' often ambitious programmes to decarbonise their electricity systems with both public finance and private investment through the carbon markets.

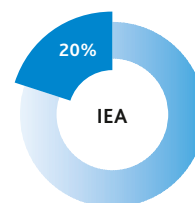
CHINA

In China, wind energy could produce up to 493 TWh of electricity in 2020, saving 296 million tons of CO₂. If China were to reduce emissions by 15% from the business-as-usual scenario by 2020, wind power would contribute 20-26% of the emissions reductions required in the energy sector (depending on the model used).

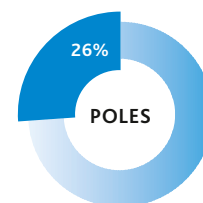
If China were to reduce emissions by 15% from BAU by 2020, wind power in China would avoid



21% of China's emissions reductions in the energy sector



20% of China's emissions reductions in the energy sector



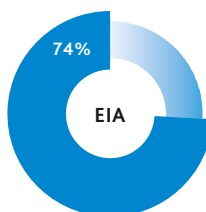
26% of China's emissions reductions in the energy sector

Source: CAIT

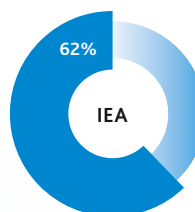
INDIA

In India, wind energy is expected to generate up to 338 TWh of electricity in 2020, which would reduce CO₂ emissions by 203 tons. Again based on a reduction of 15% from the business-as-usual scenario by 2020, India could achieve 46-74% of the emissions reductions required in the energy sector by wind energy only (depending on model).

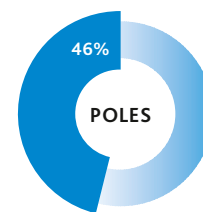
If India were to reduce emissions by 15% from BAU by 2020, wind power in India would avoid



74% of India's emissions reductions in the energy sector



62% of India's emissions reductions in the energy sector



46% of India's emissions reductions in the energy sector

Source: CAIT



The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) is the voice of the global wind energy sector. GWEC's members represent over 1,500 companies in more than 70 countries, and 99% of the world's 120 GW of installed wind power capacity.

www.gwec.net www.windpowerworks.net