



Our wind, our value

Thought leaders, environmental impact groups, innovative investors, and those with a deep interest in the future of the EU energy sector will gather for WindEurope's annual conference in Bilbao, Spain. Based on previous attendance, participants can mingle with some of the greatest minds in modern energy, as at least 12,000 attendees are expected from across Europe.



energy security, exploring the economic value of wind energy in terms of job creation, growth and other macroeconomic indicators. The conference will show the value wind energy can create in rural and deprived communities and regions and demonstrate how wind energy development and nature protection go hand in hand.

Attendees can take a deep dive into the greater economic impacts of expanding the EU's onshore and offshore wind energy sector. Based on current projections, the addition of more wind farms is expected to bring tremendous economic growth to rural communities throughout the region. Both on and offshore wind energy efforts have been touted as being one of the greatest tools for economic growth in areas where other industries have fallen short.

With each new innovation in wind energy, disenfranchised communities become ripe with new job opportunities, local economic growth, and other macroeconomic benefits that reach individuals at all socio-economic levels. This is especially true for the energy security sector, and experts will lean heavily into this topic through conference discussions.

Along with its economic value, wind energy sets the stage for a new chapter in the EU's current climate culture. As the region moves toward sustainability, wind energy manufacturers play an important role in supporting other relevant causes. This includes sustainable farming efforts, protecting endangered wildlife, and more. In essence, wind energy manufacturers are not just producers of renewable energy infrastructure but also champions of sustainability, actively contributing to a greener, more resilient future for the EU and beyond. Through efforts to support sustainable farming, protect wildlife, and advance circular economy principles, manufacturers play a crucial role in shaping a more holistic and inclusive approach to climate action and environmental stewardship.

In turn, a shift towards expanding the EU's wind energy usage equates to fewer carbon emissions, less environmental waste, greater biodiversity, and a brighter future for the next generation of forward-thinking consumers. Rather than being a stand-alone industry, the wind energy sector has proven itself to be a facilitator for greater change throughout the region.

For the 2024 conference, WindEurope returns to the Basque Country, which has become a fixture in the wind energy movement. Bilbao, the conference's base for the past two years, is home to Iberdrola and Siemens Gamesa, two leading companies in wind energy. This gives attendees a chance to interact with leaders in the community and experience the impact of wind energy growth in real time.

Hosted from March 20th to 22nd 2024, WindEurope's Annual event is the largest wind energy conference in the EU and is a must-attend conference for anyone looking to support the region's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Located at the Bilbao Exhibition Center, it plays host to more than over 500 exhibitors, dozens of thought-provoking conference sessions, and the rare opportunity to connect the wind energy sector in one place.

The theme this year: our wind, our value

Each year, WindEurope's annual conference seeks to highlight unique themes in the wind energy sector. This year, the focus is on the

diverse value of wind energy usage in the EU, particularly for investors and organizations. Featuring a diverse selection of vendors and dozens of insightful sessions from the greatest minds in renewable energy, this year's conference is poised to be one of the most impactful to date.

Value of course has a double meaning here. Firstly, the economic and physical benefits of wind energy. Secondly the values the wind industry represents and that guide all our actions, such as sustainability, responsibility, progress and innovation.

WindEurope's Annual event will showcase the value of wind energy for Europe's wider



In addition to hosting some of Europe's greatest wind energy contributors, Bilbao is also home to one of the largest offshore wind energy ports in the region, acting as a hub for wind logistics. Overall, Spain's dedication to the sector has resulted in more than 39,000 new jobs across the country, making it the ideal representative of wind energy's impact.

As it stands, the wind energy sector provides 0.5% of Spain's GDP, and this number is expected to grow with the installation of new wind turbines. Leaders in Spain have expressed the intention to invest in more offshore wind energy efforts and look to add up to 3 GW of wind energy by 2030. Currently, Spain's very first floating offshore wind turbine feeding electricity

into the grid, the DEMOSath project, is spinning off the coast of Bilbao.

The project not only serves as a symbol of technological innovation but also highlights Spain's leadership in advancing sustainable energy solutions. By leveraging floating offshore wind technology, Spain aims to unlock new opportunities for offshore wind development, overcome geographical constraints, and tap into previously untapped wind resources.

Even without its upcoming expansions, the wind energy sector in Spain accounts for 24% of the region's energy demand, making it one of the largest contributors to renewable energy in the world. Attendees can expect to learn more about Spain's wind energy efforts and its plans for the future over the duration of the conference.

Securing Europe's technology leadership

Despite the increase in demand for renewable energy, wind energy manufacturers have struggled to find the resources to keep up with this growth, leading to major setbacks in the sector. This year's conference plans to shine a light on the need for greater investments in the wind energy sector, allowing innovative manufacturers to thrive.

Ultimately, in ramping up supply chain efforts, the EU can create competitive electricity prices without sacrificing its mission to become a leader in sustainability. According to the EU's Net Zero Act, the region plans to reduce carbon emissions by 55% by the year 2030. To do this, investors and manufacturers will need to work together to create growth in the wind energy sector, as current trends do not support these ambitious benchmarks.

Beyond the Net Zero Act, the EU has also published 15 immediate actions aimed at supporting the wind energy sector. Throughout the conference, speakers will explore each of these actions and leave attendees with a greater sense of purpose for their wind energy goals. If Europe hopes to remain a leader in wind energy and technology innovation, new implementations and actions will need to be taken, and we hope to demonstrate exactly how to bring this vision to life.

For more information about this year's conference and to register, visit:

windeurope.org/annual2024/registration

